

PROGRESSES REPORT No. 69

— Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

DISEASE RESEARCH

University Park, Pa. — New research facilities to combat farm animal and poultry diseases in Pennsylvania will soon be in full operation at the State University here. Farm animal and poultry disease losses in the Keystone State amount to over \$50 million annually.

Just completed is a new animal disease research building containing 17 isolation pens, seven laboratories, four offices, sterilization room, feed room, cleanup area and locker rooms.

A poultry disease research building, opened in 1954, has been used for studies of both poultry and livestock diseases. With completion of the new building, there will be separate facilities for poultry and livestock disease research, thus permitting expansion of research in both fields.

Spring will see the completion of an additional 5 isolation pens, an autopsy room, and an incinerator with a capacity of 300 pounds per hour for destroying carcasses.

Each of the 22 pens is a completely closed room with special ventilation to avoid air-borne transmission of disease. Each pen has an entry room with space for changing clothes and a wash stand for cleaning up on entering and leaving.

To insure further sanitation, animals will be brought into a cleanup area for washing and general cleanup before going into isolation pens. At the conclusion of experiments, animals will be taken to the autopsy room through enclosed corridors, also to avoid contamination.

These facilities will be operated by seven research scientists with Dr. A. L. Bortree, head of the Department of Veterinary Science, in charge. A service staff will include a clerk, seven technical assistants, and four animal caretakers.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 66

— Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, The Pennsylvania State University University Park, Pennsylvania

The Northeastern part of the United States can economically use more grassland than is now produced, declared a Pennsylvania State University agronomist recently at the West Virginia meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

John B. Washko, professor of agronomy at Penn State, said about four acres of pastureland and two acres of hayland are new used to carry each of the five million animal units on Northeast farms. He pointed out that with good management, farmers can support one animal on one acre of pastureland and one-half acre of hayland — except in periods of severe drought.

"Our grasslands will have to carry more livestock than they do now if the Northeast is to carry its share of the burden in feeding the 200 million people anticipated in the U.S. by 1975," Dr. Washko stated at the Jackson's Mill Conference.

"By 1975 the Northeast will have to carry about 8 million animals if we are to properly feed the increased population," he added. "This means that each animal unit will have to be supported on 2½ acres of pasture and 1.2 acres of hayland instead of four and two as done now."

He reported the livestock population in the Northeast is on the increase. In Pennsylvania the highest number of milk cows on farms in 27 years was reported this past summer.

The cow population in the state increased by 60,000 in the past five years.

Grasslands in the Northeast will have to be upgraded if the potential feed producing power of the area is to be realized, he noted. The goal should not only be high production but increased efficiency in using the forage produced. Upgrading of grasslands will require liming and fertilization, renovation, extension of the grazing season with small grain, providing supplementary pastures for mid-summer grazing, and improved grazing practices.

Cash Dividends Up More Than One Billion

The Commerce Department reports that cash dividend payments by corporations are running more than a billion dollars higher than in 1955.

Concerns issuing public reports paid out about \$8,725,000,000 in the first ten months of this year compared with \$7,722,000,000 in the corresponding period a year ago.

supervision of the Victoria Department of Agriculture, the new soil conditioning compounds increased the waterholding capacity of the soil by 200 per cent.

There were no harmful effects to plants, animals or humans.

Stembach said that in his visits to Lancaster County farms he was impressed with the use of modern techniques of agriculture.

He said, "The correct use of modern techniques of agriculture improves life for the farmer and increases his profit. The farmer must now be as educated as an engineer or a chemist."

In comparing Lancaster county farming with the farming in Germany he said that in his region (Cologne) of Germany the farms are much smaller. This does not allow the farmer profit enough to afford to buy tractors or other agricultural equipment.

Some exchange students from Germany, he said, are very disappointed when they come back to Germany and attempt to use American farming methods.

Milk production in Lancaster County and the United States



H. J. Steinbach

In speaking further of his soil conditioner, Steinbach said that manure, compost, lime, chalk, marl and gypsum have been used for many years as soil conditioners. However they do not have a lasting effect.

He said that in a 70 week test of intensive wetting and drying of test plots in Australia, there was no noticeable breakdown of the soil treated with his compounds, although the check plots lost practically all their texture.

He said that the new compounds can be applied as a liquid and that the manufacturing cost should not be prohibitive to the average farmer.

He was accompanied on a tour of Lancaster farms by Mr. W. J. Killough, 920 State St., Lancaster.

Building Takes Drop In November Period

Construction during November showed a 14 per cent seasonal drop from October and stood at the lowest level for November since 1951, according to the Labor Department

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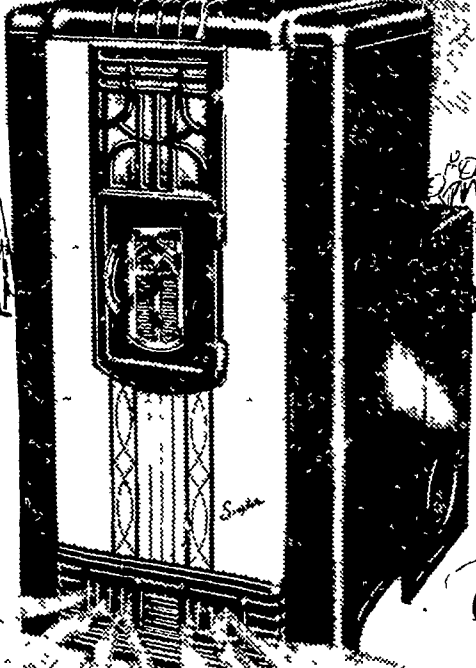
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