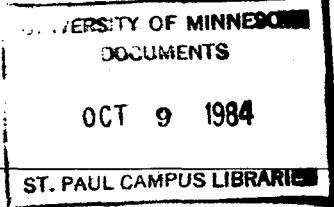


EXTENOVATIONS

Marlys McGuire
St. Paul Campus Library

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Canadian tour yields new perspectives



Marlin Johnson, area agent (second from left), and Ed Bernardson, Clay County, display stalks of hard red winter wheat in a no-till field (photo by Erv Oelke).

Things aren't necessarily greener on the other side of the border, but they can be different. That's what 32 extension and research staff from the University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University found in July during a field crops study tour of Manitoba.

Marlin Johnson, Northwest District crops and soils agent, and Curtis Nyegaard, Kittson County agricultural agent, organized the two-day tour. Twenty four county agricultural agents from western Minnesota took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about Canadian agricultural research. The rest on the bus tour were University of Minnesota state and area extension staff, Northwest Experiment Station researchers, and extension field staff from North Dakota.

The first stops were Agriculture Canada's research stations at Morden and Glenlea, where tour participants observed and were told about developments in wheat, barley, sunflower, vegetable crop and pulse crop research. Pest management, weed control and the development of spe-

cialized crops were other topics of discussion.

"We learned a lot about canola or oilseed rape," says Johnson. "Agriculture Canada led in the development of canola as a crop for Canadian farmers. Until now, the little that's been grown in the United States has been exported to Manitoba for seed. If, in the future, canola can be used for edible oil production in the United States, there's a chance it will be a crop that's suited to northern states like Minnesota."

The U.S. visitors learned firsthand about other crops that might be suitable for Minnesota — millet, lupines, field peas, fababeans, mustard, triticale and dill, for example.

In some instances, tour participants gained added appreciation for the way things are south of the border. Johnson says, "We've developed shorter wheats that are high yielding while the Canadians grow the taller spring wheats. However, I wouldn't trade their wheat development program for the one we have."

On the second day, the group

stopped at the University of Manitoba's Department of Plant Science in Winnipeg to learn about educational and research activities and to see field crop research trials.

Says Carol Windels, plant pathologist from the Northwest Experiment Station, "I met with one of the plant pathologists from the university and saw the sunflower disease research plots. It was interesting to learn what disease problems their breeding programs must take into account. It was a very interesting trip, one that broadened my perspective and knowledge about the crops grown in Canada and the Canadians' research facilities."

Some county agents returned home with information they were able to use immediately. David Kabes, Red Lake County agricultural agent, says, "I came back with good, practical information that I've already used more than a dozen times. For example, the Canadians plant buckwheat earlier than we do, and that may be why their yields exceed ours. We normally use urea on wheat; they knife in anhydrous ammonia in

the spring instead. I think that might be a way to limit the amount of fertilizer nitrogen lost from very wet conditions.

"We learned that you don't grow rape if wild mustard is a problem because you can't control the mustard chemically without hurting the

CANADIAN continued on page 2

B. V. "Bernie" Beadle, former district 4-H supervisor, died recently after a long illness. He was 86. He served on the extension staff from 1945 to 1962 and was a noted speaker and camping resource person after his retirement. Memorials may be made to the Minnesota 4-H Foundation.

HEFL statistics reveal changing audience

Audience targeting: business does it with products, packaging, direct mail and advertising. Situation Statement Home Economics, a new publication tells why more audience targeting will be happening in extension.

"Program offerings will differ throughout the state, depending on the population age, characteristics and interests," says Lois A. Goering, district program leader, HEFL, and director, Southwest District, one of two authors of the statement. With

Irene M. Ott, program leader, HEFL, Goering put the document together.

"It's a base for how we make program decisions," says Ott. The idea of this extension-use publication parallels situation statements prepared in counties. The profile of Minnesotans given in the statistics will give direction to program development. An abstract of the statement will be prepared for community leaders, legislators and the agencies and organizations networking with extension throughout the state.

Its words and graphics show population age, people in poverty, female-headed households, racial minorities, population health, females in the labor force and education levels.

The new publication reveals that extension home study groups in Minnesota first met in Steele County in 1921 and 60 years later involved 2.8 percent of the state's households (40,531 people in 2,907 groups with 28,386 volunteer leaders).

By 1982 more than 50,000 volun-

teers participated in extension home economics programs. These numbers are the equivalent of 970 full-time positions.

