

York

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given extra rations to assure that the lambs received adequate milk. Dr. Engle stressed the importance of assuring adequate milk supplies to twins by providing extra ration to those lactating ewes.

By mid-May, groupings of a few hundred filled the pastures surrounding the ranch. Lambs were old enough to be docked, castrated and vaccinated, but still maintained in groupings of ewes and lambs, with twinned-families kept to their own group.

Quick grazing of the spring pastures by the flocks, with the sheep picking out selective forages, such as dandelion, allowed follow-up grazing by the Engles' herd of beef cattle.

At the end of June, came the time to "go to the mountains," an area covering some 300,000 acres of snow-capped Rocky Mountain high country. Federal grazing rangers counted the flocks of about 1500 ewes plus their lambs, and checked the health of the sheep.

In charge of the flock as they took to the summer pastures were the most important sheep herder and a camp tender, who provided meals and assistance during the summer months on the mountain. Also invaluable to the safety and direction of a summering flock are well-trained herding dogs and several pack horses which carry the vital shelter, food and medical supplies, and salt for the flock.

The trip to the grazing area was one of some twenty miles in length, from the ranch altitude of 6,000 feet to the uppermost summer pastures at 10,000 feet.

Early July brings the first hay cutting on the flat fields at the ranch, which are irrigated from the Boulder River. Giant stacks of bales, many layers high and hundreds of yards long, dotted the fields by summer's end, readied for the flock's return as snow began to dust the upper mountain tops.

Freezing temperatures set in early in September, signalling the time for the flock to begin the trek back to the pastures in the river valley. As they left the government's grazing permit areas, rangers again counted and checked the health of the returning flock.

The availability of such grazing areas began to diminish after the Engles had been in the sheep business nearly three decades. In the late 1960's, the family phased



York sheep and wool producer president Greg Lau, right, extends a thank you to extension sheep specialist Dr. Clair Engle for his slide presentation on Western sheep ranching.

out of the sheep ranching business beef production on the Montana and turned their full attention to ranch.



Laurie Rodgers, left, will reign as queen of the York County sheep and wool producers. Members of her court, are, from left, Holly Crisamore, Linda Waltersdorff and Julie Stremmel.

Penn State looking for farmers to train students

UNIVERSITY PARK — Penn State is looking for farmers to "adopt" an Ag Hill student for the summer. This marks the third year for this work-experience program which places students who lack farm backgrounds and experience on farms throughout the state.

According to Associate Professor of Animal Science Grant W. Sherritt, "Each year the number of farms that we have listed has increased and the number of students looking for farm experience has increased."

"Last year about 40 students gained experience. Many other students attempted to locate farms but were unsuccessful for various reasons," he explained, adding that the University had a list of 60 interested farms last year.

Sherritt noted that roughly 70 percent of Penn State's ag students

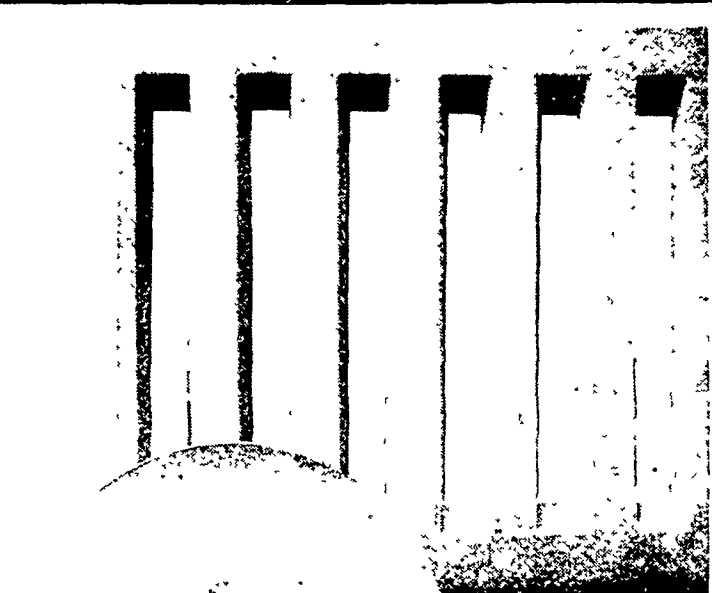
are from nonfarm backgrounds.

Explaining how the program works, Sherritt pointed out that students choose which of the interested farms to contact based on location, type of farm, etc. Work arrangements, such as salary, meals, room, etc., are then negotiated between the student and the farmer.

Sherritt pointed out that Penn State would like to see more farmers work with the University in this special hands-on experience program. "Most students have been enthusiastic about their experience and many farm families have responded very favorably about the young people," he said.

For more information on the program, contact Sherritt by writing 324 Animal Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802; or telephoning 814/863-3661.

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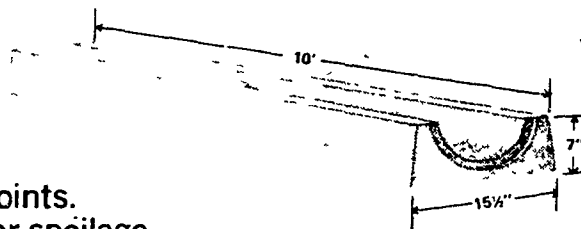
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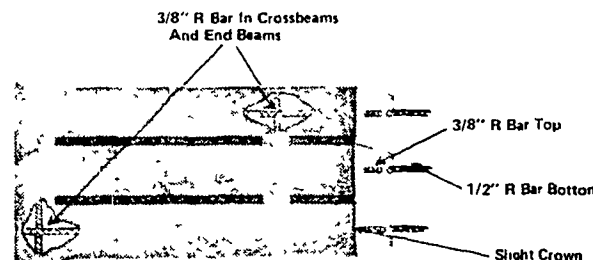
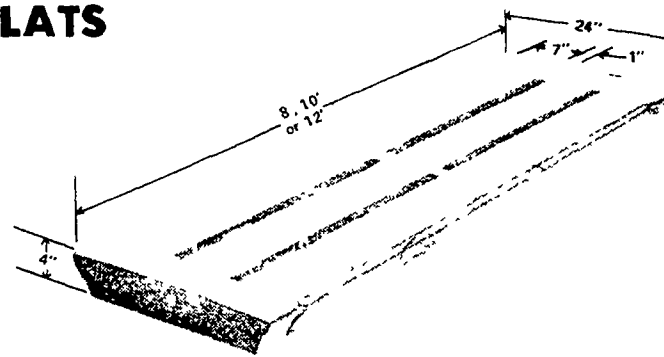
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