

Rep. Stairs Proposes Ag-Ed Act

(Continued from Page A32)

tude when the majority of students were the children of farmers, or spent part of their childhood farming and working on farms, but now, with school-aged children knowledgeable about agriculture being in the vast minority, the students have no opportunity to learn about basic, important aspects of living, such as, what food is and from where it comes.

"That's where I was hoping that we can better educate our citizens," Stairs said.

The proposal would give powers and duties to the secretary of education. It would be his responsibility, with the aid of a 13-member agriculture council, to:

- Conduct a periodic assessment of school-based agricultural education throughout the state.

- Provide assistance, support and resource information to educators and public and private agencies on agricultural education, the existing, but not widely used, "Ag in the Classroom" programs, and to support and maintain an inventory of agricultural education materials, programs and resources available throughout the state and nation.

- Identify, recognize and establish awards for exemplary agricultural science curricula.

- Make sure that schools assess the "learning outcomes" for agricultural education.

("Learning outcomes" is a new phrase being used to mean knowledge which students gain from instruction.)

- Provide grants (under the secretary's discretionary approval) to groups which actually put together and carry out Ag in the Classroom programs, and those which promote agricultural literacy; and also to those programs developed locally by an occupational advisory committee in local school districts.

- Prepare a guidance document, in consultation with the council, for administering the grants.

Also, under the proposal, the secretary of education is to submit an annual report to the governor and the General Assembly which would outline the state's agricultural education programs and achievements. He would also include recommendations for future program needs in the report.

The proposal for a 13-member Advisory Council on Agricultural Education is to create a board chaired by the secretary of education. The other members would include the secretary of agriculture and 11 people appointed by the

secretary of education.

The limits on the education secretary's appointments would be that he would have to have three members representing food processing industry; three active, resident commercial farmers; three representatives of the commercial ag marketing industry; one representative of an agricultural college from a state-related university; and one member selected from a list submitted by PVATA.

Under the proposal, the representatives of the various agriculture industries would have to be chosen from a list provided by the Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations and the public at large.

There would be no pay for sitting on the council, but actual expenses required would be reimbursed.

The funding for the program is probably the most difficult obstacle, according to Rep. Stairs.

"The only problem, obviously, is that it is a tight year financially and any new programs have to be scrutinized. I hope we don't have too much resistance," he said.

The proposal seeks a one-year

allocation of \$250,000. The money would be appropriated into the Agricultural Education Fund, which would also be a new and protected source of money for agricultural education.

The Agriculture Education Fund would be a "special, nonlapsing fund in the State Treasury," according to the proposed document.

Also detailed in the proposal, all moneys placed in the fund and interest that accrued would be used specifically for carrying out the intentions and duties specified in the act.

Although just introduced, Al Myers, Pennsylvania Governmental Relations manager, said, "It's a progressive step in the development of Ag in the Classroom and agricultural education in whole. It's about time that we take these steps. We support it and we think it's a good deal."

Robert Lauffer, president of the PVATA, said, "I've been encouraged by the movement of the State Board of Education with respect to agriculture education, and I see the Ag education bill as a logical complement to the board's action."

Wisconsin Will Host Hereford Show

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Polled Hereford kids and Polled Hereford cattle will be in the spotlight when Wisconsin hosts the 19th Junior National Polled Hereford Show and Forum in Milwaukee, July 13-18.

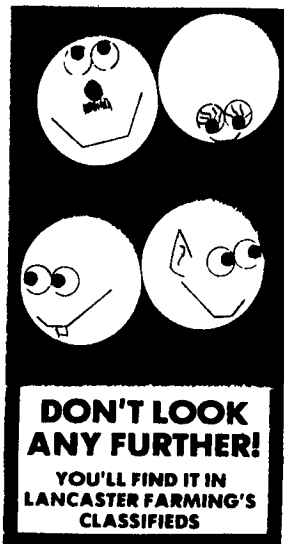
"You're Among Friends" is the welcome American Polled Hereford Association (APHA) junior members, their families, and friends from all parts of the country will receive when they gather for the year's largest junior breed event that emphasizes education, leadership, competition, and fun.

