



A tour of 4-H'ers from the Philippines visited the packing tables at Pennfield's Cloisterdale egg plant near Ephrata on Tuesday. The youths were on a farm operation tour which is part of a two-year program of leadership training and work experience.

4-H'ers

[Continued From Page 1]

Pederson pointed out that this was the first Philippine group to come to the U.S., and that another group was getting ready to come over in the spring. The Filipinos will be placed with host families in a four-state area which includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. All the trainees are carefully selected, between 18 and 30 years of age, at least high school graduates, and all have

definite plans for pursuing careers in agriculture.

While they were in Lancaster County, the young farmers toured Pennfield Corp.'s Cloisterdale egg operation near Ephrata, the Pennfield feed plant, the Triple-G dairy farm in Denver, Victor Weaver's and Sperry New Holland in New Holland, Hershey Chocolate and the Pennsylvania Farm Museum.

All the trainees are getting on-the-job training in either vegetable, swine or poultry production. In addition to the National 4-H Foundation, the program is conducted under

the auspices of the U.S. Department of Labor, state employment services, cooperative extension, and the U.S. Departments of State and Agriculture.

While they're on their host farms, Pederson said, the trainees are paid a prevailing wage which is established for the program by the Labor Department. Trainees presently start at \$260 per month, are raised to \$280 after three months and go to \$310 for the final 14 months of the 20-month work program. Of that amount, Pederson said \$55 goes directly to the trainee, and the rest is paid to the 4-H Foundation to defray costs of the program. He said these funds make the program completely self-supporting.

In addition to the work experience, the trainees spend several weeks in training before they depart for the U.S. For the first 20 months of their stay here, the trainees are with their host farms. Pederson noted that the Foundation looks for progressive farmers who are able to help the trainees learn about their areas of specialization.

After their work experience, the youths spend three months in a college-level course concentrating on the production areas they'll specialize in when they return home.

Pederson said that he's been very gratified with the response of Southeastern Pennsylvania farmers to the program. He added that if any farmers are interested in the program, they can contact him by writing to National 4-H Foundation, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20015.



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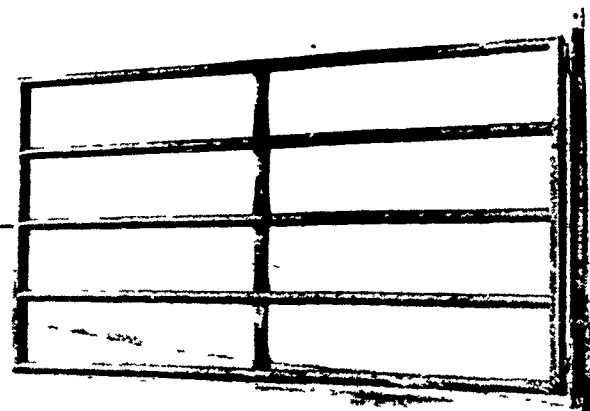
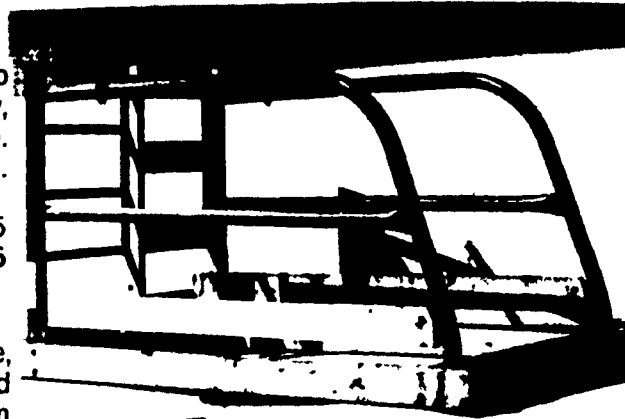
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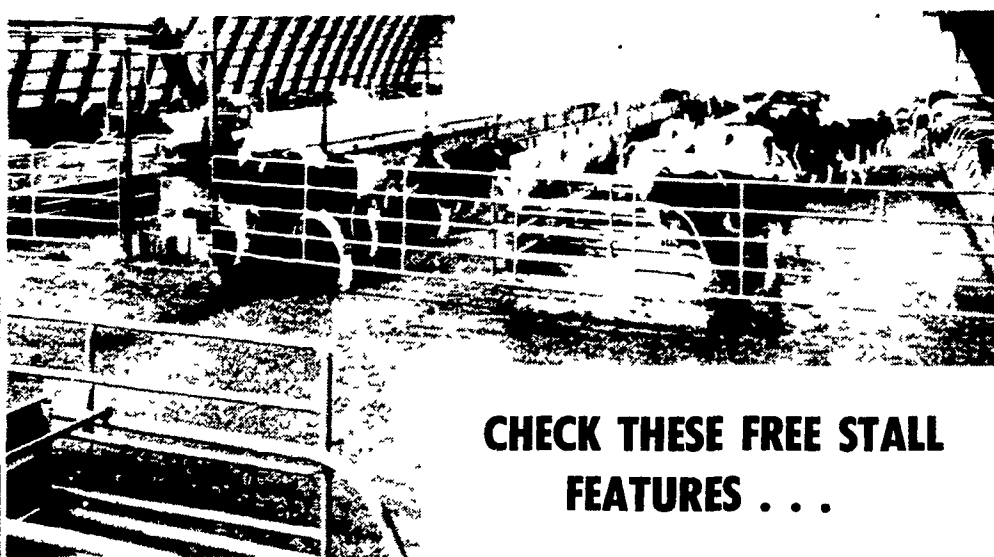
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