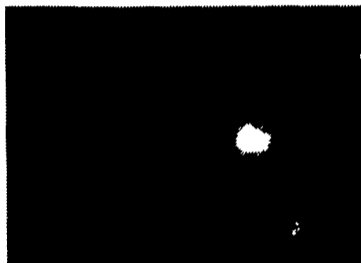


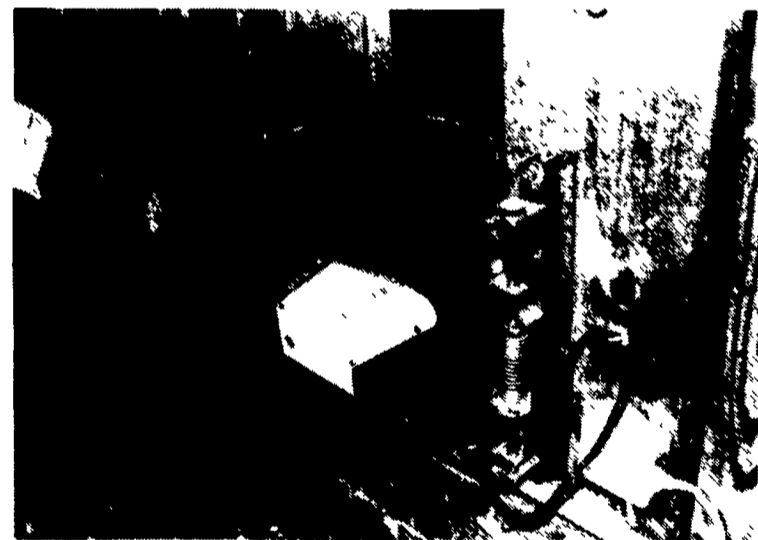
Members of the Solanco Young Farmers toured the Beltsville ARS site Tuesday this week.



Duane Taylor, Beltsville research farm herdsman, far left, explains the use of a single-mix TMR system to the Solanco Young Farmers.



Taylor explains the use of the "egg" radio transmitter to the Solanco Young Farmers tour group. The "egg" is a low-frequency radio transmitter attached to a cow's neck to open the headgate.



The radio "egg" opens these headgates at the Beltsville site.

Cows And 'Eggs' Open Gates Of Research At Beltsville ARS

(Continued from Page A26)

include:

- Development of a solar fly "zapper" designed to mimic the head of the cow, attracting pests to their doom, on display at the ARS National Visitor Center.
- Bee research on how to control deadly mites.
- A feeder that allows the deer population, through eating, to carry an insecticide to help fight lime disease.
- Work on a male-female semen separator in swine.
- Development of an explosive device to tenderize meat.
- Work in the horticultural areas to examine potato pathogens. DNA isolation techniques were under examination the day of the tour.
- Research into new turf grasses and soybean and alfalfa varieties.
- A great deal of virus and fungus effects — transgenic studies — on plant material, including

sugar cane, potatoes, home and garden plants, etc.

• Parasitology (the behavior of animal parasites) research.

According to tour guide John Kucharski, head of the ARS National Visitor Center at the historic Log Lodge, a focus of the ARS is on development new computer systems and constructing new animal and horticultural facilities on site. New facilities in horticulture will look into plant disease pathogens.

Beltsville ARS is one of 103 USDA research sites in the nation, according to Kucharski. Altogether, there are 502 research scientists at the site.

"If it doesn't grow here, we don't work on it," noted Kucharski.

