

FFA members build American Communities

When the school board of Franklin, La., last year couldn't afford a new, \$32,000 classroom, the board looked to an unusual source for the support it needed.

High school students from the local Future Farmers of America chapter built the classroom, saving the school board \$26,000. Then the students went on to complete a \$25,000 school baseball field for \$10,000, and saved another \$15,000.

This year hundreds of miles away from Franklin in Randolph, N.Y., FFA members from Randolph Center School are developing a nature pond for the Randolph Children's Home.

As rural America faces an explosive rate of growth, at least one answer to the subsequent demand for new

services is being discovered in its own backyard.

Since 1971 FFA members have participated in Building Our American Communities (BOAC) projects implemented in high schools across the nation as a way of solving some of the problems rural and small communities face.

With 500,000 members and 8,500 chapters, the FFA is developing an eager community development army that last year alone completed 1,300 local projects.

Ted Amick, national BOAC program coordinator, described how the program works. "We ask FFA chapters to identify community problems and resources, work with other community groups and seek solutions to these problems."

Last year, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bergland summarized the focus of rural needs at the national FFA convention. He said, "For the first time since the Great Depression, rural America faces the problem of increasing population. The 30-year trend of declining rural population has reversed."

Indeed, if BOAC is one answer to the needs of growing rural and small communities, it comes just in time. Preliminary census counts indicate a substantial growth in small towns and rural areas, on the edges of metropolitan areas as well as isolated places far from cities.

Each November, 150 FFA chapters receive national BOAC awards at the FFA convention, the largest high

school convention in the country. Of those, four are selected as regional winners. One of the four will be selected national winner at the convention.

In addition to the Franklin FFA chapter, other regional winners this year include:

—The Elma High School chapter in Elma, Wash., where FFA members developed a comprehensive

renewal plan to protect timber resources.

—The Monroeville High School chapter in Monroeville, Ohio, where high school students developed a working heritage farmstead exhibit at the Huron County Fair to provide for rural and non-rural citizens an understanding of 19th Century

agriculture through displays and pioneer home arts.

—The Denmark High School chapter in Denmark, Wisc., where students developed a comprehensive community development priority list with projects ranging from senior citizens programs to upgrading the grounds at the local high school.

Penn Manor to hold pesticide update

MILLERSVILLE — Penn Manor Young Farmers Association will hold a pesticide license renewal session this Thursday, November 13.

The meeting will be held at the Penn Manor High School at 7:30.

Any person who applies restricted use pesticides to

farm or garden crops must have a current and valid pesticide license to buy the materials.

Most Pennsylvania restricted use pesticide licenses expired last month. But a special extension has been granted to give farmers sufficient time to get recertified.

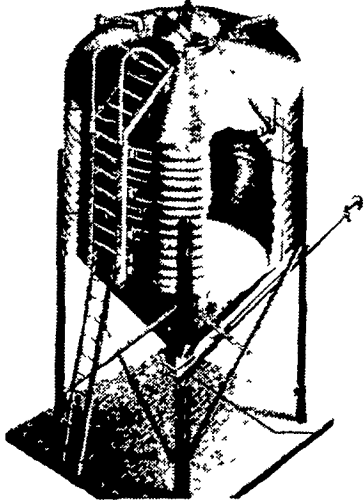
Attendance at most commercial, extension, or young farmer meetings which deal with chemicals, including the Penn Manor session, will earn a farmer recertification.

For further information contact Jeff Hart, Penn Manor Young Farmers Association advisor.

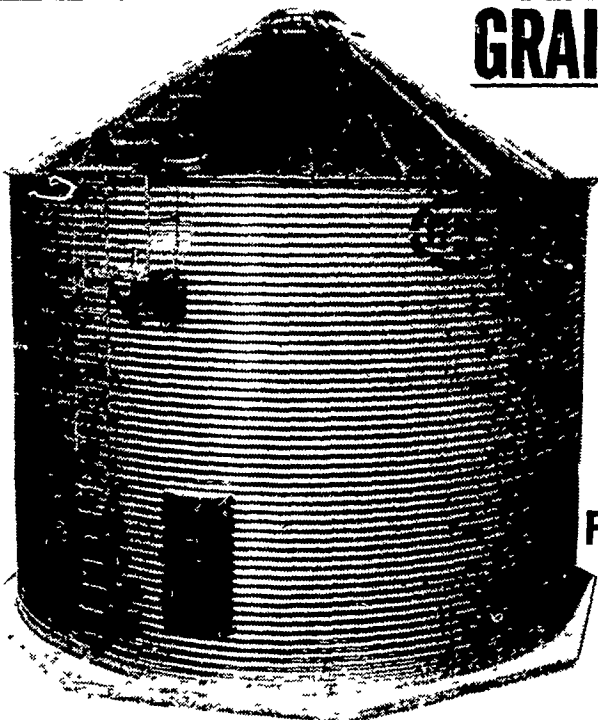
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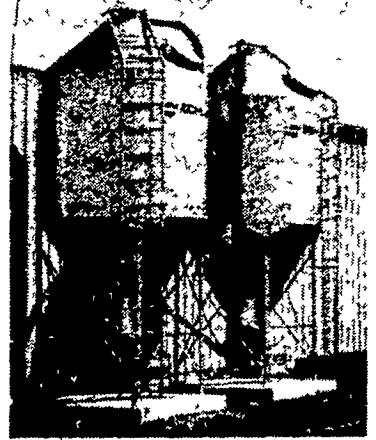
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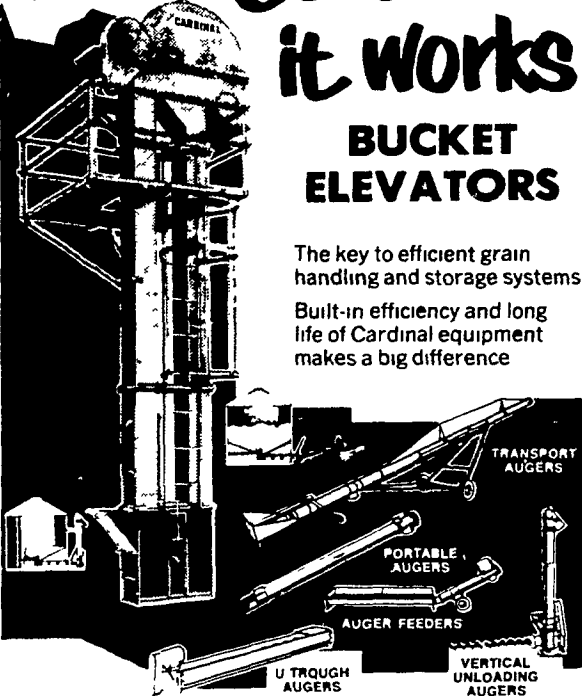


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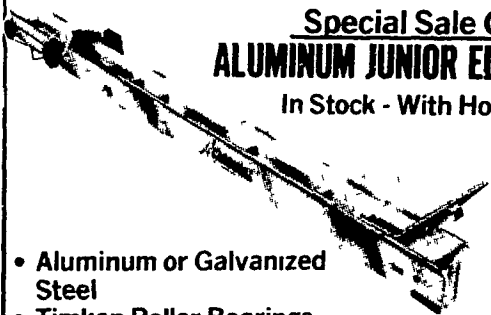
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