

Shropshire breeders

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found most sheep producers reluctant to call a vet, and more than half felt veterinary services were not economically beneficial

Sadly, most diseases are diagnosed by the shepherd, not by a professional. In many of these on-the-farm homestyle diagnoses the conclusion is wrong. The lamb that was thought to have died from overeating disease could very well have died from ruminal ulcers or the sheep that was thought to have had circling disease may well have had thiamine deficiency

The hope that the Pennsylvania-Maryland Shropshire breeders project is that the employment of an ovine specialist at the veterinary school will produce better trained veterinarians and provide answers through research to some of the sheep industry's most devastating disease problems

Perhaps in the future pre-lambing treatment of the ewe could reduce the number of dead lambs. Using something like the dry-cow treatment, there may be a way to reduce mastitis infections in lactating ewes. Perhaps an immunization against listeriosis (circling disease) may be developed

Foot rot may be a thing of the past with new treatments, and there may even

be a radically different approach to worm problems

Since the Shropshire breeders began pushing for an ovine specialist, the Veterinary School has made an effort to improve its teaching of ovine medicine. A sheep management course has been added. A Sheep Health Forum for producers was held last August and attended by an overflow crowd. Dr. Colin Johnstone, chief parasitologist, has begun a study of worm problems in local flocks. All faculty are making a special effort to include sheep problems in the lectures

All this is good, but Mrs. Menhennett says she believes sheep producers won't have the quality of veterinary care that is required until there is at least one specialist who can really concentrate on learning about sheep and begin researching sheep health problems

Veterinary professors who work 90 percent of the time with cows aren't going to be able to attain the level of expertise that is required

It is a mistake, Mrs. Menhennett says, for vets to assume sheep problems are just like those of cattle. The problems of the sheep may be analogous but they are not similar

The sheep is not a two-teated, woolly, miniature cow

SCNECKSVILLE — Frederic H. Stillwagen, vocational agriculture teacher at the Lehigh County Vo-Tech School at Schnecksville, has been named the state winner of the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association-Ruritan National "Ideas Unlimited Contest" for 1980 in Pennsylvania.

The contest sponsored by Ruritan National is designed to give NVATA members, who

an opportunity to exchange classroom, FFA, and other teaching ideas. A criteria for the contest is an explanation of how the idea was used by the contestant and how it could help others

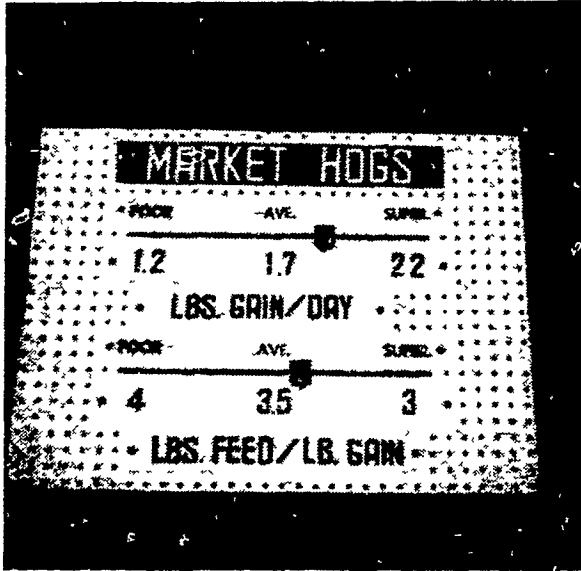
Stillwagen's winning idea was a Production Project Record Board. This record board constructed of peg board with interchangeable signs is an ideal shop project for students. Being a versatile teaching tool it is also used to develop shop skills,

increase students awareness of project costs, and market prices.

Helpful in economics and in the supervised occupational experiences of the students it is extremely helpful in the project record book programs. The record boards can be adapted by all

teachers as a visual aide

The manuscripts of the "Ideas Unlimited" state winners including Stillwagen's entry, will be evaluated at the National AVA Convention in New Orleans in December. Six regional winners will then be selected



This project board, developed by Lehigh County vo-ag teacher Frederic Stillwagen, won his the state Ideas Unlimited contest.



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