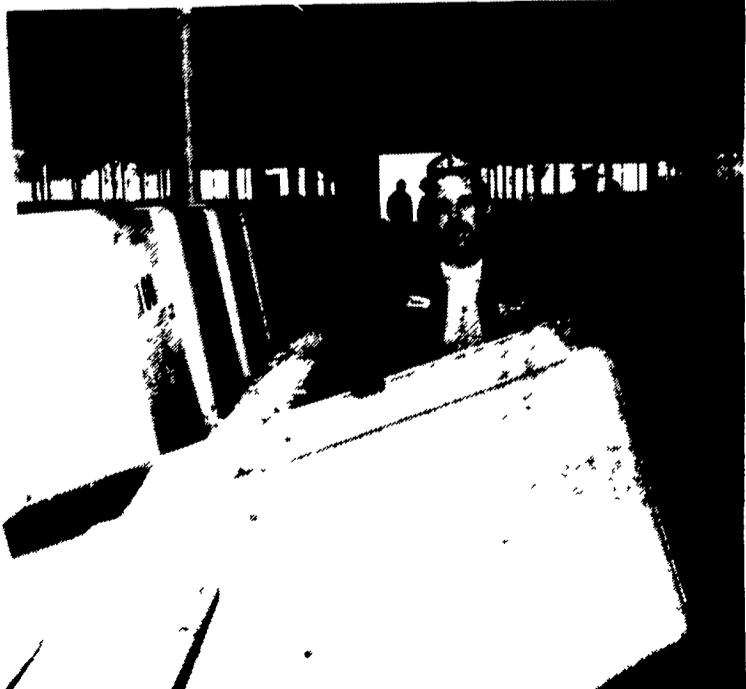
A major new thrust for research is coming up with alternate products made from plant material, primarily corn, soybeans, and wheat. Kucharski presented the tour group with products made

from corn, including a tractor oil filter, a high-absorbency powder, and cornstarch-based packing material. He also showed the tour group a red pigment made for use on plastic mulch for vegetable crops that controls soil nematodes. Also, Kucharski showed the group an alternative wood product that can be used for papermaking, grown in Africa; pea material used to retain fat in hamburgers as part of military rations; the development of pharmaceuticals from sheep urine and potential applications of animals to the production of human pharmaceuticals; phytonutrient studies in vegetables; potatoes resistant to late blight; the use of hairy vetch as a living mulch to retain water and nutrients for vegetable crops; and other items.

An interesting development is the invention of a foam-based fast-food storage product that can readily withstand heat, soon to be released in the marketplace, developed at another ARS site in the Midwest, according to Kucharski. The tour guide noted that for every \$1 spent on ag research, the return is \$1.50 to consumers.

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (or BARC) is also the home of the National Agricultural Library, housed in a 15-story building. The library contains a 2-million-volume collection of printed materials on agriculture and related sciences. Kucharski noted that anybody with access to the Internet can make a request for information to the library about any agricultural subject and receive a response via email.

Visitors who want to schedule a tour of the Beltsville ARS can contact Kucharski at BARC-East, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350, or call (301) 504-9403. To find the latest information on research at Beltsville or any of the ARS locations or for USDA information, contact the ARS on the Internet at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/>



Duane Taylor, herdsman/supervisor for the USDA Agriculture Research Service Dairy Research Facility, examines the array of electronic feed allocation tubs in the dairy barn.

Produce Auction Season To Open

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Recently, several auctions announced the starting dates and times for sales. Many begin with flowers and bedding plants or special Easter sales. They are:

- Buffalo Valley Produce, Mifflinburg. Begins April 28 at 10 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Cumberland Valley Produce Auction, Shippensburg. Begins March 31 and every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m.
- Hope Produce, Mount Hope, Ohio. Begins April 28 up to June at 10 a.m., then also Tuesdays and Thursdays in June.
- Kirkwood Produce, Kirkwood. Begins April 8 at 10 a.m., continuing Wednesdays through

April and including Tuesdays and Thursdays in June.

• Kutztown Produce, Fleetwood. Begins March 24 at 10 a.m., every Tuesday and Thursday.

• Leola Produce, Leola. Specializes in flowers before Easter. Begins Tuesday, March 31 at 10 a.m. and, beginning April 2, is held Tuesdays and Thursdays.

• Morrison Cove Produce, Roaring Spring. Begins Tuesday, March 31 with Easter flowers each Tuesday for a few weeks.

• Shippensburg Produce Auction, Shippensburg. This produce auction runs all year.

• Windmill Produce Auction, Penn Yan, N.Y. Begins May 1 at 10 a.m. and continues every Friday.