

Penn's Agri-Women promote Agri-Learn

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

HARRISBURG — Agricultural education in the classroom and animal rights were featured program topics when members of Penn's Agri-Women gathered, September 30, for their annual meeting at the downtown Holiday Inn, here.

In keeping with a key goal of their national affiliate, PAW

members are working closely with other farm groups in helping to introduce agriculture education into public school curriculums. Among the materials being incorporated is Agri-Learn Unlimited, an agriculture curriculum study for the fourth grade, written by former York County vo-ag instructor Bill Fleet.

Fleet gave a brief background of the development of Agri-Learn,

and urged PAW members to make placing the material in inner-city and urban schools a priority goal. He also stressed the need to keep such efforts aimed at local school, implemented by the actions of local school district residents, rather than force the ag-education issue with a mandate.

Agri-Learn is split into nine chapters, dealing with such issues as life on the farm, the various types of agriculture production, comparisons of "then and now" farming, the variables of farming, career opportunities, and field trip ideas.

Each chapter includes established objectives, and activities for students tie in with other studies, such as math and reading. Attractive black-and-white line illustrations lend themselves to easy reproduction, while adding visual interest to the series.

Another education is chaired by Wendy Kellog, who heads the Mercer County's Farmers Association's local ag studies project. Mercer County's program includes studies at several elementary levels, with a kindergarten series in planning. Local resource people serve as classroom speakers on various types of farming enterprises.

Additional information on ag education efforts, and the Agri-Learn program is available from Gail McPherson, Rt. 1, New Park, PA.

Agri-Women member Pat Sueck, Airville, gave an update on the animal welfare movement. She predicted continued pressure on both national and state lawmakers for the passage of regulations aimed at curtailing modern agriculture animal production methods.

During the annual business session, outgoing president Gail McPherson reviewed activities of her tenure then turned over the leadership reins to Judy Cihylik, Treichlers. Joyce Hershey of Cochranville, was elected vice president, and treasurer is Ethel Gross, Manchester.



Agri-Learn Unlimited, a curriculum study of agriculture aimed at the fourth grade level, is designed with activities geared to a broad range of teaching subjects, including social studies, math and reading.

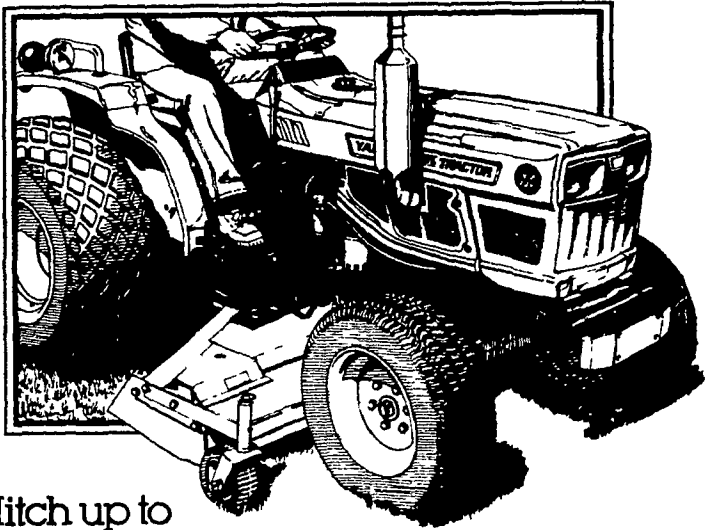


Judy Cihylik, left, is the new president of Penn's Agri-Women. Center is Joyce Hershey, elected to the office of vice president, and Ethel Gross will handle treasurer duties.

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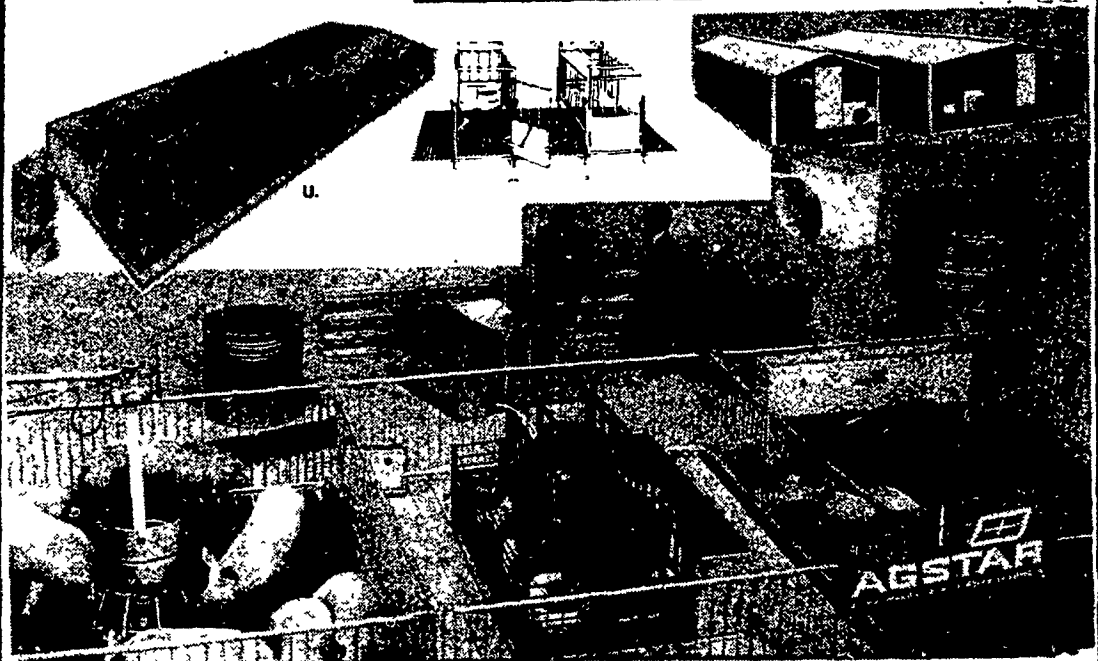
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