

Solar collector plans available

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An efficient solar collector designed for multiple uses on the farm, including grain drying and home heating, has been developed by a Nebraska farm couple and the Small Farm Energy Project of the Center for Rural Affairs in Hartington, Nebr.

The Young collector, named after its farmer-designers, performed successfully in 1979 and appears to be an attractive farm investment.

The collector efficiently dried corn from 18.5 down to 15 percent moisture in the fall of 1979. Attached to the Young farm home in the winter of 1979/80 for 4 months, the collector provided 20 percent of the total heating. More than 330 gallons of propane valued at \$179 were saved in drying and heating.

This solar collector is portable, can be tilted to receive the maximum available solar radiation, and features a flexible airflow system. This combination

of features makes the Young collector ideal for several diverse farm uses. It is simple to construct with used lumber and other materials commonly found around the farmstead. There are no pre-fabricated parts.

For grain drying, the collector and fan system can produce an airflow of 3,000 cubic feet per minute at 1.2 inches of static pressure and produce a tem-

perature rise of 12 degrees F. at noon. For home heating, the collector produces 19,700 BTU per hour at noon, with a temperature rise averaging about 40 degrees F.

Investment in the Young collector, including the cost of a used four-wheel running gear, totaled \$1,410, or \$5.88 per square foot of collector surface. After deducting regular investment credit from this cost, not energy

savings resulted in an 11.2-percent return on investment. Payback was estimated at 5.8 years for the collector, which has a 20-year expected lifespan.

With such a short payback, the Young collector appears to be a safe system for lenders to finance and an attractive investment for farmers.

For further information, call Walter G. Heid, Jr. 913/539-9141.

Crown sale averages \$81

BEDFORD — Russell Kegg's first "Crown of Quality" pig sale attracted a strong following of buyers, with 112 lots averaging \$81.07.

The top selling feeder pig, sired by "Full-Power", commanded a \$160.00 price tag, selling to Virgil Wilkens, a West Virginia. Wilkens also selected two other top feeders at \$130.00 each. Second high selling feeder pigs sold to Adam Waltz, of Westport, at \$135.00, while Scott Hileman, of Williamsburg, paid \$130.00 for another top feeder.

The top selling open gilt realized a price tag of \$135.00. The January daughter of "Full-Power" sold to

Harold Brown, of Martinsburg. Elbrook Farms, of Waynesboro, paid \$130.00 for the second high selling gilt, a January daughter of "Hi-Power".

Barb Noye, of Tyrone and Richard Talbort, of Ardenas, paid \$155.00 for the top two boars. They were January boars sired by "Future" and "Full Power", respectively.

The sale brought buyers from West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and was held at the Bedford Fairgrounds. The sale was managed by Brubaker Livestock Marketing, of New Holland.

Cattle brucellosis indemnities cut

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A shortage of funds has been forced USDA to cut indemnities 20 percent.

Paul Becton, director of the national brucellosis eradication program for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the cut was necessary to make sure indemnity funds were available through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends September 30.

USDA already has paid out \$9.7 million of the \$15.7 million set aside for indemnity payments during the first six months of the fiscal year. Thus, on payments that averaged \$123.87 per reactor, well above the \$86 payment average of the last fiscal year.

The number of reactors has

remained fairly constant. Last year, USDA found 155,945 reactors. During the first six months of the current year, they found 78,100.

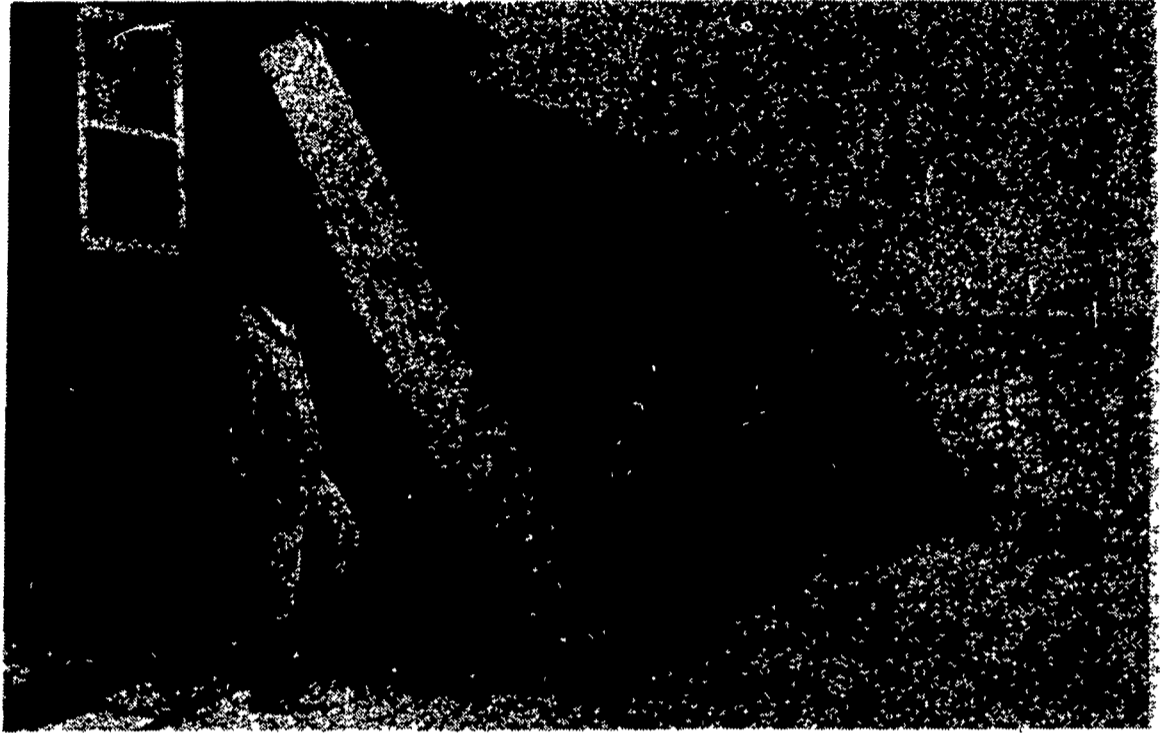
Herrs donate ram to school

KENNETT SQUARE — The University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to announce the expansion of its ongoing teaching program in small ruminant medicine.

Through the generosity of private contributions, the School of Veterinary Medicine has been able to build a new sheep shed at New Bolton Center, its large animal facility, and to purchase a flock of yearling ewes from Penn State. A high quality Dorset ram also has been donated by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Herr of "Nix Besser Farm" in Narvon, Pennsylvania.

New Bolton Center's new flock will add an important dimension to the veterinary teaching program by providing direct experience for students in small ruminant health care, sheep management, and flock maintenance. In addition, the flock will produce two lamb crops a year thereby increasing student knowledge and skill in the clinical treatment of pregnant sheep.

Dr. Colin Johnson, Assistant Professor of Parasitology, is in charge of the project. He is assisted by Dr. Susan Donoghue, a faculty member of the Nutrition Section, and Barry Haines, a specialist in Sheep Management.



The solar collector does double duty: drying grain or heating the farm home, as shown here. Construction plans for the collector may be purchased from the Small Farm Energy Project, P.O. Box 736, Hartington, Nebr. 68739. Specify Portable Solar Collector Plans.

The cost is \$2 a set — the charge covers expenses only. The Small Farm Energy Project is a U.S. Government-funded nonprofit organization. The collector and its plans are not copyrighted.

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