



HAPPENINGS

Commodity Marketing Project Expanded

The FFA Foundation recently announced that it is expanding the Simulated Commodity Marketing Activity, which was introduced during the 1988/89 school year. The project, introduced as a pilot in Minnesota, is being expanded to schools in Illinois and Oklahoma.

The purpose of the project is to give students an opportunity to learn more about the actual workings of the commodity markets and how these markets impact their farming operations. Each team of students is given a model farm which has several commodities such as corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle and hogs and for which they are responsible for making marketing decisions. The competition

is judged not only on the success of the team's marketing decisions, but also on their overall understanding of the markets and their ability to keep track of relevant market information.

Last year's sponsor of the project was Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group of West Bend, WI. Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group is a firm that specializes in assisting farmers and ranchers across the country with their marketing decisions. In addition to Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group, two additional sponsors have been added by the FFA Foundation for additional support and funding of the expanded project. They are the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

The Chicago Board of Trade has been a sponsor of the FFA for seven years, providing teacher workshops and the Oil Crop Proficiency. Chicago Mercantile Exchange has provided funding for agriculture teacher workshops and FFA collegiate scholarships for the past three years.

Current expectations are that the project will be expanded again next year to include an additional 10 states, not only in the Midwest, but across the country. The FFA recognizes the changing face of agriculture and the continued expansion of the Simulated Commodity Marketing Activity is just one example of the FFA's commitment to meet the challenge of tomorrow's agriculture.

Washington Conference Program

Eric P. Marshall of the Twin Valley FFA Chapter of Birdsboro and Jonathan Grimes and Christopher McGonigal of Hamburg recently attended the 1989 Washington Conference Program in our nation's capital.

The week-long program helps FFA members improve leadership skills, develop an understanding of national heritage, and prepare for more effective leadership roles in their chapters and communities. Sessions on human relations, goal

setting, and personal communications develop these skills. Personal outlook, motivation, and pride are also discussed.

Visits to Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, the Jefferson Memorial and other historic sights in Washington were included in the conference.

A highlight of the week was a visit to the office of their congressmen.

Help For The Home Buyer

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.)— "Steps for Homebuyers, a workshop series on how to buy a house, will be held on November 13, 20 and 27, at the Chester County Cooperative Extension, 235 W. Market Street, West Chester, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The three-evening series begins Monday, November 13, with "Step One: Finding a House to Fit Your Budget" which includes advantages and disadvantages of homeownership, checking out the

local housing market, finding out about financing, and setting realistic expectations.

"Step Two: Sizing up the Structure" will be held Monday, November 20. Topics to be covered include assessing structural quality, checking out the electrical, heating and plumbing systems, and testing for radon.

The series concludes Monday, November 27, with "Step Three: Learning about the Purchase Process." Working with a real estate agent, understanding the paperwork, learning out legal aspects, and homeowner's insurance will be discussed.

Buying a home is a complex process, particularly for first-time home buyers. If you are planning to buy a home, you will want to make your decision carefully so that your choice will give you the most satisfactory housing for your investment.

The deadline for registration is November 6 and there is a \$5 registration fee for the course. Persons interested in attending should send a check payable to Chester County Cooperative Extension, 235 W. Market Street, West Chester, PA 19382. For further information, contact the Extension office at 696-3500.



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