

Six national FFA officers tour Japan

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The six National Officers of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) will return tomorrow from their now-annual international tour of Japan. For the second time in as many years, the trip was funded by Mitsui & Co., Ltd., a large Japanese trading firm.

The young officers visited businesses and industries, the American Embassy, farms and a high school vocational agricultural department. The trip was made possible by the full sponsorship of Mitsui through the National FFA Foundation.

"I'm anxious to look at the Japanese education system to see how vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of Japan fit into the overall program," said National FFA President Doug Rinker before they left. "With such a small amount of land to use for production agriculture, they must have very efficient methods. I'm interested in how they educate young people to that end."

The purpose of the tour was to visit businesses and industries that provide essential support for FFA programs. This year's international tour provided

insight for National Officers into the trade relations between the U.S. and Japan. The officers received a close look at the U.S. high school and vocational system.

"I don't think we can leave our students' education about international agriculture to chance," said Byron Rawls, National FFA Advisor. "This is a small world with all of us being interdependent and it is very important that we educate our young people to this fact. They need exposure to other countries and other countries need a positive exposure to us."

While in Japan, the group

toured Tokyo, visited the Tokyo Wholesale Market and attended a briefing at the American Embassy with representatives from the American Soybean Association and U.S. Feed Grains Council. The officers also visited Mitsui & Co. headquarters and the Mitsui Soybean Processing Plant in

Kobe. Other scheduled visits included Tajima High School and Tajima FFJ (Future Farmers of Japan), a beef farm and transportation via the Hikari bullet train. Another visit took in the Toyko Horticulture High School, headquarters for the National FFJ Association before the trip concludes

with sightseeing tours of the Kubota Tractor Company and several supermarkets associated with Mitsui & Co.

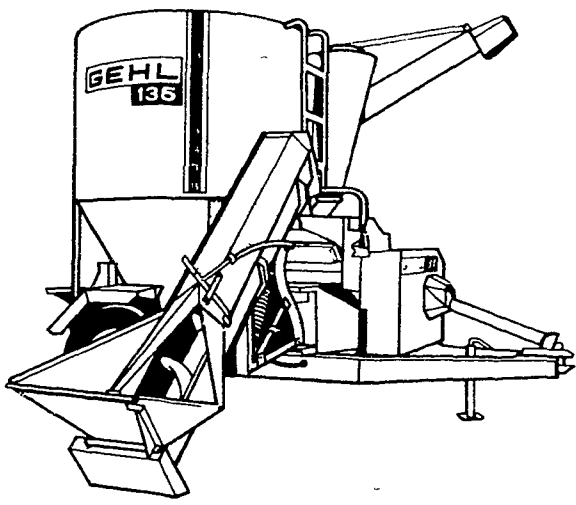
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