

New Ag Classrooms Prepare Students

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biotech laboratory. But he couldn't come up with anything.

Instead, he joined the group of teachers that visited Winchester, Va. in 1994 and got a lot of ideas. As a result, a welding area in the mechanics lab was designed with booths. "That was not something we had seen anywhere before," said Henry.

At Solanco, block walls separate 10 separate welding booths.

There are eight gas welding areas and space for electrical welding. In fact, the entire ag mechanics laboratory was designed with the needs of particular areas in mind.

This year, 227 students are enrolled in some type of ag science

and technology program. There are 17 different courses ranging from power machinery to advanced animal science and advanced planting science courses. There are also agribusiness and agrimanagement courses.

Construction began in May 1995 for the school at a cost of \$22 million, performed by Murray Construction in Lancaster. The old buildings were gutted and an outside shell wall was retained.

New laboratory and classroom space includes about 7,000 square feet.

About 305 students are enrolled in some type of ag science instruction at Solanco. About 88 members are involved in the Solanco FFA and were responsible for set-

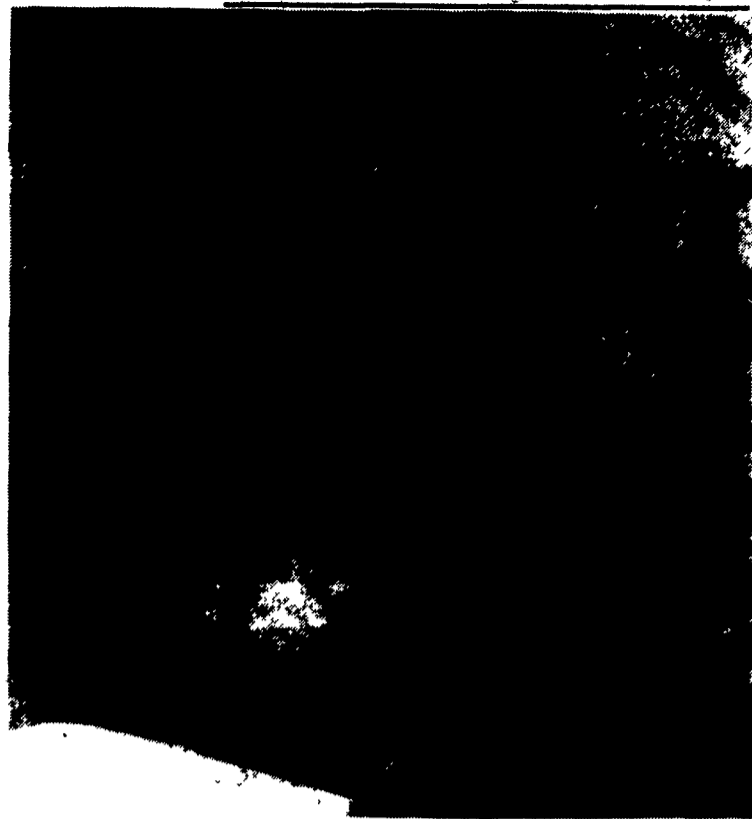
ting up the trophy cases and other displays, in addition to putting the "finishing touches" on some interior work after construction.

Construction was completed in November last year. The ag science students and staff moved into the new building on Nov. 4.

Included in the construction is an ag biology classroom, an ag mechanics classroom, an ag mechanics lab, and office space.

The unique feature is that, from the ag office, windows overlook the laboratory. The welding booths are in plain view from both the office and the classroom.

In the ag biology room, equipment includes environmental growth chambers to regulate light, humidity, and temperature; a bio



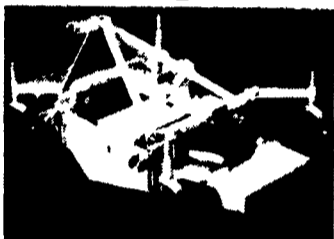
About 305 students are enrolled in some type of ag science instruction at Solanco. Josh Touchton, sophomore, works on a Briggs and Stratton engine for a push mower in the mechanics lab.

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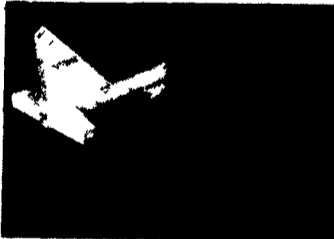
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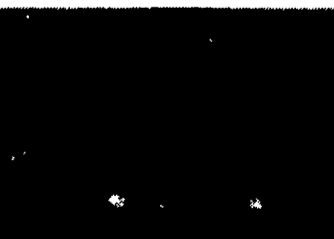
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