In its mission to help individuals and families make informed decisions regarding their quality of life, extension home economics must now keep pace with Minnesota's shifting statistics.

— Mary Kay O'Hearn



Extension Service, University of Minnesota

rape. The Canadians use a rotational program that results in cleaner fields in which to plant rape. And, we learned about herbicide applications that are effective on flax grown as a grain crop. These might work for us also, but they need to be evaluated and approved first."

"I think we need to know what's going on in Canada so we can answer Minnesotans' questions and encourage our researchers to do testing," says extension agronomist Ervin Oelke. "If our agents are aware of Canadian research, they may ask state specialists and researchers for more research information from there."

The U.S. visitors had one evening to sample Winnipeg's cultural and tourist attractions, but even then the extension compulsion to learn sometimes got the upper hand. Says Johnson with tongue in cheek: "At Assiniboia Downs, some of us studied pari-mutuel betting so we'd be equipped to deal with that when it becomes reality in Minnesota."

— Sam Brungardt

Vento offers flag to 4-H campers



Bruce Vento, 4th District congressman, gives a U.S. flag, flown over the nation's capitol, to the Gibbs Farm 4-H Day Camp. The special ceremony was held with campers from Mt. Aing housing in St. Paul and 4-H counselors employed through the Summer Youth Employment Program. Ramsey County's seven-week program was funded by grants from the Dayton-Hudson Foundation and H.B. Fuller, Inc. (photo by Carmen Burrows).

Wildlife preservation seeks place on farm lands

To most farmers, making their land more attractive to wildlife is an intriguing but impractical idea. Many equate providing habitat with sacrificing income — and it's a rare case where economics fails to win the upper hand.

According to extension wildlife specialist Jim Kitts, however, good wildlife management and good farming practices are not always mutually exclusive. By selectively modifying farming practices, he says, farmers can benefit not only wildlife but their own operation as well.

Kitts personally believes in the value of wildlife for their own sake. But he's acutely aware that economically stressed farmers need more than that to convince them to help dwindling wildlife populations thrive.

"I've never really had to sell farmers — they already believe that wildlife is valuable in itself," he says. "But they have trouble substituting economics for animals. The economics always wins."

The challenge is to show that alterations in farming practices either will not change the economics of farming, or will change it in a positive way over the long term.

In response to that challenge, Kitts provides an impressive list of "practical" reasons to preserve wildlife — everything from helping keep insect and weed populations down to preserving potential sources of the medicines of the future. Hunters and trappers derive both recreation and income from wildlife. And the aesthetic and educational value of wild animals should not be ignored.

"Almost all farms have some land that is not very efficient to crop," Kitts points out. "Why not use that land to produce good wildlife habitat that would give the farmer the aesthetics and give the animals the options they need?"

Farmers have many alternatives for preserving wildlife, depending on their level of interest and commitment. For example, four to five rows of cornstalks left in a strategic place can provide a travel lane between existing sheltered areas to provide better habitat for deer. Or, a farmer willing to make a short-term investment for a long-term gain can plant nut trees or trees with valuable wood in shelterbelts. Such a system not only provides protection from weather for the farm and habitat for wildlife, but also will produce a valuable cash crop in the future.

Kitts is now working through county extension agents and extension foresters to educate farmers in southwestern and south-central Minnesota — areas where he says low wildlife populations and tough economic conditions provide "the highest potential to reclaim habitat and the most challenge." Through experimental plantings begun this year at the Lamberton Experiment Station, he hopes to identify the best systems for encouraging wildlife while providing returns to farmers, and to introduce the concept to area farmers during the station's field days.

