

Pigs and kids: project teaches students about agriculture

Bacon will be sizzling at the Beymer house soon.

Pink and Kelly Beymer, owners of Chilkat Construction, purchased a pig that local students raised as part of a project linking fourth graders and the OSU Extension Office.

Fara Currim said the project stemmed from a cooking project that they conduct with fifth graders.

"This year we just decided to branch out," Currim said.

Students raised two pigs that were housed behind the extension office in a makeshift pen. Once a month, they would go to learn about the pigs—something that involved learning about spelling, reading and especially math, Currim said.

"The kids weighed their pigs every single time they came," she said. "They trained their pigs to do it." Students had log books to record results.

Many students also stopped by on a daily basis, to feed the pigs after school.

According to Currim, "They just loved it. I think kids and animals are just a natural combination."

"It's really a great program," Currim said. "But it's kind of an intense program. You talk about all these different critters and it kind of gets overwhelming." For that reason, they chose to stick to pigs.

However, Currim said, "Re-



Photo courtesy of Fara Currim

Fourth grade students raised two pigs.

ally the kids got a good overview of animal management in general."

The Beymer's bought one of the pigs in auction, and said they were happy to do what they could to support the program.

"We just like to support the community in any way we can, and we think more kids should get into agriculture and raising livestock," Kelly said.

Pinky added that they also wanted to support Currim in all that she does for the 4-H program.

"Fara is doing a really good job teaching these kids the basics," Kelly said.

"Agriculture used to be big on the reservation. It just kind of went away," Pinky explained. "Plus, I think it helps the kids have a lot of fun, too."

The project is a good one,

Kelly said, because "It's showing the kids where their food comes from."

Three local businesses donated money so that the extension office could donate the pig to the local senior program. Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, Warm Springs Forest Products and the Power Enterprise all pitched in to pay for the cost of slaughter and preparation.

Currim said the project will be continuing next year.

— By Leslie Mitts



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay Tymoo

Pinky and Kelly Beymer purchased a pig to support the project and Currim's efforts.



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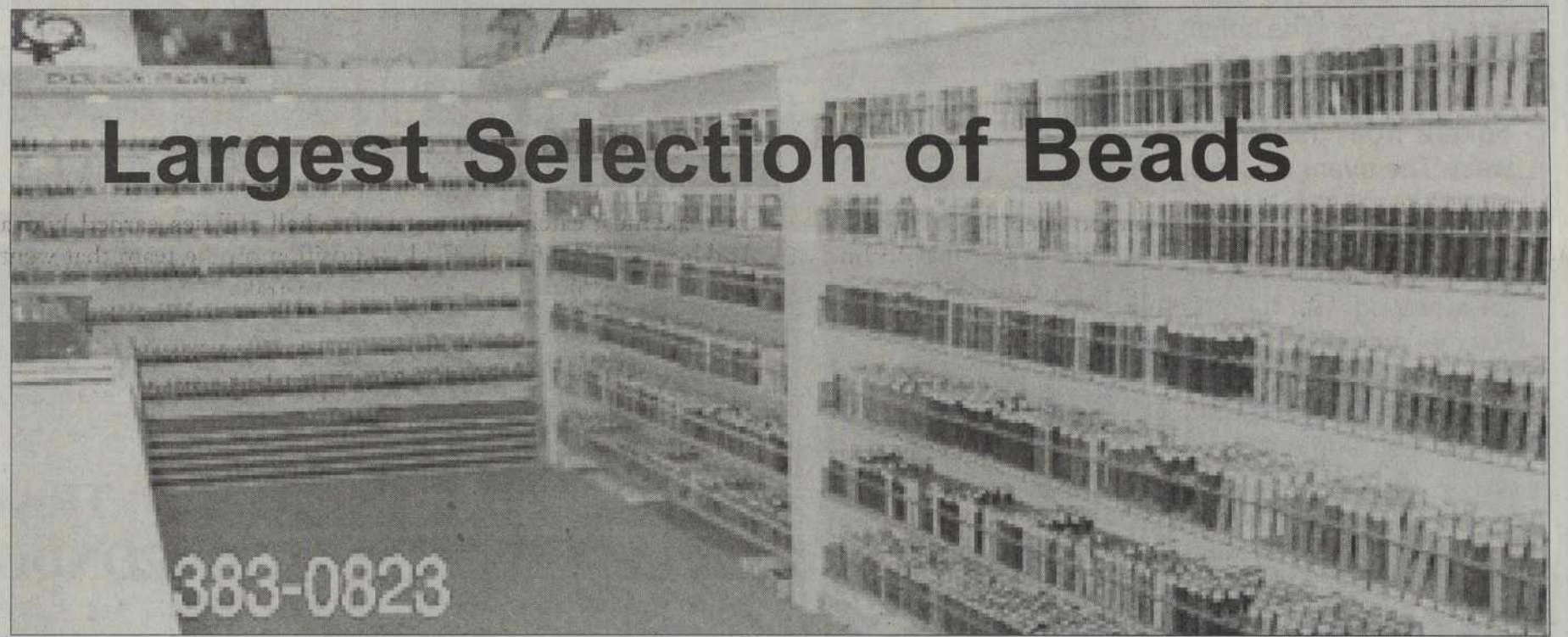
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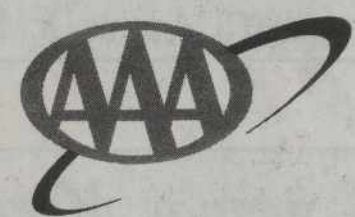
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