

Panama dean visits Del. U's field day

NEWARK, Del. — Like the rest of the 1,200 visitors to the University of Delaware's Farm and Home Field Day, Alfredo Bernal was anxious to learn about the University's work in agriculture and home economics. He wanted to try a genuine Delaware meal of fried chicken, soybean salad and watermelon, and he wanted to hear from Delaware's elected officials and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

But Bernal had special reasons for coming to field day all the way from his native Panama. The new deal of the agricultural college of the University of Panama, Bernal came to the University of Delaware as the guest of Title XII Coordinator Charles Curtis. The main purpose of his visit to Delaware was to work out the details of an educational exchange between the two institutions. But he planned his visit to coincide with field day, which gave him a built-in opportunity to tour the farm and discover the research and Extension activity going on there.

Virtually all Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station researchers and Cooperative Extension Service specialists take part in the annual event, conducting tours, explaining their work, and answering questions. Bernal was particularly interested in learning how Delaware soybean growing compares with the cultivation of pigeon peas in Panama since he'd like to introduce soybeans to Panama if a suitable short-day variety could be found.

Bernal also was interested in field day as an exercise in logistics. The University of Panama will be hosting its first agricultural field day in September, so Bernal paid special attention to details, from the order of events to the quantity of iced tea.

Cowboy-hatted Bernal was introduced to many people at field day, but he was particularly happy to greet the young man in the Panama hat who was watching

over the plant science exhibit. It was Jose Cedeno, a graduate student from Bernal's university who is currently studying plant breeding at the University of Delaware under James Hawk. When he completes his master's degree he will return to join the faculty of the University of Panama.

Bernal and his family spent a week in Delaware, touring farms, meeting officials, and visiting points of interest as guests of the Curtis family. A highlight of their visit was a helicopter tour of the state.

Bernal says he greatly enjoyed his visit to Delaware and is looking forward to further cooperation between the two universities. With Bernal's enthusiastic support, the presidents of the two universities signed an agreement of cooperation — the first such agreement the University of Panama has signed with any U.S. educational institution in over 20 years.



Dean of Agriculture at the University of Panama Alfredo Bernal, right, enjoys Delaware watermelon at Farm and Home Field Day with University of Delaware Dean of Agricultural Sciences Donald Crossan, center, and Panamanian graduate student Jose Cedeno.

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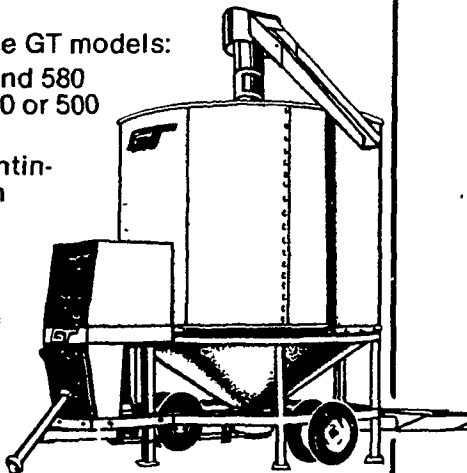
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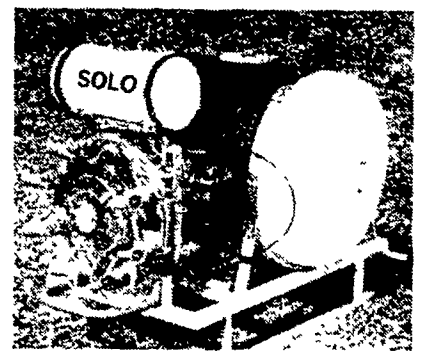
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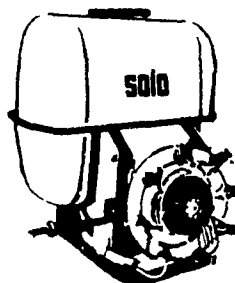
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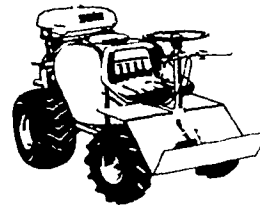
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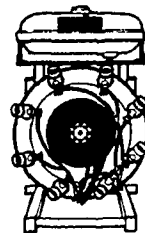
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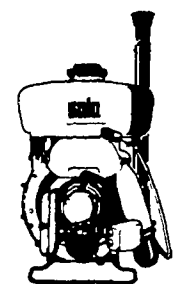
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