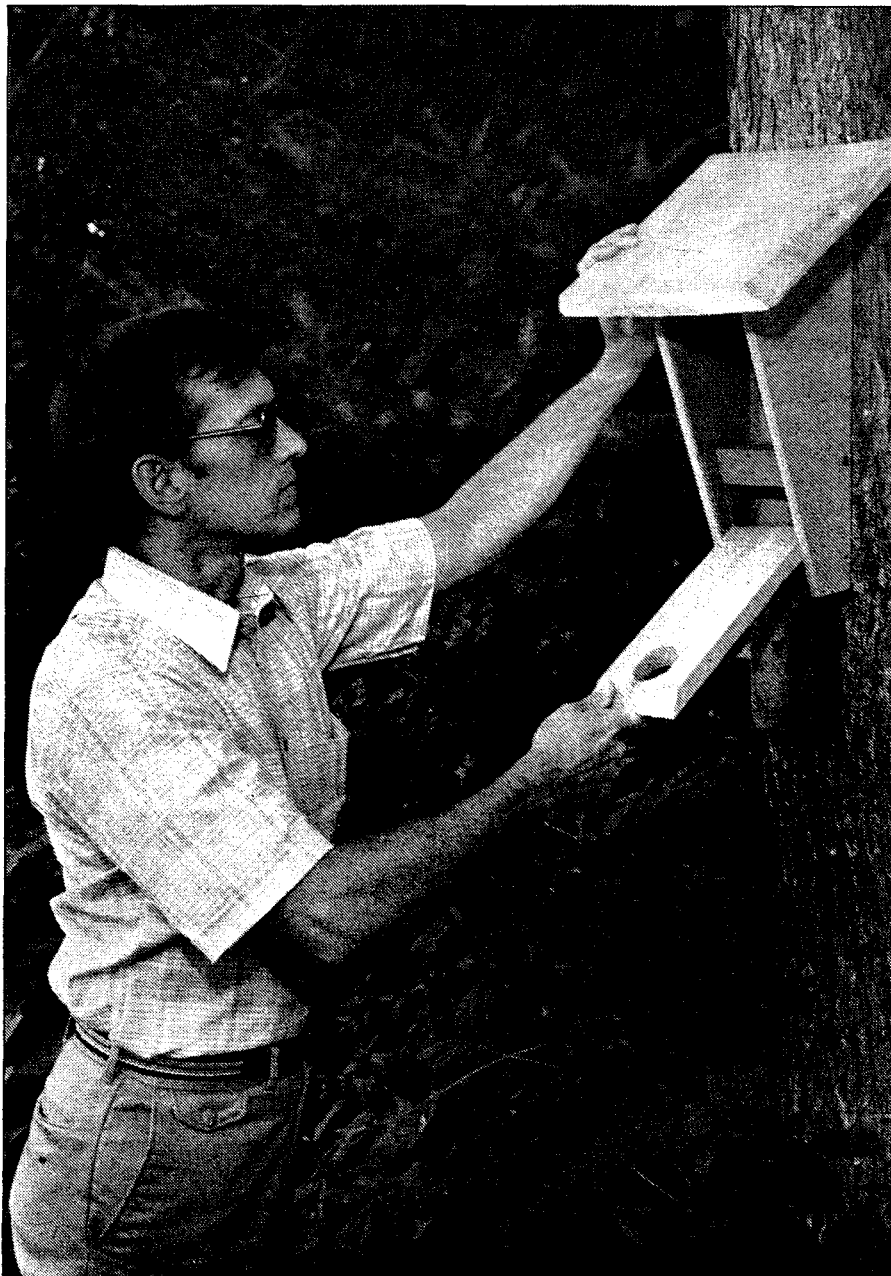
"Once the farming community sees how it's done, and that it can be done in a way not to threaten their crops or their economic standpoint, they'll begin to adopt it," he predicts. Although the emphasis now is on providing shelterbelts and travel lanes, these are only part of a package to encourage the coexistence of wildlife and farming practices. Changes in tillage practices already being used for soil conservation and other purposes show indications of improving populations of animals that can prove beneficial to farmers by devouring insects and weed seeds. In addition, Kitts predicts that changes in roadside plantings and harvesting practices will make tremendous differences in populations of songbirds

and other valuable species.

Kitts' goal, as he puts it, is "to promote sound wildlife management on every square inch of available land in the agricultural area." By showing farmers the advantages of wildlife

and by promoting farming practices compatible with wildlife production, he is hoping to make that goal a reality.

— Mary Hoff



Jim Kitts with a Peterson Bluebird nest box. The box is also good for many other birds and Kitts has had tree swallows and nuthatches nest in them from shelterbelts.

In Brief . . .

Dave Johnson (retired), Yellow Medicine County, **Francis Januschka**, Stearns County, and **Lee Schultz**, assistant extension safety specialist, received Outstanding Service Awards from the ag division of the Minnesota Safety Council at its annual meeting in July. County awards included: for the Award of Honor (highest possible) — Steele; for Outstanding Service Awards — Chippewa, Stearns and Pipestone; and for Meritorious Achievement awards — Houston, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Murray, West Otter Tail and Pope.

* * *

Kathy Mangum, assistant consumer information specialist, was accepted into the Leadership Minneapolis program. Sponsored jointly by extension and the College of Home Economics, she also received a partial scholarship from the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. Leadership Minneapolis, begun in 1976, is a year-long program designed to help meet the community's need for informed, responsible and effective leadership.

