

**From Local Ag Teachers:**



# Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was submitted by Arba L. Henry, teacher of agriculture at Solanco Senior High School, Quarryville.

**Agribusiness Opportunities**

What are agriculture opportunities for youth of your area other than farming? With the number of farms in Lancaster County decreasing each year, and with the difficulty of young men to become established in farming, off-farm agriculture occupations need to be defined.

A multitude of off-farm agricultural businesses and services have emerged to aid farmers. Many employees in these businesses and services require knowledge and skills similar to those needed in promotion.

Some of the latest figures show that:

(1) Forty per cent of all jobs in the U.S. are now in some phases of agriculture.

(2) Twenty per cent of all U.S. scientists work in life sciences and agriculture; we need 2,000 new agricultural scientists every year.

(3) Agriculture education alone provides careers for 37,000 men and women.

(4) There are more people transporting, distributing and marketing farm products today than there are producing them.

The rural-urban complex of our society also has undergone phenomenal changes which have implications for employees in ornamental horticulture, and agricultural resources who require knowledge and skills in plant, soil and animal sciences. With this in mind, the ninth



**Arba L. Henry**  
Solanco High School

grade agriculture students at Solanco High School conducted a study last June to identify and evaluate the employment opportunities in off-farm agriculture occupations in Solanco School District in hopes of identifying what kind and how many off-farm agricultural jobs would be available in the Solanco community when they would be graduating seniors.

Data were collected on present and expected employment status, educational level desired, and residential background preferred.

With 46 agricultural businesses identified and a 43 per cent returnage of the questionnaire, the following information was gathered:

(1) There would be a 33 per cent increase in total employment by off-farm agriculture businesses in four years.

(2) Nearly one-half of the new employees will be needed in Farm Supplies and Equipment Areas.

(3) All companies wanted high school graduates and 15 per cent wanted college graduates.

(4) Seventy-five per cent of companies wanted employees with farm background.

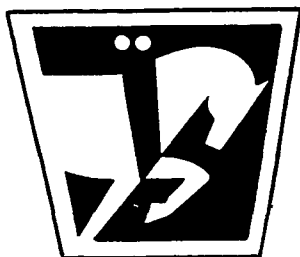
With this information, we at Solanco know where the greatest need is in off-farm agricultural businesses. Do you know where your greatest needs are in off-farm agricultural occupations in your community?

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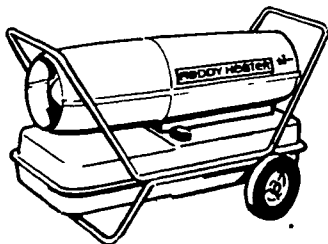
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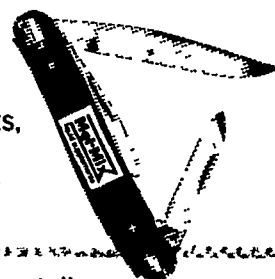
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