Ogline

(Continued from Page A1)

"Approximately 80 to 85 percent of the college students enrolling in agriculture do not come from farm

backgrounds," Ogline explains.
"Our new Biological Station, at which hands-on practical experience will be stressed, is designed to help fill this void."

The farming facilities at the Station will include the five breeds of dairy cattle, swine, sheep and beef. Students will live there for 10 weeks and help with the milking, other chores, keep records and plant or harvest crops depending on the season. They will get experience in para-veterinary duties, including such things as dehorning and castrating.

"One of the first phases of farming operations to be stressed will be safety," Ogline said.

"Most of these students have never been directly involved in farming and they must initially be impressed with proper safety around machinery, equipment and livestock."

Ogline explains that the course of instruction will feature a strong tie-in of the inter-relationship between proper farming practices and the environment.

"Whatever is done in farming whether it's spreading manure or applying a pesticide – has its effect not only on the ag operation but also on the environment," Ogline explains.

"We want to stress this interrelationship and the importance of dove-tailing farming practices with the environment.

Ogline's experience with the environmental ag program at New

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Holland, which was started in 1972, was instrumental in his selection for this unique college-level program. The environmental ag program at New Holland is also unique in the state.

Students for the hands-on program will be drawn from 11 different instructional disciplines at Michigan State, such as ag mechanics, economics, education, production, fish and wildlife. horticulture, etc.

The proximity of the forests and marshlands to the farmlands will be instrumental in putting together the program.

While the course will be geared

to a contingent of 50 to 60 sophomores when in full operation, a pilot program involving about 20 upperclass ag students will get under way in September.

Ogline will serve on the Michigan State faculty as lead instructor for the unique program, which will combine some classroom work with the hands-on experience. Ogline will draw members from throughout the Michigan State ag faculty to work in the program.

A commercial dairy farm located at the site, which features a 128-free stall operation and all types of manure disposal and handling, will be used for demo purposes in the instructional pro-

"I'm really excited about getting in on the ground floor of this unique program," Ogline said.

'Michigan State intends to make it a national instructional show place for practical experience."

Ogline also worked in production ag instruction at New Holland before the environmental ag program was started. He also served in the Rockwood School District in Somerset County, where he grew up on a dairy farm. He also worked in SCS before going on to college.

In 1981, he received his doctorate in ag education at Penn State.

He served three years in the Marines as an M.P. and was on the Campus Patrol at Penn State, working his way through school.

His minor is in agronomy. He and his wife, Linda, will be moving from R1 Denver with thir two daughters, Melissa, 11, and Shelly, 10.

"I've taught for 20 years and have some 20 years to go,"Ogline said.

"I've really enjoyed it at New Holland and it was tough making a decision. But such a chance will only happen once."

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