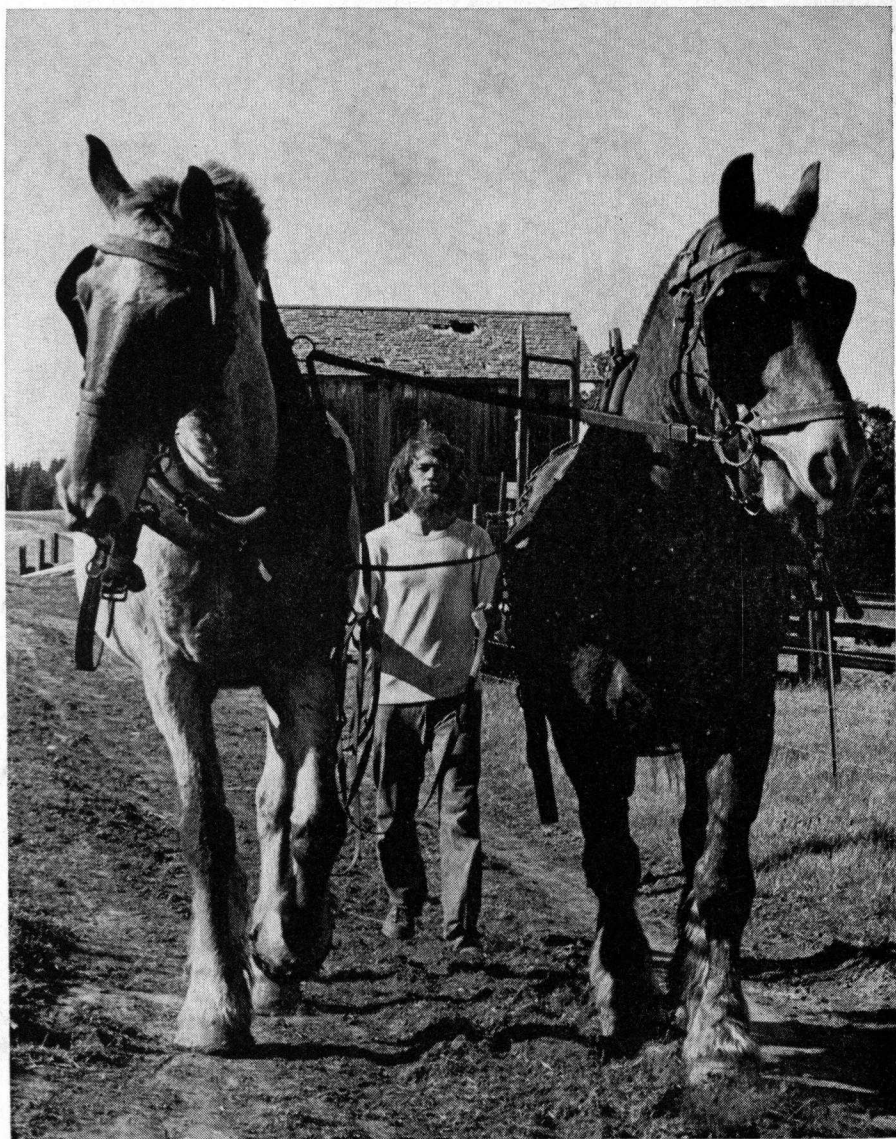


UCSC - General 1970-1979

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**VOLUNTEER WORKER** Gary Mason gets acquainted with Molly and Pete, two Belgian draft horses that have gone to work on the new 17-acre organic farm operated by students at UC Santa Cruz. Building in rear was part of original Cowell Ranch.

## Young Farmers at UCSC

SANTA CRUZ—Students from colleges and universities across the United States were volunteer workers this summer on a new organic farm at this University of California campus.

The only paid worker was Steve Kaffka, a UCSC alumnus. An equipment shed measuring 25 by 40 feet, erected Amish-fashion without the use of nails, was the main summer project. Students and faculty members put the beams together with joints and dowels.

They also planted a subtropical orchard of avocado, guava, loquat, macademia nut and citrus trees. A one acre garden produced fresh vegetables, strawberries, and gooseberries for the campus food service and a campus restaurant. No chemicals are used on the farm and all produce is eaten, sold, or bartered for equipment and animals.

Two 1400-pound draft horses named

Molly and Pete have been working members of the 17-acre project since last spring. "I'm sure our tractor could do the jobs faster," says Kaffka, "but we like Molly and Pete because they are not pieces of metal. They add a lot of spirit and color to the farm."

UCSC students are now trying to construct an irrigation system. Several drilling attempts to find water have proved fruitless—even with the help of a dowser. The twelve acres presently under cultivation are maintained by two makeshift water storage tanks.

Eventually the young organic farmers hope to add cows to the chickens, goats and bees already on the place. With this in mind, students are now designing a barn to house the livestock and hay.

—Tom O'Leary  
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