Highlights, in addition to the cattle show, include a fun rodeo, judging contest, national illustrated speech contest, team marketing, showmanship, Beef Bowl, junior membership meeting, and awards banquet. Wisconsin has also planned an afternoon of choice, allowing participants the chance to tour dairy and veal

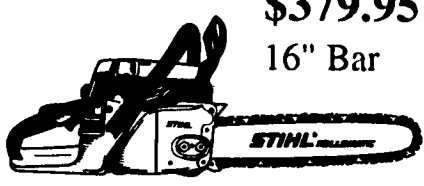

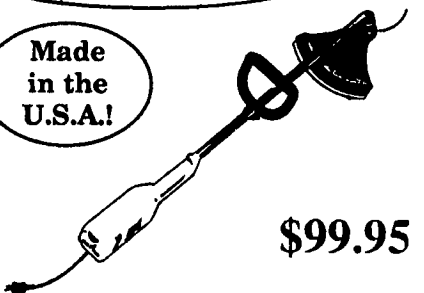

farms, a cheese factory, the Botanical Domes, make a trip to the water park and zoo, or to try their luck at fishing on Lake Michigan.

More than 400 head of Polled Herefords are expected for the Junior National Show, one of the largest all-junior beef breed shows in the nation. Lining up the cattle in the \$8,520 premium event will be lead judge Tom Biglieni of Republic, Mo., and associate judge Ross Carlson of Murdock, Minn. The heifer show is set for Friday, July 17, while the steer, cow-calf, bred-and-owned, and championship divisions are scheduled for Saturday, July 18.

For more information, contact Marilyn Emory or Karen Miller at the American Polled Hereford Association, 11020 N.W. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153-2034, (816) 891-8400.



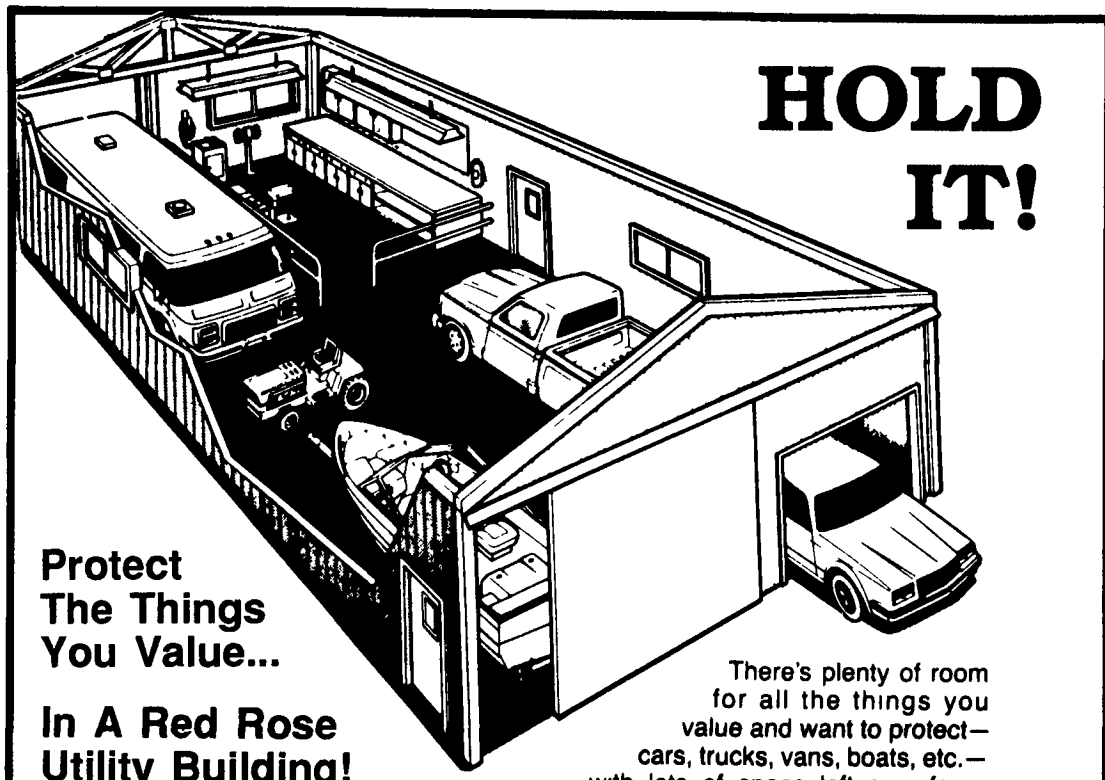
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