

4-H makes 6,300 subs



When you make 6,300 subs, you're bound to get quite a pile-up before you've finished. Each sub was packed with a slip that said, "The 4-H Clubs of Lebanon County thank you for your support." The profits will go to county events, leadership training and 4-H premiums at the Lebanon Area Fair.



The 4-H Leader's Organization conducted a sub sale on April 4 for all Lebanon County 4-H clubs. Over 200 members, parents, and leaders turned out to make and sell the 6,300 subs. (Photos by Linda Rohrbach.)

U.S. to launch domestic rubber program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Efforts to help the United States become self-sufficient in natural rubber will be intensified under a new guayule seed production program.

Guayule, a source of natural rubber, is a bushy desert plant native to North Central Mexico and Southwest Texas.

Anson R. Bertrand, U.S. Department of Agriculture director of science and education and chairman of the Joint Commission on Guayule Research and Commercialization, said the new program will produce seed to plant large acreages for commercial production of natural rubber.

Seed production will be centered in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, where weather and climate are suitable for propagation and where an estimated five million acres of land could support guayule production. Guayule was a source of natural rubber during World War II when the United States was cut off from its source in Malaysia.

The United States now imports all of its natural rubber, an important strategic material, with 1979 imports totaling more than

760,000 metric tons at a cost of over \$157 million.

"Guayule's potential as a source of natural rubber takes on new interest in the face of rising prices for natural rubber and for petroleum used in making synthetic rubber," Bertrand said.

Scientists at the agricultural experiment stations of the University of Arizona, the University of California, Texas A&M University, New Mexico State University, and the California Department of Agriculture this spring will plant 120 acres of selected guayule seed and an additional 80 acres in the fall under a cooperative agreement with USDA's Science and Educational Administration. From these plantings, will come certified seed for seed producers for commercial use.

USDA, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Science Foundation, the Four Corners Regional Commission and the Southwest Border Regional Commission are all members of the Joint Commission on Guayule Research and Commercialization.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy has provided funding for the new program.

The Department of Commerce is initiating a program complementary to USDA's seed production project to determine the commercial possibilities of guayule by-products left over from the extraction process. By-products include bagasse (wood fiber), resins, liquid fuels and leaves—most of them with some industrial use.

USDA's Science and Education Administration is cooperating in research at several western locations on aspects of guayule production, including identification and control of guayule diseases, its water use and production practices, and breeding for increased yield.



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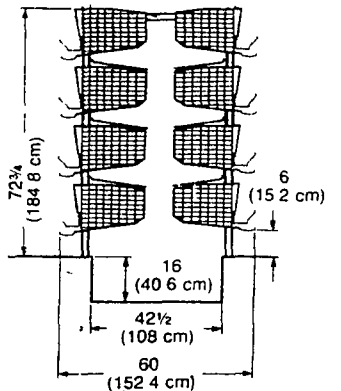
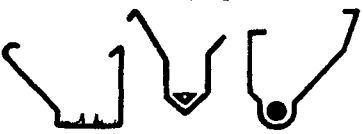


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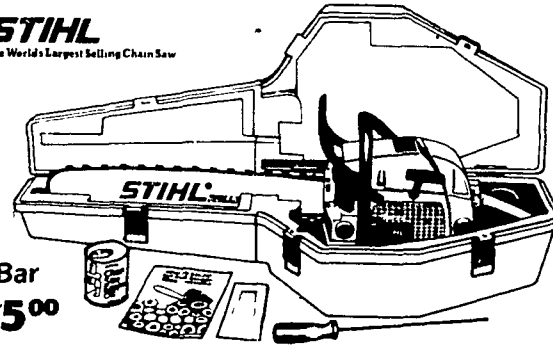
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