U. of Del. gets ag engineering award

NEWARK, Del. - The University of Delaware has been selected to receive the 1963 R. J. Reynolds - NASDA (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture) Award for Excellence in Ag 'ultural Technology Instruct for the Northeast.

nes with a The award, which \$3,000 nonrenewable ipend, was presented June 27 at a banquet during the Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA) convention in Jeffersonville, Vt. It recognizes the quality of in-struction of the university's agricultural technology program, which prepares students for careers in technical areas of agribusiness and related fields.

One school in each of the association's four regions was selected to receive the grant for use in further development of instructional programs. The award was accepted on behalf of the university by Dr. Herschel A. Elliott, assistant professor of agricultural engineering in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

According to Elliott, the grant will be used to buy a microcomputer. The department already has one such unit; a second will make it possible to give students handson classroom experience and so augment their current extensive training on the university's mainframe computer.

Many small businesses and some farmers now are using nucrocomputers because of their relatively low cost. For this reason, Elliott said, the department feels a need to train students in their use. "This will allow us to better prepare our graduates for agricultural careers which are

computer-oriented," he said.

The first course students take as freshmen agricultural engineering majors covers the fundamentals of programming on a mainframe computer, and engineering problem-solving and analysis. "We try to stress that the computer is just a tool to be used in solving problems," Elliott said.

The college's agricultural engineering technology program features coordinated and concomputer education, tinuous ranging from the basic in-

becoming more technical and troductory freshman course to advanced courses requiring computer-based analyses of agricultural problems dealing with farm machinery selection, engine performance, fluid power systems, lighting and beam design. Many students also use the computer for independent study projects on such timely topics as water quality, energy use, machinery management and livestock environment management.

The University of Delaware agricultural engineering technology program currently has an enrollment of 79 undergraduates. When they complete their studies, they will be prepared for positions such as plant engineers, farm equipment managers, construction supervisors and technical sales representatives, in which the computer is becoming increasingly important.

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Penrose Hallowell, secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, left, congratulates Herschel Elliot, assistant professor of agriculture at the University of Delaware, on the school's selection to receive a regional award for excellence in agricultural education from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

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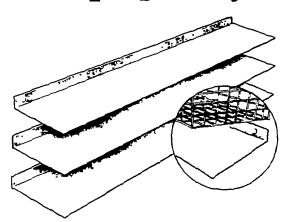
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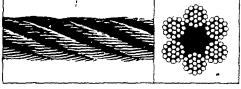
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