

CHRIS CLOVER

### Md. broiler project begins

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland youth in small towns and rural areas have a chance to help stretch their family's food dollar in this recession year by taking part in the annual statewide 4-H broiler project.

The eight-week project will begin in late March or early April, according to Charles J. Wabeck, Extension poultry science specialist at the University of Maryland. Interested young persons should sign up by the end of February with local 4-H leaders or at county Extension offices so that chick orders may be placed with hatcheries.

Traditionally, the 4-H broiler project has a youth start with 25 or more meat-type chicks and grow them out to market broiler size within eight weeks. At the end of the grow-out period, the broilers are usually sold, or they can be slaughtered for home consumption.

Normally, two of the finished birds are selected for entry in county-wide or regional competition featuring an educational program. The judging scorecard counts conformation and condition of the finished birds as half of a total possible score. Remaining points are from the 4-H project record book.

The record-keeping portion of the scorecard considers such factors as mortality, average weight and feed conversion. A conversion rate of 1.90 pounds of

feed per pound of gain, would earn a perfect score in that category.

Last year, the Maryland program was expanded to include a commercial 4-H broiler contest or youth who live on commercial broiler farms. "It gives youngsters the feel of managing an entire broiler house under the guidance of an adult supervisor who has total responsibility for the flock," Wabeck said.

Separate contest categories are provided in both the small flock and commercial flock project areas for junior contestants (ages 8 to 13) and senior contestants (ages 14 through 18).

In most cases, adult or junior volunteer 4-H leaders will provide guidance for the broiler project. Each person who enrolls will receive a set of contest rules and a 4-H instruction manual.

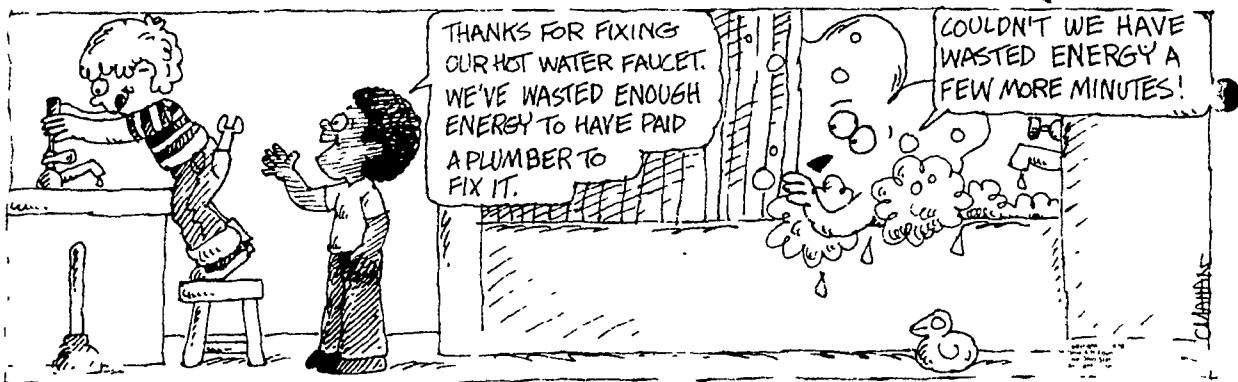
### Western Berks 4-H elects officers

LEESPORT — The Western Berks 4-H Dairy Club held their second meeting on February 4 at the home of Jimmy and Chris Blatt to elect officers.

Elected were: president, Donna Stump; vice president, William Leshner; secretary, Doris Stump; treasurer, Laura Miller and reporter, Doyle Stump.

The club is planning to purchase two centerpieces for the tables at their 4-H banquet.

For the evening's meeting, John



### Farm Bureaus approve animal care resolutions

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Mn. — According to the Livestock Conservation Institute, headquartered here, the Iowa Farm Bureau has approved a resolution on animal care which points out that many changes in the care of farm animals are the result of a need to

improve animal health, respond to changing economic conditions and meet consumer demand for quality food at a reasonable price.

The resolution favors educational programs in schools emphasizing advantages and benefits of modern livestock production, supports research on animal production issues being raised by welfarists and opposes legislative or regulatory actions which would tend to prohibit good poultry and livestock husbandry practices and increase cost of food.

A resolution approved by the Michigan Farm Bureau suggests that members tell the success story of modern animal

agriculture in schools, sponsor farm tours, develop a speakers' bureau on the issue and utilize positive public relations techniques in the mass media to tell the public of the deep, abiding respect farmers have for land and animals.

The resolution supports research on the issue, opposes legislation which would interfere with accepted care and management practices and directs the state group to organize with groups of sportsmen and others interested in the issue. It also urges opposition to use of the curriculum guide prepared by the education division of the Humane Society of the U.S.

Stump explained how to fill out heifer and cow books.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4 at Balthaser's.



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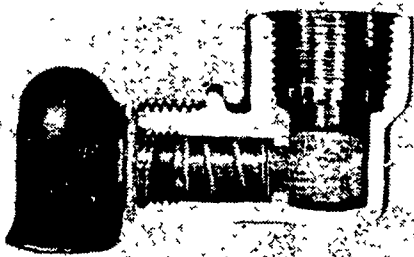
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