

# New Ag Classrooms Prepare Students For Real-World Challenges

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MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) —  
The "class-to-real-world" journey  
for a lot of Lancaster County agri-  
cultural science students began, in  
large part, back in the summer of  
1994.

A trip organized by Heather  
Anderson, ag instructor at Man-  
heim Central High School, to two  
schools in Virginia may have  
paved the way for the future of  
many high school ag science gra-  
duates and FFA members through-  
out the region.

Anderson, who used to teach at  
James Woods' High School, the  
county high school in Winchester,  
Va. (one of the schools visited on

the trip), was accompanied by sev-  
eral ag teachers. They included  
Deb Seibert, also of Manheim;  
Carole Fay of Penn Manor High  
School in Millersville; Dr. Arba  
Henry of Solanco High School in  
Quarryville; Ron Frederick of  
Twin Valley High School in Elver-  
son; and several others. They vis-  
ited James Woods in addition to  
Sherando High School.

Their mission? Look at the ag  
mechanics and ag science structure  
and curriculum of the schools and  
see what made them successful.

The teachers took notes. Then  
they brought those design ideas  
back home to Lancaster County.

The conclusion, according to  
Deb Seibert of Manheim Central,



A 30- by 44-foot greenhouse was built with grant money by the department at a cost of \$18,000, noted Seibert, separate from the money used on general school construction. Manheim students, standing, left to right, are Kelly Moore, sophomore; Lori Landis, sophomore; Emily Helstand, junior; Mandi Elsenhooth, junior; Lucinda Martin, junior; Sherry Groff, junior; and Carina Gelb, junior. Kneeling, in front, from left Greg Shenk, junior; Ryan Burkhart, junior; Nick Young, junior; Derek Hershey, freshman; and Jeremy Kready, freshman.

was that those schools have suc-  
cessfully integrated the latest  
equipment into the classroom.  
Industry demands that students be  
prepared: what better way to do it  
than to have the latest equipment  
and technology available at stu-  
dents' fingertips?

As a result, in the past several  
years, three Lancaster County high  
schools — Manheim, Solanco, and  
Penn Manor — have undergone  
major renovations and construc-  
tion. Along with new construction  
has come new ag science labora-  
tories, ag mechanics facilities, high-  
tech classrooms, and identical  
equipment being used in many loc-  
al ag-related industries.

In all cases, before construction  
began, the high school ag science  
instructors and FFA advisers pro-  
vided input and incorporated  
design decisions in the formation  
of the laboratories.

Manheim Central

At Manheim Central High  
School, instructor Deb Seibert  
pointed to 13 new welding booths  
in the small engines/welding  
laboratory. The booths were

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A feature of the work at Penn Manor was a new green-  
house addition, measuring 16 feet by 60 feet, separated into  
three zones. Vince Metzler, president of Manor FFA, looks  
over the plans on the site of the new greenhouse, next to the  
old classrooms.



About 88 members are involved in the Solanco FFA and were responsible for set-  
ting up the trophy cases and other displays. In addition to putting the "finishing touch-  
es" on some interior work after construction. FFA officers from left are Jim Pelliccio,  
student adviser; Jim Kerr, county president; and Britina Robinson, second vice  
president.



Emily Helstand plants flowers in front of the new green-  
house at Manheim.



Included in the Solanco construction is an ag biology  
classroom, an ag mechanics classroom, an ag mechanics  
lab, and office space. Ryan Kreider, a freshman, puts the  
finishing touches on a sawhorse.