

# New Ag Classrooms Prepare Students For Real-World Challenges

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designed similar to the Virginia schools: booths enclosed with both gas welding and arc technology tools. There's also plasma cutter equipment. Brand new tables include 30 small gas engines and tools.

"There's nothing old in here except one table," said Seibert. "Everything else is new."

Schoolwide construction began in Manheim in September 1995. Architects were Foreman and Bashford. Construction by Reynolds Construction Management was finished in April this year at a cost of \$20 million. (Ag tech ed casework was completed by Merit Machinery, Inc.)

Along with an approximately \$500,000 spent in the ag department, new equipment costs

approach about \$200,000, according to Seibert. "That's a lot of stuff," said Seibert.

A 30- by 44-foot greenhouse was built with grant money by the department at a cost of \$18,000, noted Seibert, separate from the money used on general school construction.

For the laboratories, Seibert said, "I designed the layout and picked the equipment. I knew what was needed to keep the students busy."

One of the most impressive features of the overall new construction and renovation project was the installation of the dust collection system, which is "pretty effective," said Seibert. A special air ventilation/filtering system was installed for paint work in the room next to a classroom used by the ag

woodworking lab.

In addition to the woodworking lab and welding room, there is space for two classrooms separated by a movable partition to accommodate meetings of the young farmers and others interested in using the facility.

Essentially, according to Seibert, where there used to be one laboratory and classroom, space has doubled. The space will accommodate about 715 students enrolled in some type of ag science program, in addition to Manheim FFA's 80 members.

One agriculture program Manheim has recently begun is a mandatory freshman class called LEGS, which stands for Life Essential Group of Studies. About 250 students are enrolled in Ag

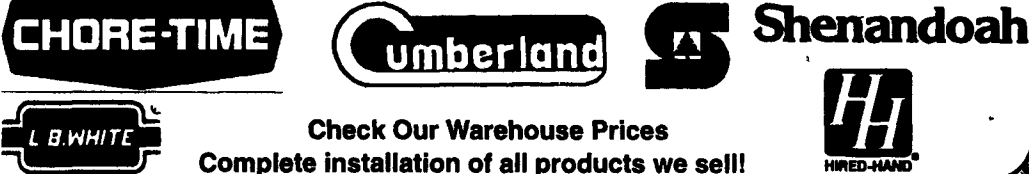
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Construction at Penn Manor in Millersville began in the fall of 1995 by Wohlsen, Lancaster, at a cost of \$28 million. Manor FFA officers review the plans. Standing is Vince Metzler, Manor FFA president. Seated, left to right, are Jeremy Ralling, treasurer; Tyler Swanson, adviser; and Beth Frey, secretary.

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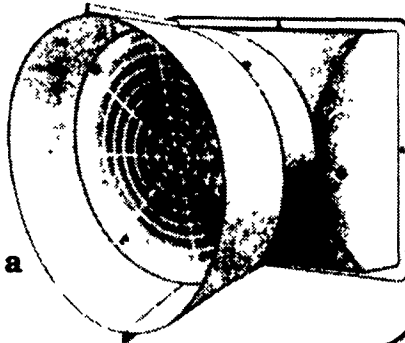
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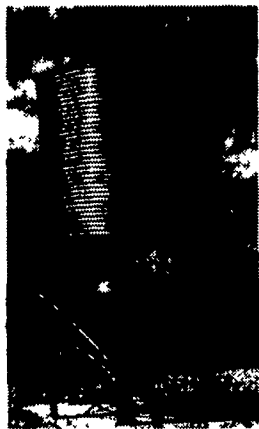
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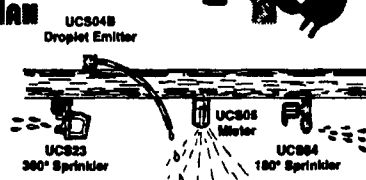
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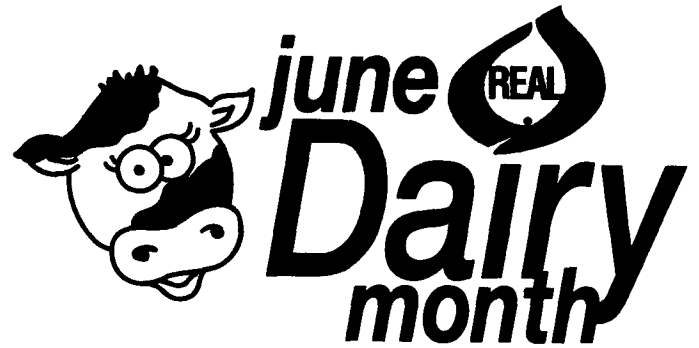
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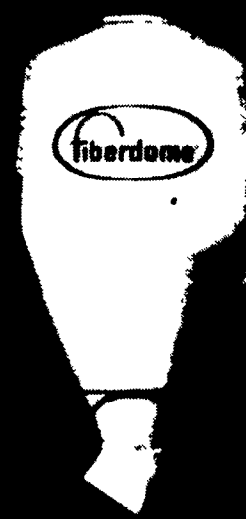
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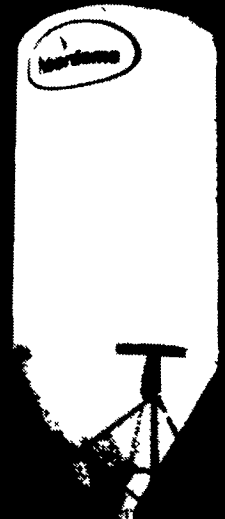
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