

# Ag vital in classroom studies, says Block

**BY JOYCE BUPP**  
Staff Correspondent  
**HARRISBURG** — It's been a rare occasion in the past when agriculture and education representatives sit down together

to share ideas. But that's just what happened two weeks ago when the state Department of Education hosted the Northeast "Agriculture in the Classroom" seminar. Most of the hundred participants

came to learn what's happening with fledgling agriculture teaching programs from Maryland to Maine and to share ideas on working more ag information into school curriculums.

The Harrisburg seminar was just one of several held across the country by USDA in response to a renewed awakening for the need to educate America's largely non-farm population about the importance of agriculture to the economy.

Secretary of agriculture John Block is spearheading the "Agriculture in the Classroom" movement, and wrote in a seminar invitation that "... It is vitally important that our young people have a better understanding of the contribution of agriculture to their lives and to the nation's economy."

A "declaration of principle", a document proclaiming the need for greater agriculture education, has been signed by Secretary Block and all living former national secretaries of ag. That's a first, according to USDA's Larry Marton, and the governor of each state is being invited to sign this intent to teach agriculture background.

In welcoming the delegates from several states to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell echoed Block's philosophy, and added that the public needs to be aware that its high standard of living is a direct result of the efficiency of American agriculture. Chairing the regional meeting was Sally Katt, educational coordinator for USDA.

"So much is learned by rote, and not really connected with anything," she commented about picameal, vague or unrelated ag

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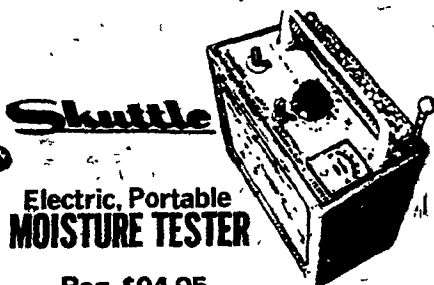
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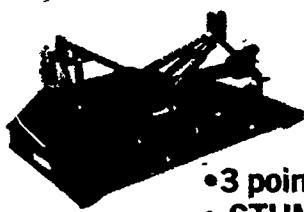


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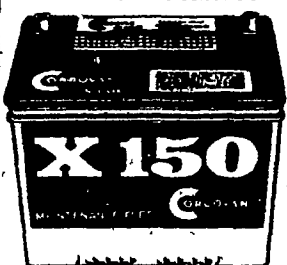
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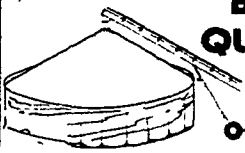
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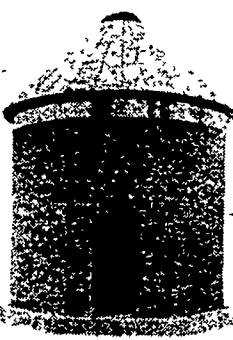
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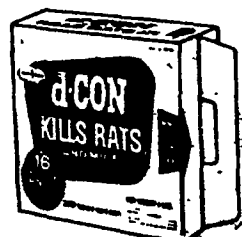


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