

Group from the Azores lands in the County

BY SALLY BAIR
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LANCASTER — Manuel Valadao speaks English slowly and with hesitation, but his enthusiasm for learning about Lancaster County agriculture makes

up for any lack of fluency in the language. Manuel is the equivalent of an agricultural extension agent in the Islands of the Azores and is spending three weeks here with a colleague, Mario Sousa, studying the

agricultural community in-depth.

In the Azores, a group of nine islands located about two hours by air from Lisbon, Portugal in the Atlantic Ocean, the cooperative extension

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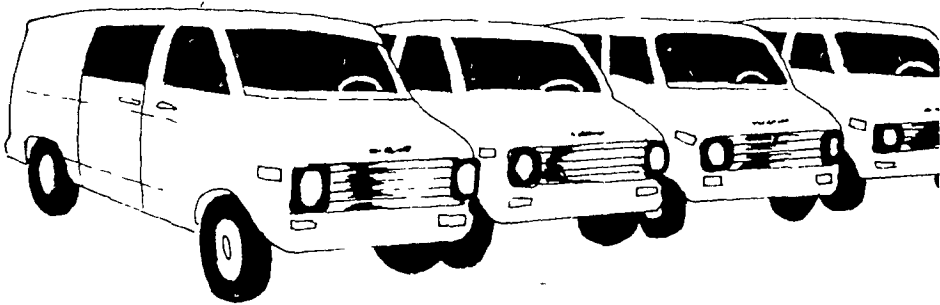
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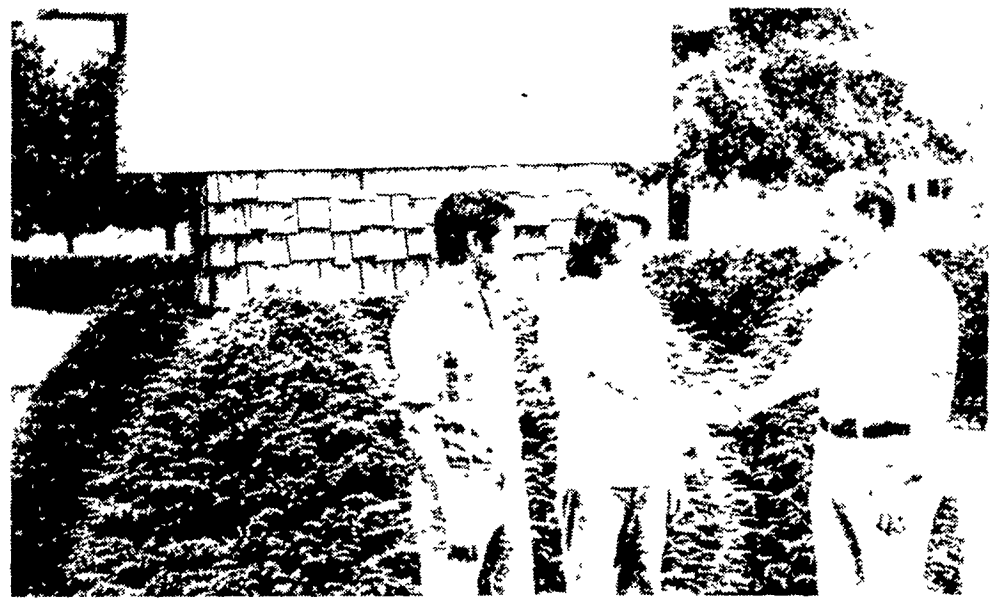
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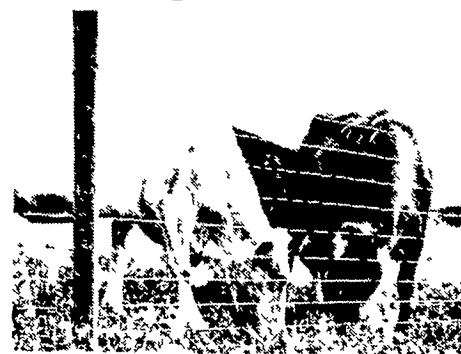
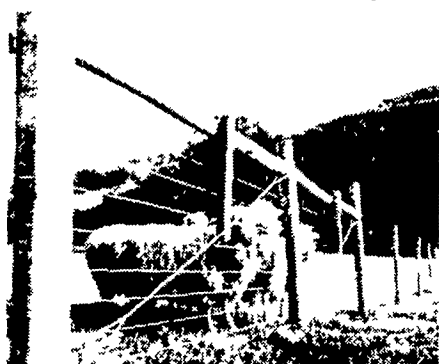


From left Manuel Valadao and Mario Sousa are welcomed to Atlantic Breeders Cooperative by Edwin Sauder. The two men are from the Azore Islands and are visiting the County to learn more about agri-business and the cooperative extension service.



The technical aspects of using artificial insemination is of interest to these visitors from the Azore Islands. From left, Manuel Valadao and Mario Sousa look over a chart with Edwin Sauder.

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program is just one year old, Manuel explains. They are striving to understand the concepts of the program in this country, and Manuel says, "There are a lot of interesting things we can learn here - little things that can be important for us to take back."

While he apologizes for his halting English, it is evident that both the young men are observant travelers who are eager for knowledge.

The men are in the county through a program coordinated by Robert Herr, chairman of the agriculture department in the Eastern Lancaster County School District. Herr first became involved with the Azores when he traveled there on his sabbatical leave two years ago through a program sponsored jointly by the University of Rhode Island and the United States Agency for International Development. The University of Rhode Island is coordinating the visit of 10 Azorean county agents to this country on a learning visit.

Herr explained that the University of the Azores offers excellent technical training, but the purpose of the trip to Lancaster County is to learn methods of working with the farmers. Herr said, "The people need help and they want it."

Manuel states, "Our extension service is very young - only one year old. We came to the United States to see a lot of interesting things and

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