

New vo-ag program

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are there key to the program. They need to know more about it so they can help good students to decide to enter the program."

Harrison said he also encourages the concept of holding informational assemblies in the middle school to acquaint students with the vo-ag program and its opportunities. He is pleased with the choice of James for a teacher, pointing out, "Our administration searched through a lot of people until they chose Mr. James. We felt he was a really key person."

For his part, James looks at the position as a golden opportunity. He says, "There are not many opportunities for starting a program from scratch and shaping it. Most people have to go with what is already established."

One of his first steps will be to establish an advisory committee representing a wide range of people in the community. He wants this committee to help in the goal of designing the program to fit community needs, and to help determine the kinds of facilities which should be used. At the present time, James and his students move among these classrooms for instruction and share space in the machine shop.

"The kids are enthusiastic, but they can't jump right in. They want to get to the hands-on stuff and that takes some time. They are

learning some patience. A recent field trip to Harrison's farrow to finish operation helped," James remarks.

The course is designed as a production agriculture course, but, of course, the benefits are not all in the classroom. Harrison says, "Parliamentary procedure, public speaking and the consumer areas are just as important. Those programs are designed to build character and there is a lot of value in that." A former FFA president, Harrison says, "I give a lot of credit to those experiences."

James agrees, "I want to help students to set goals and realize those goals as well. They get immediate gratification in awards from their successes. And they get some very basic skills. The FFA

awards programs are outstanding."

A major goal will be to see the students entering and winning FFA contests which will spur the interests of other students. James says, "Students have a lot of pride in the program and they like to identify with groups. Ours are very eager to get their FFA jackets."

He also wants to prepare students with basic job entry skills for graduation. He says he will help them learn to set up their own businesses, learning accounting and record-keeping skills. "I want to help them find jobs when they graduate. I don't anticipate difficulty in getting jobs. We want a quality education and want the kids to learn."

Asked about the cost of

developing the program, Harrison responded. "We will take each step at a time. Everything in education costs money, and if we have enough student interest, we feel we should meet their needs."

For now the students are

enrolled and learning. With the help of the board and the community, the program is likely to grow and expand, becoming a contributing factor in the education of students in agriculture.



Mark James, new vocational-agriculture instructor at Littlestown High School, works with Mark Flynn, a senior, at the lathe in the machine shop.

Farm Show data available

HARRISBURG — The State Farm Products Show Commission has released its 1985 tentative schedule of events for the Farm Show Complex, according to state Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

"The 1985 schedule for the Farm Show Complex offers a variety of activities for both exhibitors and visitors, ranging from expanded agricultural and outdoor events to national and international antique and craft expositions," said

Hallowell.

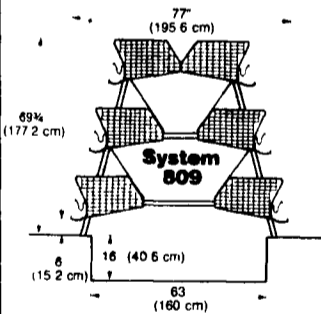
"Many people associate the Complex with the annual Farm Show, the largest indoor agricultural exhibition in the U.S., a weeklong event that attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators," he said. "However, the 14-acre Complex also serves the needs of many other industries who display their products, ideas and skills to million of Pennsylvanians and out-of-state visitors each year," Hallowell added.

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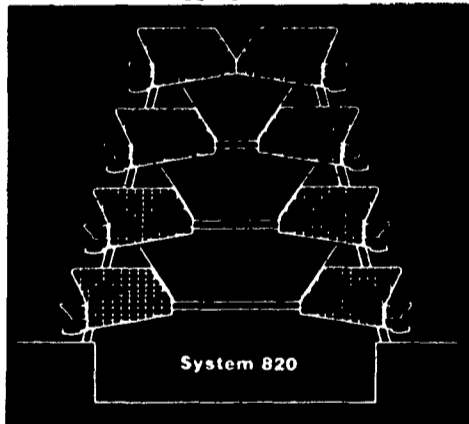
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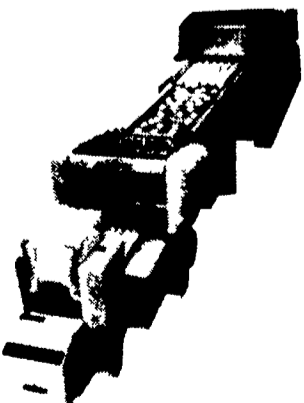
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