



Newly elected officers for Ephrata High School's Cloister Chapter FFA are, left to right, front row: Robert Strauss, secretary; Leonard Martin, treasurer,

Barry Wissler, vice-president. Back row: Paul Horning, reporter; Mel Weiler, president, Rick Gensemer, secretary, Jim Fempel, chaplain.

USDA Proposes Wider Use Of Official Grade Names and Shield

Later this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) may allow wider use of the official grade names and shield on USDA-graded processed fruits and vegetables and related products, like peanut butter and jams.

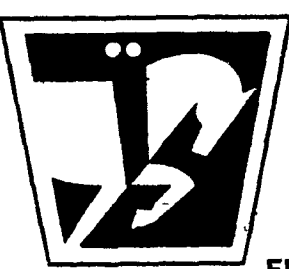
In a proposed change in the regulations for grading of these products, USDA would permit the use of the official grade name, such as "U.S. Grade A" or "U.S. Fancy," on products that were graded and certified on a lot basis, provided the products were processed in USDA approved plants. The proposal would also permit the use of the grade name within the official grade shield by plants operating under in-plant grading (pack certification) contracts, where a resident USDA grader certifies the quality of designated lots during or after processing. Currently, use of the official grade names and shield is

limited to plants operating under USDA's continuous inspection program.

Another proposed change would provide that USDA inspectors use the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Good Manufacturing Practice sanitation guidelines when they check the sanitation of facilities and equipment in a processing plant prior to grading a food product. A sanitation survey is standard procedure to help insure wholesome food. A plant must meet certain sanitation criteria before USDA will allow the use of the U.S. grade and these standards must be maintained during processing. USDA's present sanitation requirements are nearly identical to FDA's.

The proposed standards would also include a detailed account of the procedures USDA uses when withdrawing grading from a plant, including a list of the most common reasons for which this is done, and it would revise product sampling plans to provide more representative samples. In addition, other portions of the regulations would be updated.

The proposed revision was scheduled to appear in the May 7 Federal Register. Written comments, in duplicate, will be accepted until July 5 by the Hearing Clerk, Room 112-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



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County Council Reorganizing

The Lancaster 4-H County Council will begin a new year on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

The election of officers and plans for an exchange program with Michigan 4-H'ers will be items of business. Plans for a County Council-sponsored Road Rally to be held Sunday, May 20

will be finalized.

The evening's program will end with recreation and refreshments.

All newly-elected County Council representatives are urged to attend the reorganizational meeting of 4-H County Council.

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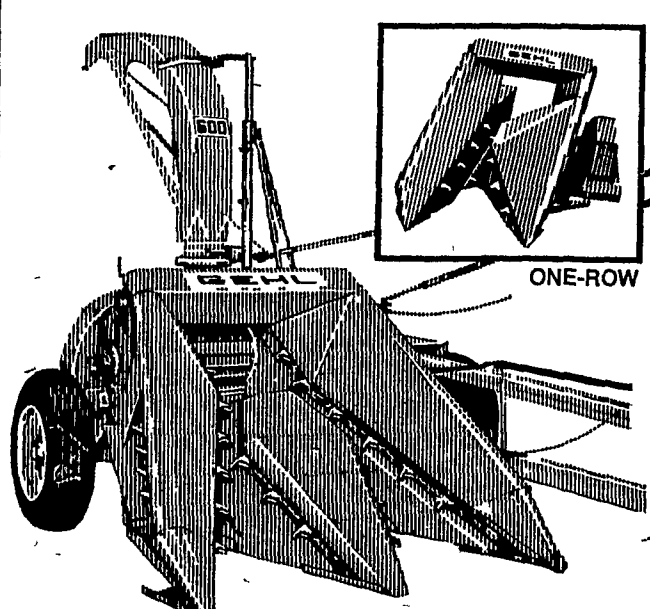


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