

Food for America FFA Tells Story

FFA members across the nation will take the story of food production to elementary school children as part of a new "Food For America" program being introduced by the Future Farmers of America Organization this spring. The new activity, designed to acquaint elementary school children with food production and distribution, is a three-part program that involves classroom discussion, a film on agriculture, a field trip and related classroom activities. The entire program is a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., and is being co-sponsored by four agricultural business firms.

"Only a small percentage of children grow up on farms today," says National FFA Executive Secretary, Wm. Paul Gray. "While they are interested in learning where their family gets its food, there are a lot of misconceptions about agriculture and food production. We think that FFA members can help tell young people about agriculture because of their interest in agriculture and of course their knowledge and experience gained in vocational agriculture

courses," explains Gray. Food For America was developed over a two-year period based on a film for elementary students produced by the Indiana Farm Bureau. The film "Food From Farm to You" is now one element in a total presentation that includes a lesson plan on agriculture, visual aids for use in the classroom and a Farm Art Book. The lesson plan, visual aids and Farm Art Book were developed by the National Agriculture

Marketing Association (NAMA).

Four companies closely associated with agriculture and interested in telling the success story of American agriculture are co-sponsoring the development, production, and distribution of Food For America materials through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. They are: American Breeders Service, Division of W. R. Grace & Company, DeForest, Wisconsin; J. I. Case, A Tenneco Company,

Racine, Wisconsin; Chemagro Agricultural Division, Mobay Chemical Corporation, Kansas City, Missouri, and Dekalb AgResearch, Inc., DeKalb, Illinois.

Chapters that elect to participate in the Food For

America project will contact elementary teachers and offer to present the program to their classes. In addition to conducting a classroom discussion, the FFA chapter will present the film "Food From Farm to You." FFA chapters are then encouraged to arrange for and conduct a farm tour or to bring livestock and crop samples to the school so that

children can see, touch and experience real animals and crops. Children who participate in the educational program will receive a Farm Art Book presented by the FFA chapter and will participate in a number of related classroom activities which are suggested in the lesson plan used by FFA members and participating elementary school teachers.

Farm Real Estate Taxes Continue Climb

U.S. farm real estate taxes continue to mount as they have since 1942. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report issued recently, such taxes in 1973 rose 2.5 percent over the year before.

The 1973 U.S. farm real estate tax bill totaled \$2.5 billion, according to the Economic Research Service (ERS) report. That averages out to \$2.56 per acre.

The tax increase, however,

lagged behind gains in farm real estate values (up 12.8 percent) and actually declined as a percent of gross farm income and farm personal income, the ERS report notes. The taxes declined from 3.4 percent of gross farm income in 1972 to 2.4 percent in 1973. The citizen's tax burden is often measured by expressing taxes as a proportion of personal income—the report notes that farm real estate taxes were 4.2 percent of personal income in 1973 compared to 6.1 percent in 1972. The tax declines relative to income reflect the fact that 1973 was a very good year for farmer's incomes.

Laws assessing land on the basis of its value in agricultural uses rather than other potential uses—differential assessment—were a major factor reducing earlier, rapid rises in farm real estate taxes, according to the ERS report.

Single copies of "Farm Real Estate Taxes: Recent Trends and Developments," RET-14, are free upon request to Publication Services, Rm. 0054-S, ERS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Include zip code with full return address.

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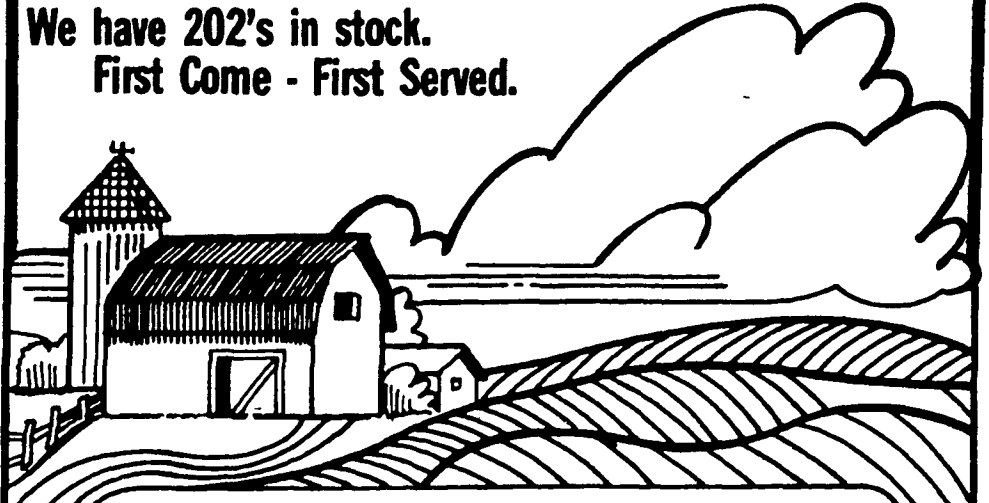
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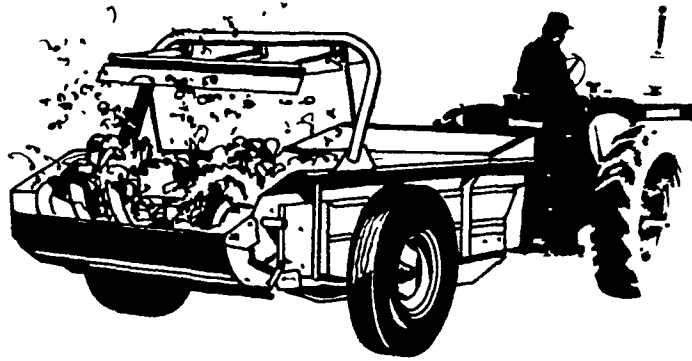
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