

## Farm Building Repair Loans Get FHA Okay

The construction and repair of farm houses and other farm buildings may be financed by Farmers Home Administration loans, A. Rudolph York, the agency's local county supervisor, said this week.

He said the same kind of farm housing loan program is available as last year when American farm owners borrowed \$21,300,000 to construct, improve or repair farm houses and other essential farm buildings, or to provide water for farmstead or household use.

Farmers Home Administration loans are provided only when a bank or other lender cannot adequately serve the farm owners credit needs, at the present time. The agency does not compete with conventional or cooperative lenders, York said, but does supplement the credit services supplied by other sources. Borrowers agree to repay the housing loans within the shortest time consistent with their repayment abilities, but no loan schedule can go beyond 33 years. The interest rate is four per cent.

Although housing loans go only to farm owners, an owner may borrow to repair or build a house or other farm buildings for his tenants or farm laborers. A borrower must be an American citizen. Any farm involved must be big enough and operated in such a way as to be considered an actual farm, and it must produce a substantial part of the operator's annual cash income. Farmers cannot use farm housing loans to buy and or refinance debts.

York cautioned loan applicants against starting construction work or incurring debts for work or materials before their loans are closed, if they expect to obtain their financing through the Farmers Home Administration.

Farmers buy their building materials wherever they please, usually from local dealers. They obtain their building plans from any reliable source they choose. The Farmers Home Administration has a limited number of plans that applicants may use if they want to.

During construction the agency makes periodic inspections to make certain that sound construction standards are followed.

## State Potato Crop Smallest In 81 Years

Pennsylvania farmers this year are harvesting the smallest potato crop in 81 years, the State Department of Agricultural reported Friday.

Federal State surveys estimate this year's production at 6,660,000 hundredweight, compared with 8,437,000 bags of 100 pounds each harvested in 1956.

Poor growing conditions were said responsible for holding production far below average and only farmers in northern counties anticipate good crops. In southern counties many farmers claim sizes of potatoes are too small for U. S. No. 1 grades.

Potato production in 1876, the year with which this year's crop is compared, was 5,542,800 hundredweight.

The Oct. 1 estimate for this year's Fall crop at 135 hundredweight to the acre indicates a crop of 1,42,000 bags. The estimate is 20 per cent below 1956 production and 31 per cent under the 1949-55 average. Late Summer production is estimated at 518,000 hundredweight and compares with 731,000 bags last year. Yield per acre for the 1957 crop is estimated at 115 bags in comparison with the 170 bags harvested a year ago.

Signs of infection in an individual bird are not always typical of a flock's disease. Several birds from an ailing flock should be examined by a veterinarian before an accurate diagnosis is possible, the American Veterinary Medical Association says.

## Safety in Corn Picking Begins Before Machine Enters Field

Modern corn pickers are more heavily shielded, have larger capacities, and fewer places to grease and oil. But, says Assistant County Agent H. Wallace Cook, Jr., of West Chester, these fundamentally safer machines are not reducing the number of corn picker accidents, and the annual toll continues to increase.

Unclogging a running picker is the biggest single cause for picker mishaps. Adjustment of the picker to suit field conditions is essential for safe, efficient operation. The machine must be in top running condition for full efficiency.

Before going into the field with a corn picker, Cook urges these precautions:

1. Replace worn or broken parts. These include snapping rolls, husking rolls, chains, drive belts, sprockets and gears.
2. Have all shields in place.
3. Be sure crop is in condition to pick, and not too green for safe harvest.
4. Adjust picker for condition of crop and weather.
5. Have your working clothes



ALWAYS STOP THE corn picker before you leave the tractor seat and this will not happen to your hand. Moving machinery is dangerous!

fit snugly and properly

6. Always stop the power take-off before leaving the tractor seat, even though it may mean taking more time to clean the picker.

Cook concludes, "This year let's keep our hands out of running pickers so we won't have our hands off — permanently."

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## 39 Million Birds All-Time High In NPIP Program

Birds in flocks participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan reached an all-time high of more than 39 million as of June 30, 1957, the U. S. Department of Agriculture says. These birds are in about 7,000 NPIP flocks throughout the country.

Flock owners in 47 states are taking part in the national program, sponsored by USDA. Its major objectives are breeding improvement and the control and eradication of poultry diseases, with specific emphasis on pullorum and typhoid.

The previous NPIP participation record was set in 1951-52, when the program included more than 37 million birds in some 96,000 flocks.

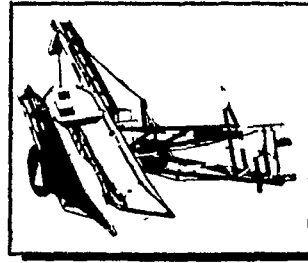
This year's record number of

birds represents those in flocks in which no reactors to pullorum or typhoid were found in the qualifying test, out of more than 40 million birds in flocks officially tested in the initial test this year. 18,000 reactors were found, amounting to only 0.45 per cent of birds tested, the lowest in the 22-year history of the NPIP.

Fully 95 per cent of the birds in participating flocks, following the tests this year, qualified as U. S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean.

Commercial hatchery participation in the NPIP, as of June 30 this year, included a total egg capacity of about 384 million. This represents 73 per cent of total estimated hatchery capacity in the United States—the highest percentage of participation on record. Eighty-six per cent of the participating hatchery capacity this year attained a U. S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean classification.

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