* * *

Stevens County agent **Catherine Huebner** was presented one of two national public affairs awards given each year by the National Association of Extension Home Economists at their annual conference. The award, which carries a \$1,000 cash prize, was for her work on the "Rural Women Mean Business" program. The prize money is sponsored by the Farm Foundation and is to be used for the recipient's skills in public affairs education.

* * *

Lorilee Sandmann, district program leader, and **Larry Coyle**, communication specialist, have been chosen to present a program at the 1984 National Adult Education Conference on their efforts to produce a television special "It's A Great Place To Live ... If You Can Make A Living," which was co-produced by WDIO television in Duluth. The program featured two families' decision-making, communication and resourcefulness in dealing with drastically reduced incomes. They will present a discussion of the program in November in Louisville, KY.

* * *

Scott County extension agent **Kay Louis** was appointed by Governor Perpich to the advisory board of the Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services (MOVS), for a four-year term, 1984-88.

* * *

Three Norman County agents along with others from throughout the state were recognized for their achievements by their professional associations recently. Distinguished Service Awards from the National Association of Extension Home Economists and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents went to Norman County agents **Sharon Knutson** and **Tom Melin** respectively. **Ken Pazdernik** of Norman County received an achievement award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. That same organization presented Distinguished Service Awards to **Merv Freeman**, area farm management agent, and **Blake Peterson**, Blue Earth County agent. **LaVonne Misner**, Hennepin County, received a Distinguished Service Award from the home economics association and **Bob Quinlan**, East Polk County, received the same award from the 4-H agents association.

* * *

Sea Grant fisheries agent **Jeff Gunderson** received a Superior Program Award from the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network at the National Sea Grant Conference in July. Gunderson was recognized for his "Fixin' Fish" educational program, focusing on nutritional value and tastiness of underutilized species such as burbot and suckers. Copies of his *Fixin' Fish: a Guide to Handling, Buying, Preserving, and Preparing Fish* have been sold nationally by the thousands.

* * *

Marcia Hyatt, telecommunications specialist, will serve on an advisory committee of the Minnesota Cable Communications Board. The group will work on the metropolitan interconnected regional channel's operating organization.

* * *

Janet Krofta and **Shirley Barber**, Ramsey County agents, recently accepted a \$500 Energy Efficiency Award from the National Association of Extension Home Economists for their family-centered energy learning program. The award, sponsored by the American Gas Association, cited them for their energy volunteer program, which is currently in its second year. The effort involves trained volunteers working with families and individuals in setting budgets and priorities for energy-conserving home improvements.

* * *

Volunteers study video production

Effects of a pilot workshop to provide 4-H volunteers and volunteer coordinators with training in video production for cable TV, news writing and news photography are already spilling into participants' communities.

"Spotlight on 4-H" is one such, a series of four half-hour programs Hennepin County 4-H will produce for Storer Cable TV on its Community Access Channel.

Roger S. Holmes, 4-H Youth Development agent, and club leaders wrote the proposal to Storer which came through with a \$725 grant and use of equipment and tapes to produce the shows to be completed October 1 and December 1, 1984, and February 1 and April 1, 1985. They will combine educational content with entertainment.

"There are probably 40 people involved in the production," says Holmes. "We are realizing what it takes to produce a TV show." Holmes works 100 percent with 4-H and the outreach programs.

The show due October 1 has four segments. A teaching segment focuses on break dancing by the Hennepin County American Variety Theatre 4-H Club. An interview segment centers on a 4-H member who photographs food (for food stylists, who prepare food for commercial photographing). A demonstration segment highlights a 4-H member in the clothing project and the final segment returns to the theatre group again with a talent show.

When the shows are completed or "in the can," as the TV expression goes, portions will be edited down for 4-H promotional use at information days and new club meetings. Storer will decide when to schedule the half-hour programs (they may be shown more than once) and tapes will be available for 4-H to distribute to other TV outlets, Holmes says.

But, back to the April 1984 pilot News Corps workshop. "Its objectives," says Liz Templin, Washington County 4-H Youth Development agent, "are for teen volunteers to develop skills in news writing, video for cable TV and news photography to promote 4-H and extension in their home communities." Templin chaired the planning committee for the event.

There was opportunity to observe and evaluate potential careers in the communication fields and to inform the public that the 4-H program is available to all youth including those not traditionally reached.

