



## Ag Ed Students Complete Building



Andy Mast, right, and Jason Mantz, left, show the new animal housing at Twin Valley High School.

Students in the Twin Valley Agricultural Science curriculum have completed construction of a small building to house animals raised as part of the agricultural education program at Twin Valley High School.

Begun last school year as part of a mini-grant from the school district, students designed and constructed an 8-foot by 12-foot building which has been located outside the agricultural shop. Construction included the traditional carpentry skills as well as insulating and wiring the building.

While rabbits, chickens, and quail have been a part of the educational program at Twin Valley for several years, the animals have been raised in the agricultural shop, presenting obvious problems. The new building provides a separate convenient facility where the animals are not bothered by normal shop activities and the students are not bothered by the odor and dust of the animals.

Agricultural students raise the chickens from chicks each fall, with both broilers and laying breeds being started. The broilers are raised to mature weights and then slaughtered by the students. Growth rates and feed conversions are calculated.

The laying breed chickens are kept through the end of the school year, so students can actually see the hens lay eggs. Again, feed conversions are calculated.

Students experience the details of small animal care. Some of these animals are also bred, with offspring being sold to students for projects. These animals are also loaned to elementary teachers for use in their classrooms and are taken to Tel-Hai for pet therapy.

According to Twin Valley agricultural science teacher Ronald Frederick, many students have trouble relating classroom theory to actual practice. Activities such as building construction and caring for the animals on a daily basis provide students with the opportunity to practice what has been preached in the classroom and shop.

### FFA Week Kicks Off!

The week of February 16 through 23 is National FFA week. The Grassland FFA Chapter is sponsoring a donkey basketball game on Friday, Feb. 22 at the Garden Spot High School Gym as part of National FFA Week.

The game starts at 7:30 p.m. and will pit members of the local Grassland FFA Chapter against members of the faculty from throughout the Eastern Lancaster County School District.

The proceeds for the event will go toward the ELCEA scholarship fund as well as FFA activities. This event is held only once in two years at G.S. (it takes that long to have teachers forget their old wounds).

Tickets are \$4 in advance for students in high school through adult and \$5 at the door. It will cost children K-8th grade \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door. Senior Citizens (60 years and over) pay the same price as children. Children under 6 years of age get in free. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the Grassland FFA Chapter at Garden Spot High School.

For further information, contact Garden Spot High School at (717) 354-4031.



Nneet... that's the thing to look for during the Grassland FFA donkey basketball game on Fri., Feb. 22 at Garden Spot High School.

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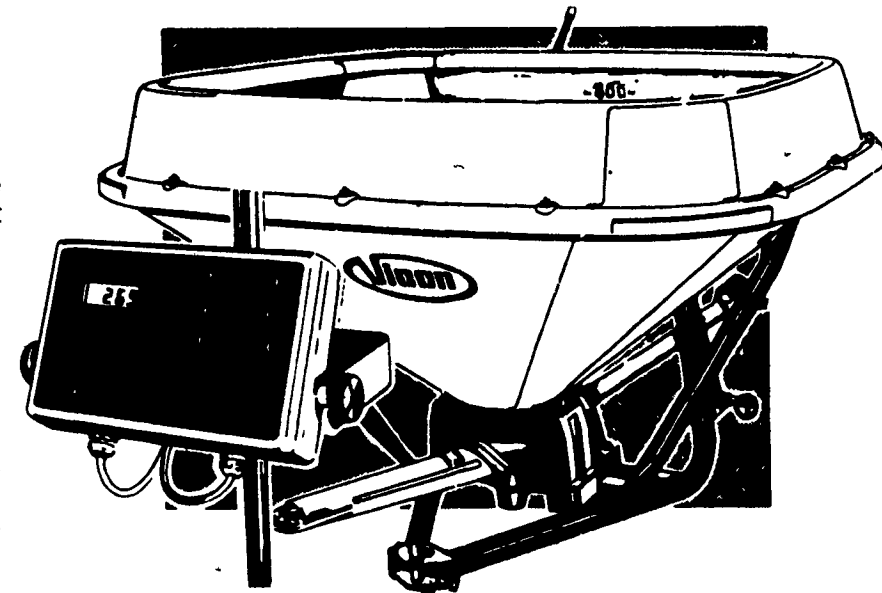
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