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4 - H Clubs Ready To Go

Rakes, hoes and shovels are emerging from their winter hideouts ready to tackle the job of spring gardening. One group of gardeners who have their tools all lined up are 4-H Club members enrolled in the National 4-H Garden awards program, reveals the National 4-H Service Committee.

Gardening is not only a popular project, but it is also the source of income, beauty, better nutrition and property improvement, points out a 4-H garden bulletin published by the 4-H Service Committee.

Participation is not limited to farm youths. Anyone who has a plot of ground - no matter how small - can qualify. Age limits are from 10 to 21 in most 4-H Clubs.

As a matter of fact, even lack of ground space is no handicap. Amateur horticulturists can learn to grow plants indoors. Terrariums are decorative as well as fun to make and care for, and the wide variety of green and blooming houseplants are excellent for indoor gardening.

Club members also demonstrate various aspects of scientific gardening such as soil preparation, insect control, planting and cultivation, according to the garden bulletin. Artistic talents are developed in flower arrangement, another favorite demonstration.

Raising flowers and vegetables for family use or for a roadside stand are not the only goals. Every effort is made to produce the best possible product for show and competition at county and state fairs where ribbons and special awards are won.

Often a 4-H garden becomes a family affair because brothers and sisters work together and mother and dad consent to digging up the back yard or taking over a part of crop land. Sometimes a little financial assistance is needed to buy fertilizer, tools, seeds and other garden supplies. Everyone learns more about nature and the science of growing things.

While the local volunteer 4-H Club leaders get the young gardeners started and guide them throughout the year, another benefactor recognizes and awards those doing the best job.

The Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, Farm Equipment Division, for nearly two decades has channeled funds through the National 4-H Service Committee for awards to boys and girls in every state.

In 1963, more than 214,000 4-H gardeners from coast to coast grew vegetables, fruits, flowers, plants and shrubs in the manner prescribed by the Cooperative Extension Service. Some 7,000 qualified for awards which included gold-filled medals of honor, trips to the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago and eight \$400 national scholarships.

This year similar awards will be provided by Allis-Chalmers. Winners will be selected by the Extension Service.

Windmills Are Hard To Find



Shown above is the picturesque windmill in Lehman owned by the Burton Major farm. It is still in operation and delivers quantities of water for use on the farm.

Kites and windmills, they spell spring, but both are getting hard to find. Children don't seem to fly kites any more, and windmills have been replaced with submersible pumps or a hook-up to the city water system.

But there's a windmill out in Lehman that is still chugging away, delivering unlimited quantities of water so soft that a teaspoonful of soap powder foams out over the dishpan, and all without benefit of electricity.

Not only that, it has been delivering the goods to the Burton Major farm ever since 1902, and mostly without complaint.

When it does complain, however, it does a thorough job. Parts for windmills cannot be bought at local hardware stores.

There is a place down near Harrisburg that still caters to windmill

owners, but Harrisburg is a considerable step from Lehman. And windmills have a mean habit of conking out in sub-zero weather.

Last July the Major windmill changed hands, along with the 97 acres of land which once pastured enough cows to strain even the capacity of the hardest working of windmills.

The windmill now delivers water to the Simms and Dawe households, and the jack-pump no longer has to supplement its efforts in dry weather.

It looks as if it would be in business for a long time.

Nestled against a hill, with its wings revolving in the spring breeze, it makes a good conversation piece for passing motorists, who wonder what it's doing.

There's another windmill out in Beaumont, but since the last time some years ago when its meshing gears at the top of the tall tower looked as if they were a long ways up, and the greasbucket pretty heavy for the Paul Nultons to manage, it has given up its job to an electric pump. The windmill has been turned out to pasture, its weathervane tailpiece snugly snapped down out of the wind. The electric pump keeps the big reservoir filled with water.

Maybe there's something about a windmill that has a softening effect on water. While the rest of the community is complaining about water which is so hard that it can stand alone, those wells that supply the windmills yield water that is like rain.

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