

## USDA Plans National Rural Development Leaders School

A national rural development leaders school will be held Aug. 5-11 in Lincoln, Nebr., the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced recently.

Purpose of the school is to provide rural development leaders an opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills and to study developmental strategies. There will be general

sessions and small discussion and participation groups.

Eligible applicants include persons actively involved in rural development. The size of this first session is limited to 120 students, who will be selected to represent a broad segment of rural America. More sessions are planned later, according to the Department's Rural Develop-

ment Service, sponsor of the school.

The course is particularly suitable for people who are:

--Engaged in development in their rural communities as citizens, elected officials, or professionals.

--Developing and implementing comprehensive plans on human, economic, and physical resources for rural communities.

--Interested in training and developing local rural leaders. Faculty members will come from government, business, industry, education, and public interest groups.

Site of the school is the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on the campus of the University of Nebraska.

Persons who wish to attend the school are invited to write the Rural Development Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250, or call (202) 447-2573 for more information.

## Twin Valley Starts Bee, Honey Projects

Several members of the Twin Valley FFA have recently begun new projects under the supervised occupational experience program.

With the aid and financial backing of the FFA Chapter, the members have begun beekeeping projects.

During the winter a group of FFA officers searched for a way to involve more members in project work and at the same time a way to productively invest some of the Chapter funds. Many alternatives were discussed, with members finally deciding to encourage beekeeping projects. Through another high school teacher, officers learned of a supply of beekeeping equipment which was for sale. The Chapter purchased this equipment, along with two hives of bees and some additional equipment and a hive of bees from the father of a former Twin Valley member.

The Chapter currently owns five hives of bees, with the addition of two swarms recently caught. In addition, there is sufficient wooden ware for 35 additional hives as well as an extractor. Arrangements have been made to loan this equipment to Chapter members who are interested in starting beekeeping projects. Six Chapter members have ordered package bees from a Georgia firm, and the Chapter has ordered two packages.

To put the beekeeping on a more organized basis, the junior

and senior vocational agriculture class drew up a chapter for a beekeeping cooperative which has been submitted to the school administration and school board for approval. It is hoped that in the future the beekeeping members will be able to extract honey and market it under their own trade name and label.

Through this means, the Chapter has productively invested some of its funds and at the same time encouraged several members to expand their projects, or begin new ones. Chapter hives are currently placed at the farm of Charles Gable, the fishing lakes of Mahlon Kurtz, and the home of Joseph Beiler. Several frames of honey have already been extracted and the honey distributed in sample form to teachers at the high school. Some of the beekeeping equipment has also been exhibited at the Twin Valley Practical Arts Exposition.

Honey bees, unlike many other kinds of bees, perform a valuable service from mankind by insuring the proper pollination of many agriculturally important crops. At the present time, however, the number of honey bee hives in Pennsylvania is rather low. This is due to former low prices for honey and to the poisoning of many hives by insecticides.

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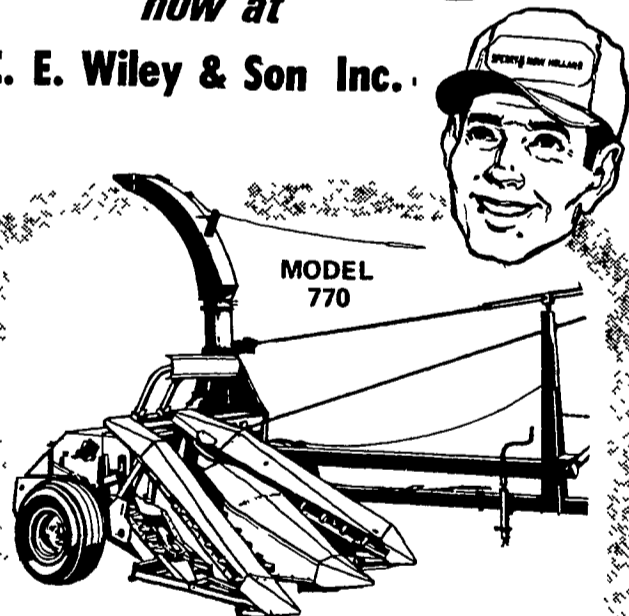
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