Bob Hisey, Vo-Ag student at Marysville High, works on his research project in Scotts lab while onlookers Bob Yeh (left), of Taiwan and a Scotts staffer, Superintendent of Schools Leroy Williams (foreground) and Vo-Ag teacher Odell Miller "supervise."

Vo-Ag Students Earn While They Learn

Since 1964 Scotts Research, Marysville, Ohio, has been giving promising high schoolers the opportunity to try their hand at turf research. The teenagers — all Vo-Ag students at Marysville High — work half a day at Scotts, attend school a half day.

Seven students have completed or are presently working on the Agri-Business program, which helps the students gain a better understanding of scientific research and acquaints them with the functions and opportunities in agricultural business.

Vo-Ag teacher Odell Miller directs the Agri-Business program at the high school; researcher Eugene Mayer organizes the work assignments for the students at Scotts.

As an example of the work done by students, Robert Hisey works in herbicide development, studying bensulide for preemergence crabgrass control (prevents crabgrass seeds from germinating; whereas many other crabgrass preventers kill the seedling crabgrass after being absorbed through the tiny roots).

Studies such as this give the agribusiness student a keen understanding of scientific research.

Pesticide Demand Grows with Consumer Incomes

Farmers use a lot of pesticides, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but so do other people.

According to USDA statistics, farmers purchase about 40 percent of all pesticides sold annually; about 20 percent are shipped abroad, and the remainder, a whopping 40 percent, are sold to non-farm outlets for use around the home and garden, business and industrial sites, highway and utility right-of-ways and recreational areas.

Although use of insecticides is likely to continue upward, it will do so at a slower rate than that of herbicides, USDA reports. Because modern herbicides have a more recent history of technological development and acceptance, the use of herbicides continues to expand dramatically.

In contrast, demand for insecticides responds more to growth of population and consumer income than to discovery of new material and changing technologies. For example, some arsenicals—still effective today—have been used since before the turn of the century. The use of newly developed systemic insecticides will probably increase, says USDA, but this is likely to be offset by a decline in the use of other insecticides.

New Fylking Puts Hex on Artificial Grasses

A new rival to artificial lawn carpeting is the perennial Kentucky bluegrass named Fylking. Possessing the advantages of artificial grass, it also offers the fresh, hygienic cover that only a living sod can provide.

Overcoming several deficiencies of fine lawngrasses, Fylking thrives at a close mowing height of an inch or less and resists diseases such as leafspot and stripe smut. Therefore, it not only adapts to baseball fields and golf course tees and fairways, but it retains its healthy, unblemished color from early spring until late autumn. Not even drought can harm this sturdy grass.

Indeed, Fylking seems to put a hex on artificial grass that is neither self-renewing nor as healthful as a select bluegrass.

Voracious Snail May Help Control Fresh-Water Weeds

A large, weed-eating snail may help solve some weed problems in fresh-water ponds, lakes and streams, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Researchers at the University of Miami, Fla., under government contract, will determine the physiological and environmental factors that influence re-