

### Twin Valley Confers Chapter Farmer Degrees

The Chapter Farmer degree ceremony of the Twin Valley FFA was held recently in the vo-ag classroom. Nevin Mast, president, began the meeting using the official opening ceremony.

The most important business conducted was receiving 10 Greenhands as Chapter Farmers. The Chapter Farmer degree is the highest degree the local Chapter can confer upon a member, and is the second degree in the FFA. Chapter Farmer degree recipients must hold the degree of Greenhand for one year, be familiar with the program of activities of the State and National Associations, be familiar with the local constitution, be familiar with parliamentary procedure, be able to lead a group discussion for 15 minutes, earn \$50 from his supervised project and productively invest it.

Degree recipients were: Beth McDonnell, Thomas Carskadon, Ronald Smoker, Melvin Houck, Robert Stoltzfus, William Stinnette, Lloyd Simmers, Clayton Bennett, Jeff Fultz, and Jeff Boltz.

Chapter members discussed the meal for the local banquet to be held March 2, as well as who should receive awards. Members also discussed having a local public speaking contest with the four winners in this contest to compete in the County contest. Chapter members were encouraged to participate in the Berks County meeting which was held December 12 at Twin Valley and included the County degree ceremony.

There was some discussion of the organization and refreshments for the basketball game with Owen J. Roberts to be held December 18.

The fund raising committee reported 605 cases of citrus fruit was sold.

Twin Valley members were reminded that they will be attending the Farm Show and State Mid-winter Convention in Harrisburg on Wednesday, January 10, 1973. Two Twin Valley members will be receiving the Keystone degree, and the parents of State FFA vice-president will be honored with the Honorary Keystone Degree.

Chapter members enjoyed volleyball and basketball after the meeting, followed by refreshments in the vo-ag shop.

## China Needs More Grain

Several reports indicate that the People's Republic of China is increasing its imports of agricultural commodities this year, the Department of Agriculture said. China's grain harvest apparently has been adversely affected by poor weather conditions in the Asian region and further purchases of grain for delivery in calendar year 1973 seem likely.

Traders reportedly have been in Peking this fall discussing sales of grain beyond the five million metric tons of wheat and corn purchases since June this year from Australian, Canadian, and American sources.

Possible additional suppliers of wheat are France, Argentina, and the United States. The sale of 300,000 tons of U.S. corn to China announced in early November suggests that additional purchases of coarse grains could also occur.

Reports indicate that China also has been buying some soybean oil, although the volume and origin of the oil remain to be clarified.

A step up in Chinese purchases of cotton on world markets, which began in the 1969-70 season (August-July), appears to be continuing in the current season. China's imports dropped from a peak of about 800,000 bales in 1963-64 to only 357,000 in 1969-70, but they reportedly exceed 600,000 bales in 1971-72. Traditional suppliers of cotton to China include Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, and Tanzania. So far, new suppliers are Colombia, Iran, Mexico, Morocco, and Turkey. Up to the late 1940s, cotton was a leading U.S. agricultural export to China.

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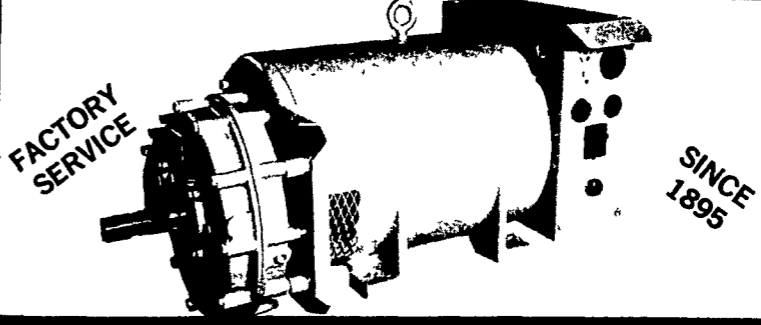
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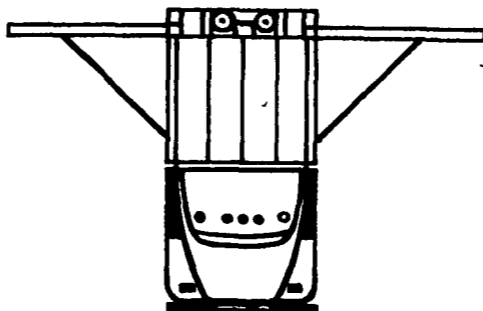
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