## Farmfest gaining interest of many

LAKE CRYSTAL, MINN. - FARMFEST '76 - a 1200acre, seven-day extravaganza destined to be the nation's top bicentennial ag event - is growing faster and bigger than its sponsors ever dreamed ... and it's still about a year away. Here's a brief look at what's happening:

-The 91-acre exhibit area is sold out.

-Reservations are being taken for probable exhibit area expansion.

-Nearly 500 companies and organizations are already participating.

-Official ARBA recognition makes FARMFEST '76 America's Bicentennial Salute to Agriculture.

-Thousands of contacts have been made for historical and educational contributions.

-Some 50 chambers of commerce are represented on Advisory Council.

-The nation's 465,000 FFA members soon will launch a massive advance ticket

-\$200,000 is being invested in the site preparation.

-Prospects of one million FARMFEST visitors are becoming more likely each

"FARMFEST '76 IS proving that the spirit of '76 is more alive in rural America that anywhere else." says Ed Hart executive director of the event set for September 13-19, 1976, near Lake Crystal, Minnesota. "We're just amazed at the enthusiastic acceptance and national support for FARMFEST

FARMFEST '76 is sponsored by Agricultural Promotions, Inc. (API), a non-profit public corporation of farmers, educators, agribusiness leaders and others. API sponsored FARMFEST U.S.A. in 1972, which attracted 350,000 persons.

"We've had tremendous participation in two preliminary events already." Del Hodgkins, president of API, reports. "Last spring, as a preview of crop conditions, we launched the 1975 Natioanl Crops Test Center right here at the site. Ed Hart and his crews planted 106 corn hybrids and 28 soybean varieties in a 300acre area - the largest demonstration of its kind anywhere in the nation.'

"And in July, we were proud to have John W. Warner, head of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, here to help us dedicate the site," Hodgkins says. "The ARBA's official recognition is very important to FARMFEST '76. Mr. Warner's appearance highlighted an exciting daylong program with bands, flag-raising by a historic volunteer infantry, 21 shot cannon salute and the kickoff meeting of our broadbased Advisory Council."

This fall will also mark the start of a nationwide advance ticket sales effort by the Future Farmers of America. FFA chapters across the nation will earn commissions by selling tickets at discounted earlypurchase prices. At last fall's national convention the FFA designated FARM-FEST '76 as its official national bicentennial ac-

According to Hart, dozens of major events and activities are shaping up for FARMFEST '76, including:

AG COMPETITIONS GALORE - 20th World Championship Tractor Pull with \$40,000 purse, World Championship Horse Pulling Contest with \$10,000 purse, National Horse Plowing Contest, chuck wagon races, **FARMFEST** "76 Invitational Horseshoe Pitching Contest, and contests in tractor plowing, mechanical corn picking, and hand corn husking.

ONE THOUSAND acres of and farmstead field demonstrations - harvesting, plowing, grain drying, tillage, weed and insect control, seed plots, growing

credit, farm buildings, states, cities, and educational institutions.

PERMANENT MEMORIAL American Farmer atop a 40foot knoll overlooking the event, containing a 100-200 year "time capsule" with a momento from each FARM-

FEST '76 participant. FREE STAGE SHOWS top-name entertainers and political leaders appearing before vast audience in the five-acre natural amphitheater northeast of 'American Farmer Monument Hill," and a massive final Sunday church service.

HISTORICAL DISPLAYS antique farm equipment and tools, demonstrations of historic trades and crafts, every tractor ever made, and pageants re-creating the epic story of American Agriculture.

MUCH, MUCH MORE women's activity center, a working 1900 farmstead,

examples of crops from education hall with seminars every part of America, and programs, possible livestock breed exhibits, network television rural homes and living, farm documentary, and commemorative postage stamps, books and albums.

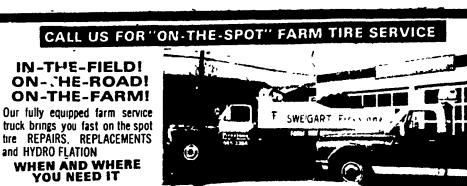
Some firms deserve to be singled out for particularly generous contributions, according to Hart. Big dollar sponsors of special events and contributors of free materials and equipment

include: Pioneer Hi-Bred, Trojan Seed, DeKalb AgResearch, Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul, Midland Cooperatives, Farm Wife News, Harvestore, Morton Buildings, Ford Tractor, Chevrolet, P-A-G, Peterson Seed, Moews, Melroe, Crystal Co-op, Ciba Geigy, Monsanto, Feeken Manufacturing, and Snapper Mower.

Seed companies contributing to the 1975 National Crops Test Center are Acco. Asgrow, Cargill, Dairyland, DeKalb, Edward J. Funk, Gutwein. Int'l, Funk

Jacques, Kaltenberg, McCurdy, Midland, Moews, Northrup King, O's Gold, P-A-G, Payco, Peterson, Pioneer, Pride, Ramy (Embro), Renk, Robinson (Golden Harvest), Security, Sokota, Teweles (Americana) Trojan and Weathermaster.

FARMFEST '76 is seeking help - ideas about historical materials, projects, and volunteer effort for special promotions throughout the nation. The address is FARMFEST '76. Box 76, Lake Crystal, Minnesota 56055.



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## 4-H program gets award

CHICAGO - The 4-H Wheels program, a predriver education course for teens, will receive an Award of Honor from the National Safety Council at the Council's National Safety Congress here on Sept. 30.

The award is the highest recognition given by the council for an innovative safety program undertaken by a youth-serving organization.

Wheels was developed jointly by The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, the Cooperative Extension Service and the National 4-H Service Committee. Each of the three groups will receive a citation plaque at special presentation ceremonies during the youth sessions of the congress at Chicago's Midland Hotel

Designed to promote safety consciousness among young persons 14-16, Wheels is part of the national 4-H automotive program sponsored by Firestone and conducted by the Extension Service, Enrollment in the course is open to all teens without charge through the local county extension office.

Educational materials in the Wheels program include color slides, scripts, tape cassettes, teaching outlines, and member activity sheets geared to pre-drivers and beginning drivers. An organizational guide and promotional materials are also included in the Wheels

The 12-session course is supervised on the local level by community volunteers and covers such topics as the driver's responsibilities, causes and cures of automobile accidents, how the car's engine works, and safe trip planning

The National Safety Council's Award of Honor is part of the council's youth safety awards program, which recognizes youth and youth-serving organizations ındividuals meritorious activities in preventing accidents and promoting safety by and among young persons.



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