Thirty-eight youth arrived at the St. Paul campus headquarters of News Corps on a Thursday evening to hear and then question a panel on careers in media and then to spend Friday and Saturday practicing new skills. The youth and adult volunteers represented ten counties: Benton, Carver, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Pine, Ramsey, Renville, Scott, Washington and Wright. Each person signed up in advance to work in one of the news areas.

Three 4-H alums, Bill Cooper, representing a UHF-TV station in New Ulm; Sherry Newell, farm director at WJON radio in St. Cloud; and John Ritter, associate editor of The Farmer Magazine; joined Mary Kinsella Ziegenhagen, publisher of Minnesota Suburban Newspapers (which include the Current, Sailor and Sun newspapers); and Dan Olson, KSJN, Minnesota Public Radio, who moderated the careers panel.

There are tentative plans to expand the program beyond the pilot district.

Working with Templin on the planning committee for News Corps were Carmen Burrows, Ramsey County 4-H Youth Development agent; Joe Fox, Central District pro-



On camera are Eric Larson of Plymouth and Terry Gray of St. Paul while Pat Riley of Bloomington, adult coordinator of the event from Hennepin County, handles the mechanics. The video experiment for cable TV came while attending District 4-H News Corps which headquartered on the St. Paul campus three days last spring (photo by Elizabeth Templin).

gram leader, 4-H Youth Development; Laurie Schroeder, Wright County 4-H Press Corps leader and volunteer; and from the Communication Resources staff: Jon Groth; Larry Coyle, currently in a consulting role, on the Hennepin Cable TV series; and Mary Kay O'Hearn.

— Mary Kay O'Hearn

Extenovations

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Disabled teens pair up with 4-H junior leaders



Clyde Ketelson, White Bear Lake, feeds Peanuts the donkey from the tray of his wheelchair. Gary Dorf (left) is the Gibbs Farm employee responsible for the animals; Laura Rauch, Ramsey County 4-H junior leader, spent each afternoon for two weeks helping integrate 4-H youth to the program; and Hugh Aylwad, U of M graduate student, served as project coordinator.

Scott Niles talks with his eyes. A teenager with cerebral palsy, he's unable to speak and must use a wheelchair. But Scott can communicate — by moving his eyes right for yes and left for no. In July, four handicapped teenagers including Scott and five 4-H junior leaders from Ramsey County were brought together at the Gibbs Farm Museum, located north of the St. Paul campus. One of the program organizers was Caye Nelson, Ramsey County extension director and 4-H agent.

One purpose of the Gibbs Farm 4-H Integration Program was to develop a 4-H leaders guide on how to adapt 4-H resources for the handicapped. "The guide is needed to help handicapped and nondisabled persons to experience 4-H together," explains Nelson.

According to Nelson, 4-H project leaders are willing to include severely disabled youth in the 4-H program, but they're hesitant. This attitude often results from not knowing how to work with the handicap or what resources to use.

Another goal of the project was "mainstreaming" — bringing the handicapped into contact with their non-disabled peers. Handicapped teenagers often don't get the chance to mix with nondisabled teens and both groups can be apprehensive of each other. But placing the two groups together doesn't always mean good things will happen. Without the proper background and preparation, the individuals may become afraid and ignore each other.

To overcome this, the Gibbs farm program explored ways of getting the teenagers together. They were first put into pairs and then worked together on such authentic craft activities as butter churning or creating potato print pictures. The results of these activities will be included in the new leaders guide.

One of the junior leaders who participated was Neil Christians, 16, of New Brighton. "I liked it a lot. We were paired up and helped our part-

ners do vegetable prints, work with clay, and see the farm animals. It showed that you could get as close to handicapped kids as you can to other kids — they're just the same kind of people."

On the first day of the two-week program, the parents of the disabled participants explained their children's handicaps to the group. "All the kids were apprehensive," says Nelson. "But I don't think any of us are going to be the same after this experience. Both groups gained an understanding and appreciation of each other."

A lot of credit is given to the 4-H junior leaders by Scott's mother, Elynn Niles. "These teenagers from 4-H were just super kids. By the last day it was very obvious that friendships had been made. Besides the social contact, Scott especially enjoyed making ice cream and eating it, plus the contact with the animals."

One reason for Scott's participation was Mrs. Niles goal of giving her son a chance to be involved with non-disabled teenagers.

