

# Clinic gets grant-funded sanitation units

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Times-News Staff Writer

Henderson County Migrant Health Clinic this week received 10 field sanitation units that will help farmers and apple growers meet federal sanitation standards for field workers.

The clinic received a \$30,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the units. Each is equipped with two portable toilets, a double sink for handwashing, two water coolers and a trash container.

Barbara Garrison, director of the clinic, submitted the proposal for this grant almost three years ago before field sanitation regulations were passed. She said the proposal for the units was the only one in the country to be funded.

Garrison said she was pleased at the response from farmers for these units. "We've had more requests than we have trailers," she said.

Eight of the units will be used by individual growers for the entire season, Garrison said. Farmers will use the other two for six-week periods. "We think this is a good idea. We can let vegetable growers have them and then apple growers," she said.

Growers with 10 or more workers who have to walk more than a quarter of a mile to toilet facilities are eligible to use these units, Garrison said. Labor Department regulations state that growers must provide nearby drinking water to workers, effective May 30, and field toilets and handwashing facilities by July 30.

The trailers should begin going out to the farmers possibly this weekend, she said. Some county farm-

## Agribusiness

ers who farm land in Polk County are ready for them now, she said.

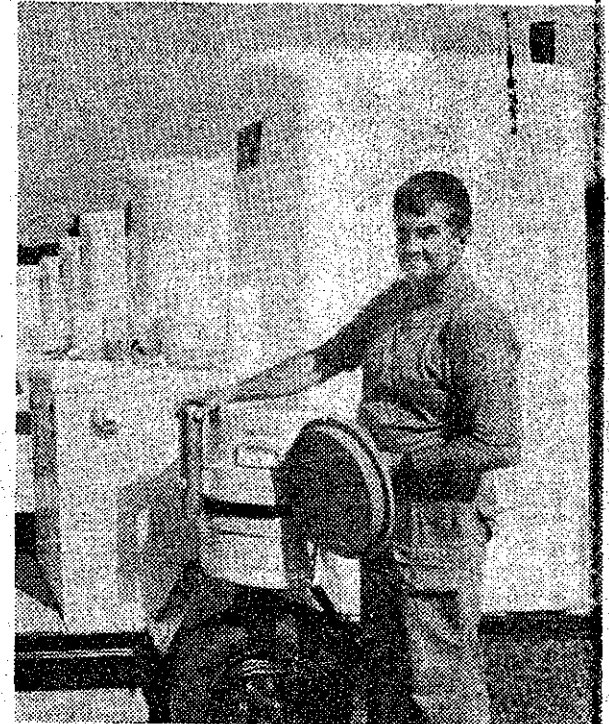
Farmers using these trailers must sign a contract stating that they will maintain the units according to federal guidelines, be responsible for having them serviced and will return the units in good condition.

The units are manufactured in Newport News, Va. at Phil Carter Systems. Garrison said the company, along with an engineer, worked with local officials on the unit's design.

Money from another grant for reimbursing growers for repairs on migrant housing has been used up, Garrison said. Twelve local farmers received this money, totaling \$7,000. Some of the money is also being used to spray for rodents and insects at the larger labor camps, Garrison said.

There are no specific criteria for farmers who want this money. "It's first come, first served," Garrison said. Some farmers got \$500 each for general repairs, such as screens, windows, floors and painting. Others got up to \$700 each for major repairs, such as wells and septic tanks.

Ten more farmers are on a waiting list to receive more funds. Garrison has applied for from the National Demonstration Water Project, called the MESA project (Migrant Environmental Services Assistance). Garrison said this may be an ongoing program. "We hope to get money every year and help different farmers each year."



Susan Rhodes / Times-News

Apple grower Bill Garrison helps ready the 10 field sanitation units local farmers will be using in their fields this season.

Om H

\$50 / unit  
500 units

rows behind a  
pick-up truck

design  
to prevent standing  
in time

w/ paper cup dispenser

Resource ID#: 213

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