

Warwick FFA

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It has been a big change in FFA since the years he was involved as a member." It has really opened up. There are eight major areas in which we work including production agriculture, ag mechanics, natural resources, forestry, ornamental horticulture, ag supplies, ag marketing and ag professions."

He added, "Agriculture today offers something students want. The

enrollments indicate we have good things to offer."

Gerber notes that vo-ag and FFA are closely intertwined, because of the original FFA charter in Congress, 51 years ago. He said they must adhere to many state and federal requirements, which also makes them eligible for state and federal monies without which many districts couldn't afford to have an ag program.

He strongly supports the FFA motto of "learning to do." He said, "The ideal behind FFA is take academics and take skills and provide an avenue to take them into the real world and apply them. If you study forestry, for example, you work with the game commissioner. FFA recognizes out of school work and through their contests encourage the application of the knowledge learned in class.

"The neat part of FFA," he said, "is the leadership training. FFA is exceedingly



Gerber uses a true-type model cow to point out some finer points of dairy judging in his Warwick High School classroom.

strong in parliamentary procedure and public speaking and actual leading opportunities."

Another important part of FFA, Gerber says, is the "social aspect. It offers social and cultural growth to rural students who may lack the opportunity elsewhere."

While he contends he got into teaching somewhat by accident, he says he wouldn't stick with it, if he didn't enjoy it. He also says simply, "We are not doing anything here that is not being done in other vo-ag

departments."

Nevertheless, he admits, "I offered discipline, organization and structure, and most students want that. They want to learn. Our students are very active here. We offer many specialties, so students may channel their interests. We teach what we can see has occupational value in it."

Last year he said he had five of seven graduates in ag-related jobs. "I get a lot of calls for students."

Asked how he increased participation, he said, "The

program sold itself. In a year's time they could see the difference." He also offers credit to seven men who serve on an advisory council. "They are the backbone of the program."

Gerber exudes optimism about the situation at Warwick. "I have never had better cooperation, and it is really a pleasant surprise to have businessmen and farmers tell me how important they feel it is to have a good ag program. A lot of people feel it is important in this community."—SBB

Hearings to begin on embargo legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, announced Thursday that hearings will begin February 25 on legislation to ease the economic impact of the Russian grain embargo on farmers.

Talmadge said the hearings will focus on the National Agricultural Security Act of 1980 (S. 2258), an 8-point bill he introduced earlier this week, and other legislation dealing with the effects on farmers of the suspension of grain shipments to Russia.

The hearings will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, February

25, in the Agriculture Committee hearing room, 324 Russell Senate Office Building. They are expected to continue for several days.

Talmadge said he will seek to move legislation through Congress as quickly as

possible. He said witnesses will be asked to keep their verbal statements brief in order to expedite the hearings.

Persons wishing to testify should contact Denise Alexander, 202/224-0014.



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 Friday February 29 1980 Holiday Inn Routes 78 & 309 North Allentown Pa
 District III
 Monday March 10 Mt View Diner Clifford Pa
 Tuesday March 11 Fire Place II Towanda Pa
 Friday, March 14 Penn Wells Hotel Wellsboro Pa
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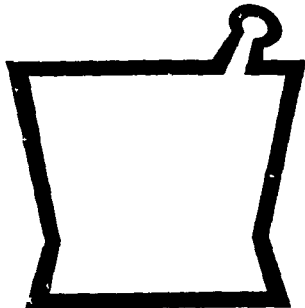
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