

Gap Between City and Farm Closing Rapidly; Change Becoming Apparent

Roots of the rural community of 1975 will be sunk deeper into urban ground economists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture predict as they examine past and present patterns of development in agricultural communities throughout the country. Their findings suggest a new agricultural community is emerging which might be described as "city life widely spaced."

The trend toward greater economic and social dependence of agricultural communities on larger towns and cities was described by John H. Southern, an economist of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, at a meeting of the Texas Agricultural Workers Association.

Major events that will largely determine the pattern of the rural community 20 years from now have already happened, Southern says. In a sense, therefore, no crystal-ball gazing is required to visualize the main features of the future new look of the U. S. farm community.

Events or situations that determine what the character of the farm communities will be in 1975 include: (1) the revolution in agricultural technology and farm management; (2) population gains and the growth of urban centers; (3) the impending labor shortage; and (4) the rising standard of living.

On the economic side, the rural community is more than ever dependent on the urban. Just before World War II, only about 25 per cent of farm production supplies — fertilizers, seeds, feeds — came from urban-industry sources. Now, farmers

get more than 60 per cent of these supplies from cities and factories. With the march of technology, the percentage might reach 75 or more before 1957.

Then, too, many chores once done by farmers themselves are now often performed by urban industries or individuals. Some of these services include contract hauling of livestock and other farm products, pickup of eggs and milk, custom harvesting, weed control, insect control — just to name a few. The upward trend in this direction is expected to continue.

While more highly commercialized agriculture brings about larger farms, greater investments, and greater incomes, it may also transfer certain functions and some decision making from the farm to nonfarm sectors. This can be seen, for example, in broiler production where rural and urban interests are closely linked.

Farm land values will be determined to an increasing extent by nonagricultural factors, such as location of good roads, demands of non-farmer buyers, and suburbanization.

Suburban communities — like clusters of leaves along the main stem and branches of highways and roads — have grown in recent years at about 3½ times the rate of the gain in national population. This movement into the countryside will increase rather than diminish, the economists predict.

By 1975 the total U. S. population is expected to increase by two-fifths, but the working force — made up of persons already

Canadian Wheat Acreage Shows 7 Per Cent Drop

If Canadian wheat growers hold to their March 1 intentions, the 1957 wheat acreage will be seven per cent below that of 1956.

The average for all wheat in that country for 1957 is estimated at 19 88 million acres compared with 21 34 million acres in 1956.

Most of this year's decrease in acreage will likely be in the Province of Saskatchewan.

born — will have increased by only one-fifth. During the same period, farm population may decline by as much as 30 per cent. All this makes for closer ties with urban communities, since the remaining rural families will have more members working off the farm in urban jobs.

A new standard of living has spread rapidly over the Nation in the past 20 years. The levels of living of farm and city people are more nearly alike now than they were only a short time ago. The gap will continue to narrow. Socially, also, the new look of the agricultural community is one of greater dependence on urban centers. More and more rural residents will be going to urban schools, churches, shopping centers, and to recreation and entertainment facilities. In the new agricultural community, various occupational groups will live in the rural areas, and many of them will have jobs in towns or cities.

Thus evidence is piling up that the farm communities of the future will be drawn more closely than ever before into the life of urban communities.

Adult Fish Stocking in Warm Waters To Hit Stride During This Week

Though the greater portion of this year's trout plantings has been completed, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's 1957 program to replenish Commonwealth waters with adult fish will take on a new proportion this week, according to an announcement by Dewey Sorenson, superintendent of hatcheries. Involved in the activity in addition to trout, will be smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleyes, northern pike, catfish, crappies, yellow perch and elvers.

"For the next several weeks, hatchery crews and drivers will be dispatching close to 600,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout to complete this year's stocking of the state's approved trout waters. Meanwhile, other Fish Commission personnel will be engaged in no less than seven other fish transfer operations involving the state's warm water areas," Sorenson said.

While the approximate number of trout due for distribution could be gaged at the hatcheries, the Commission official could speak with no certainty on the numbers of the other species, except to indicate how many of each could constitute the total program.

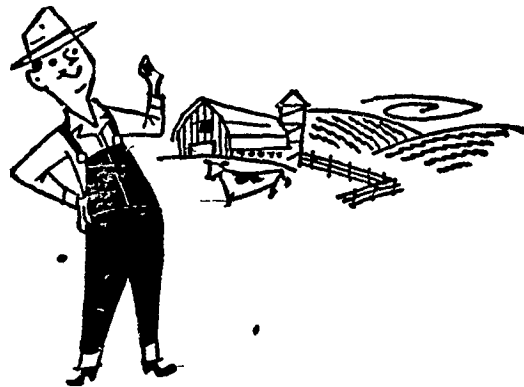
During its recent meeting, the Fish Commission authorized the transfer of up to 200,000 catfish from the Delaware River to inland waters, and a maximum expenditure of \$10,000 for the transfer of smallmouth bass and walleyes from Lake Erie. The per fish cost to the Commission of the bass has been set at \$50, minimum size — nine inches, and \$.75 per walleye, minimum size — eleven inches.

Other fish transfers described by Sorenson are as follows: White crappies from the Linesville Hat-

chery on Pymatuning Lake, yellow perch from the Linesville and Pleasant Mount Hatcheries; elvers from the Octolaro River below the Chester Dam and from the Susquehanna below the Conowingo Dam; smelt from Lake Erie and Harveys Lake, largemouth bass from water reservoirs and other sanctuary waters across the northern counties of the state, and northern pike out of Canadota Lake.

Sorenson refrained from naming the areas that would receive warm water fishes until a determination is made of the success of the netting operations. He said "We can't be sure of the numbers, therefore of the waters to be stocked, at this time. Adverse water and weather conditions during the periods when these species are concentrated in areas where they can be netted or trapped, could keep their numbers below what we hope to get. On the other hand, given favorable conditions, we should encounter no difficulty in realizing maximum catches."

According to the Commission's 1956 records, 158,206 catfish were transferred from the Delaware River. Due to storms on Lake Erie during the netting period no walleyes were captured, and only 1,794 smallmouth bass were netted, well below the hoped-for catch. Sorenson also observed that the in-season trout planting last year exceeded the current available by close to 400,000. He added that unless additional revenues are made available to the Commission, there will be no alternative to a further reduction in the number of trout reared for distribution next year — possibly 10 per cent more.



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