

Brucellosis Top Subject in Three Regional Meets

Changes in the dates of three regional meetings scheduled in February by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's 5-man advisory group on brucellosis eradication were announced today by the Department. Three other meetings scheduled by the group during January will be held as originally planned.

The February meetings, to be in New York, Atlanta, and Chicago, were rescheduled to avoid conflicts with other meetings and to make attendance easier for a number of interested groups, Department officials said.

The revised schedule for all six of the regional meetings is as follows: Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 23; Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 25; Omaha, Neb., Jan. 27; New York, N. Y., Feb. 13; Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 15, and Chicago, Ill., Feb. 17. (The February meetings were originally scheduled one week earlier, in each case, than the dates shown.) State and national organizations affected by the brucellosis program will be notified of the new times for the February meetings.

This USDA advisory group was appointed to consult with the Secretary of Agriculture on the accelerated Federal-State program to eradicate the animal disease brucellosis. Purpose of the regional meetings is to give individuals and representatives of interested organizations and groups further opportunity to express their opinions concerning the value and conduct of the brucellosis program. The group will consider these opinions in evaluating the program and in recommending any modifications of it that may seem advisable.

Winter Chills Check Growth Of U. S. Crops

WASHINGTON — Winter temperatures were much colder than usual over the eastern two-thirds of the country and the far Northwest in the week ended Dec. 19, which kept small grains dormant in nearly all areas and permitted little growth even in the more southern districts.

The government also reported in its weekly weather and crop bulletin that small grains which generally lack protective snow cover east of the Rockies suffered some damage from low temperatures.

Most grain fields were covered with snow from middle portions of Washington and Oregon eastward over the northern Rocky mountains and northern interior areas as far south as extreme northern Kansas, central Iowa, the more northern portions of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, most of New York, northern and middle New England, northern Pennsylvania and a few middle Appalachian areas.

Heavy rains in the northern and middle Pacific Coast area, light to mostly moderate snow inland over northern Rockies and moderate to heavy rain in the Louisiana-Mississippi area improved conditions.

Elsewhere, there was little change in the moisture situation, with frequent light snows adding little to the moisture supply in northern sections east of the Rockies, while droughty, conditions generally increased in the middle and southern great plains. In the latter area, where there has been no substantial precipitation for 11 weeks—particularly in the western portion of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas and eastern sections of New Mexico and Colorado—small grains are holding on fairly well, although topsoil is dry and loose and winds caused some local erosive damage.

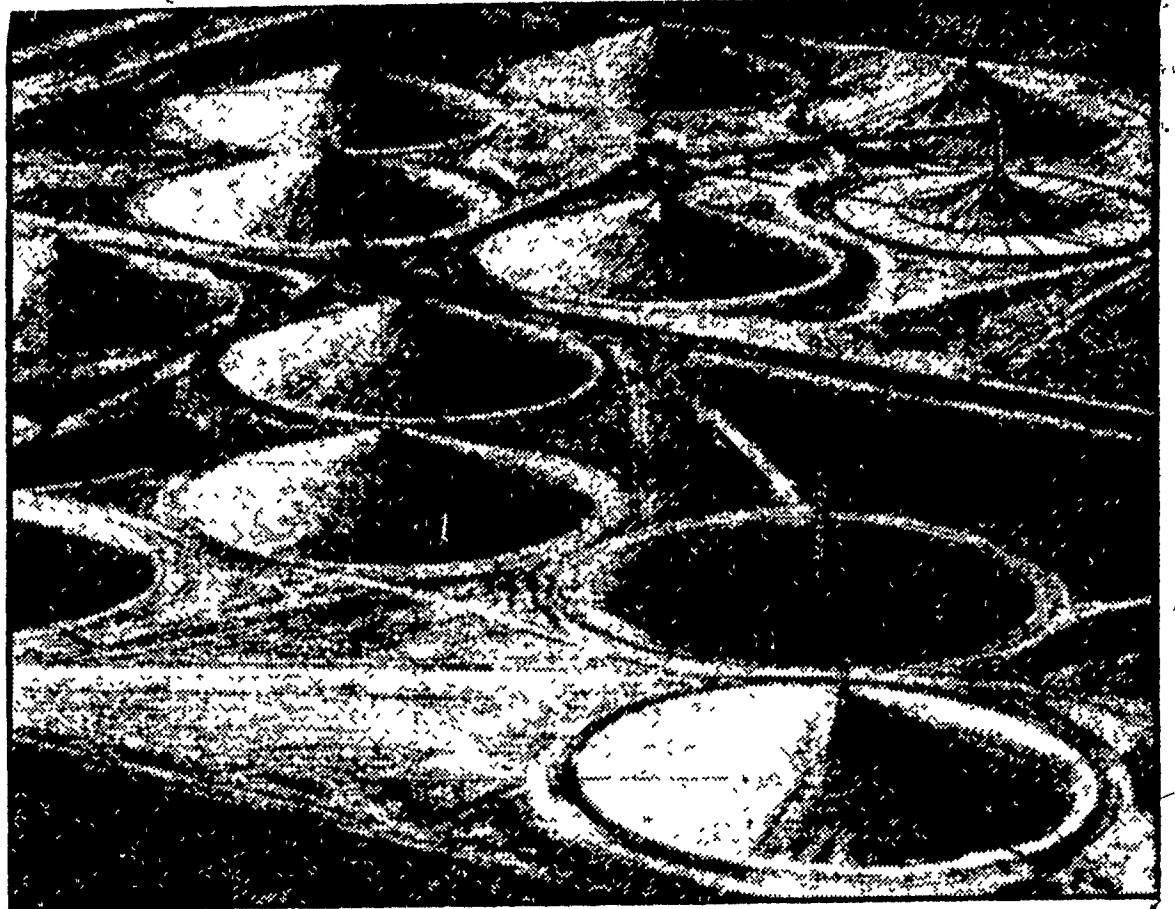
Otto J. Nobis to Head American Angus Association

Aberdeen-Angus breeders, meeting in Chicago for the 72nd year, named a new president, officers and directors at a festive banquet and business meeting in the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House, Nov. 30. Spirits were high, for the Black beef cattle aristocrats had just come through a successful International Livestock Exposition, winning all major interbreed awards.

