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## Science plan on schedule for Region 14

By Chris Gardner  
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WOODBURY — Although shovels won't be in the ground until next spring, Region 14 officials have put on paper their plans to expand the Ellis Clark Agricultural Science building at Nonnewaug High School.

Superintendent Joseph Sabatella said the \$2.3 million project has entered the "schematic design" phase, in which an architect will put the finishing touches on the blueprints. The plans must be approved by a local building committee before they are sent to the state for inspection.

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"On our calendar of progress for the project, we're right where we should be," he said.

"What we're doing now is finalizing what we want in the building."

Woodbury and Bethlehem residents approved the construction project in a Jan. 16 referendum. Contractors will begin to renovate the building next spring. Construction will be completed in December 1997 or January 1998.

Sabatella said the committee wants to add four regular classrooms, one large animal storage room and a smaller animal storage room to the existing facility. The storage rooms will house animals used by the veterinary science students, he said.

The farm equipment storage garage and a science classroom will also be expanded. Sabatella said the architect, Milton Grew, has designed a building that will meet the district's needs and conform to state construction standards.

"I give a lot of credit to (Grew)," he said. "He knows the statutes and he knows the codes. He's even taken it upon himself to visit a half-dozen other vo-ag centers."

The legislative bond committee must approve the concept because the state will reimburse Region 14 for the entire \$2.3 million bill. The district will spend about \$30,000 in interest payments to borrow the money up front.

Contractors will begin to install a new roof at Mitchell Elementary School this week, Sabatella said. The state will pay for half of the \$174,000 project, which was approved by voters in May 1995.