"Also, I think it makes non-handicapped children more aware of how our kids are. When you start with younger people, they become less fearful of the situation and are much more tolerant as they grow older. You see, they are our hope for the future in changing attitudes towards handicapped people."

Others involved in planning the program were John Rynders, special education consultant and a professor in educational psychology, and Stuart Schleien, an associate professor in therapeutic recreation and special education. Further assistance was provided by: Carol Shields, 4-H specialist, who researched the art techniques; Marlene Stoehr, 4-H heritage crafts consultant; Bob Johnson, researcher with the Minnesota Consortium Institute; Kendra Dillard, director of Gibbs Farm; and Virginia Kunz, director of the Ramsey County Historical Society.

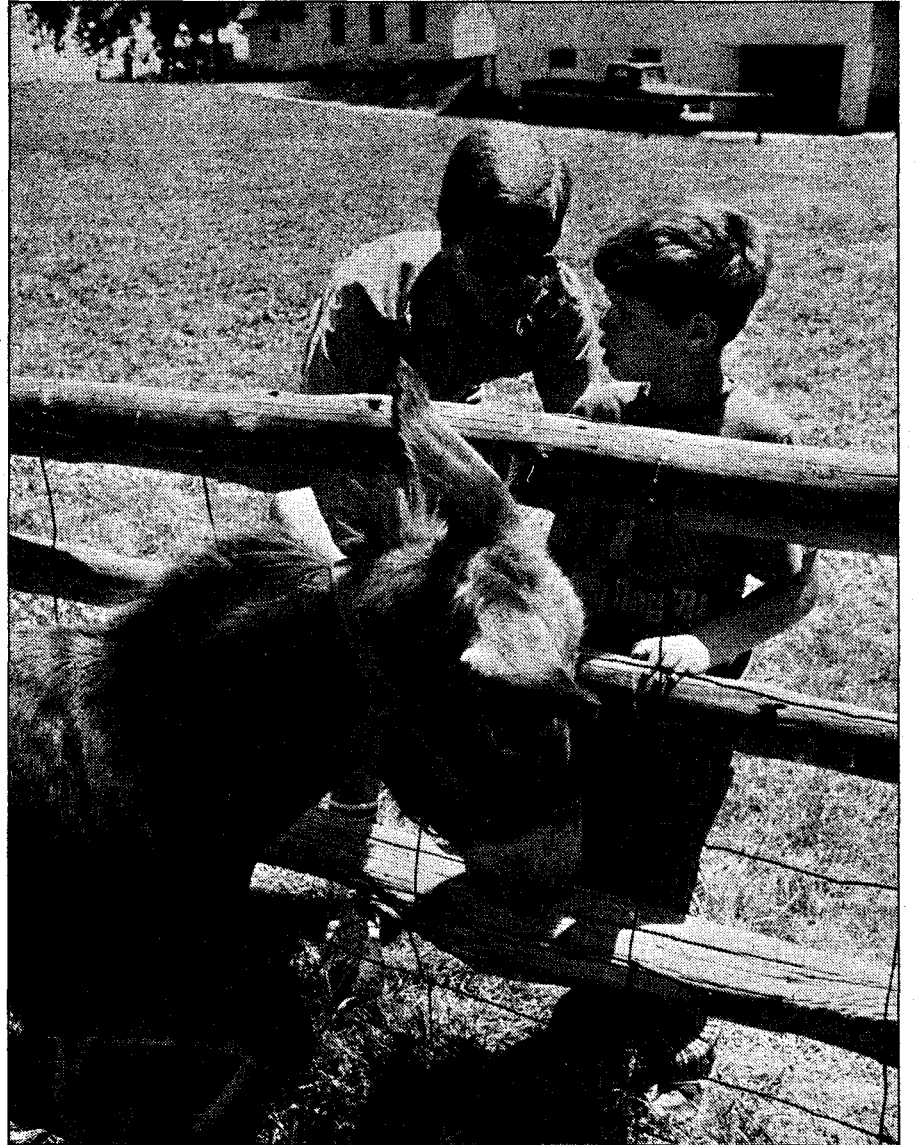
The entire project was made possible with a \$1,000 grant from

the North Suburban Kiwanis Club of Roseville. Additional support came from the University of Minnesota's Consortium for Improving the Integration of Severely Handicapped Children.

— Greg Doerning



Neil Christians, Ramsey County 4-H junior leader from New Brighton, finds an effective way to return Aaron Pajak, Moundsview, to the group activities.



"What does the donkey's fur feel like?" Neil Christians asks Aaron Pajak.