Otto J. Nobis, owner of Wilton Farms, Davenport, was named 1956 president of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association. The vice-presidency went to a Virginian—John C. Gall of Amandale Farm, Upperville. B. C. Cotton, Dry Ridge, Ky., was re-elected to the board of directors for a term of three years.

OTHER DIRECTORS
Other directors named to three-year terms were Duane Clark, Worthing, S. D.; Lewis B. Pierce, Creston, Ill.; Harold Rankin, Hermiston, Ore.; and George Graham, Wichita Falls, Texas. W. W. Bramard, Jr., Far Hills, N. J., and Ralph L. Smith, Chillicothe, Mo., were elected to fill two unexpired one-year terms which had been vacated.

Cotton estimate for 1955 sets acreage record.



OUT OF THIS WORLD—That's the astronomical surplus storage problem which these huge, cone-shaped tents are designed to help alleviate. Each holding nearly a million bushels of wheat, they're being erected near St. Joseph, Mo., turning the landscape into something resembling an artist's conception of a space colony on a distant planet. Stages in erection are shown, counter-clockwise, beginning with second installation from lower right-hand corner. 1—Steel mast is located at center of what will become a storage tent. 2—Tent, partially filled from top by means of conveyor system, begins to rise. 3—Tent, almost full, will soon be sealed.

Safe Driving Tips For New Year Are Offered by Expert

DETROIT — "Steer yourself on the road to safety in 1956".

That is the advice of Danny Eames, chief test driver for Dodge, who suggests that motorists adopt New Year's resolutions governing their "behind the wheel" conduct.

Said Eames, "People joke about New Year's resolutions. Every year countless resolutions 'are made to give up candy, tobacco, or correct bad habits with no serious intentions' behind them. 'However,' he continued, "safety is a serious business. If each driver would resolve to observe traffic rules every day of the year, the highway accident toll would be greatly reduced in 1956".

Here are ten resolutions Eames recommends for motoring safety during the New Year:

1. Observe all traffic regulations. They're designed for your protection.
2. Keep a safe distance behind the car ahead, particularly at higher speeds.
3. Stay in your own lane on hills, curves and in "no passing" zones.
4. Dim your lights to oncoming traffic, when driving at night.
5. Give the right of way to pedestrians.
6. Always be on the alert for children.
7. Know the proper hand or direction signals and use them.
8. Watch where you're going, and keep an eye on other cars near you.
9. Regulate speed to road conditions as well as to posted speed limits.
10. Give the other fellow more than his share of the road.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced commodity details of an agreement between the United States and Argentina providing for the sale of \$25.3 million worth of edible oils and/or fats for pesos (Argentine currency) under Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development Act of 1954 (Public Law 480, 83rd Congress).

Sales under this program will be made by United States private trade. It is expected that a purchase authorization will soon be issued.

Food bills in 1956 seen matching this year's level.

Austria is unable to sell her oil at home or abroad.

Tobacco growers oppose cut in barley crop in 1956.

Spread Between Farm Price and Consumers Wide

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has released estimates of the spread between prices farmers got and prices consumers paid for a number of major food items in November. This was a follow-up on his December 11 expression of concern over rising food marketing costs.

Retail food prices in November, published Dec. 21 by the U. S. Department of Labor, were less than 2 per cent below November last year. During that interval, farmers had taken a 10 per cent reduction in their prices. Marketing and handling charges increased 5 per cent during the same time, according to estimates made by the Department of Agriculture. Farmers are now getting only 39 cents out of every dollar spent for food in the retail store, which is the smallest share since 1940. This compares with a peak of 53 cents in 1945 and 42 cents in November 1954.

Pork, Beef Stand Out

Pork and beef stand out as commodities for which marketing charges have continued to rise while too-abundant production drove down the farmer's price. Consumer costs for pork and beef have declined less than the drop in farm prices. For potatoes, on the other hand, the price spread has been substantially narrowed.

More detailed studies showing the charges for different steps in marketing meats, dairy products, broilers and eggs, fruit and vegetables, and vegetable-oil products will be published during the last week in January in The Marketing and Transportation Situ-

ation issued by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

In his statement December 11, Secretary Benson said, in part: "The failure of retail food prices as a whole to reflect the decline in farm food products during the past year is recognized by the Department as a real obstacle to a solution of the farm surplus problem."

Special Report Soon

Secretary Benson said his Department is preparing a special report dealing with trends in costs of marketing food over the last ten years, which should be ready for release by the end of the month.

In addition, a special series of individual reports are being prepared. Publications for U. S. Choice grade beef, pork, and white bread should be ready during or early February with individual reports on other commodities to follow later.

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