

director for Monsanto. Green stripes along streams not only reduce soil erosion, they lessen the amount of farm chemicals that wash into streams in trace amounts during heavy rainfall, Hoogheem said.

In selecting FFA chapters for the program, emphasis was given to chapters in areas where erosion and stream sedimentation are serious problems, but a chapter's enthusiasm and creative ideas for implementing the environmental education program were also considered.

Clifford Day, local FFA adviser, said he hopes many local farmers will agree to establish buffer strips on their farms.

"Growers who participate will (Turn to Page B22)

Operation Green Stripe
The Grassland Chapter of FFA has been named one of several chapters in Pennsylvania to participate in "Operation Green Stripe," a program to protect streams.

Participating FFA chapters can earn \$600 or more for chapter activities by enrolling farmers in a program to establish grassy buffer strips between farm fields and streams. Research has shown that buffer strips can significantly reduce the amount of topsoil that washes off fields into streams.

The program is coordinated by

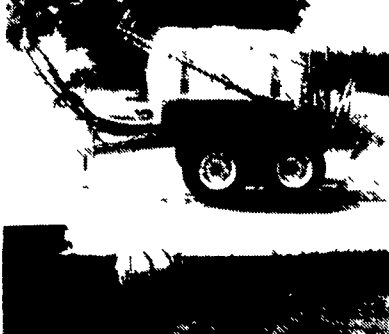
the state FFA in cooperation with Monsanto Co. of St. Louis, which originated the program in 1992 and provides funding to local chapters. Cooperating Agway retailers across the state will provide free seed to farmers who agree to establish a buffer strip. Locally, Agway will provide seed and technical assistance to farmers recruited by the chapter.

"Erosion of farm fields and the resulting stream sedimentation is a serious problem for aquatic plants and wildlife as well as water treatment plants," said Tom Hoogheem, environmental field services

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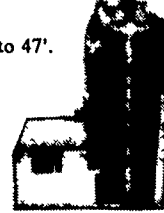
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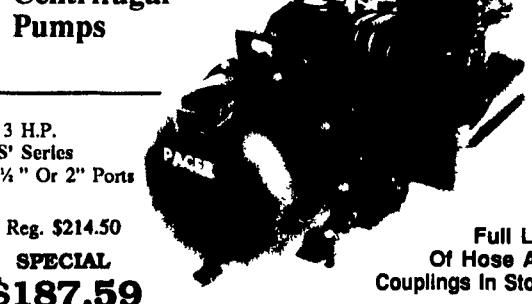
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