

Part-Time Farmers Prominent In Soil Bank, PSU Survey Shows

The greatest appeal of the Soil Bank in Pennsylvania has been among part-time farmers, according to a study made by the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State University.

Fifty per cent of a sample of 161 Soil Bank participants received half or more of their income from non-farm sources, report G. E. Brandow and J. P. Houck, economists in the College of Agriculture at Penn State. Shortage of labor and poor health were other factors causing farmers to enter the program. The survey

was made in 1957 in the southeastern part of the state.

FARMS WITH LAND in the acreage reserve apparently were nearly as productive as farms not in the reserve. Total crop production, other than fruit, was reduced by a little less than three per cent in the three-county area studied, Brandow and Houck estimate. Wheat acreage was reduced at most by 7.5 per cent and corn acreage at most by 3.2 per cent.

The temporary nature of the acreage reserve part of the Soil Bank was one reason for lack of

participation, the economists point out.

IN CONTRAST, the conservation reserve is a longer term program. However, payments per acre were not high enough in 1957 to make it attractive to many farmers of southeastern Pennsylvania.

A widely discussed revision of the Soil Bank would concentrate on putting whole farms in a broadened conservation reserve. About half of the Soil Bank participants surveyed, and one-fourth of the non-participants surveyed, indicated they would be willing to consider a broadened conservation reserve.

Farmers' estimates of required payments were highly variable and uncertain.

For Farm

Women . . .

(Continued from page eight)

over with a fork. Allow to stand at room temperature about 30 minutes.

Place the onions over the bottom of a well greased 2 quart glass oven dish. Sprinkle the rice over the onions.

Melt the cooking fat in a skillet. Add the lamb and brown on all sides. Arrange over the rice. Pour the fat out of the skillet. Add tomatoes and heat to loosen any browned pieces. Pour tomatoes over the lamb. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Store in the refrigerator until meal time.

Pour on the hot water. Cover with a lid or aluminum foil and bake in a pre-heated 400 degree oven about 40 minutes. Stir to mix any uncooked rice with the liquid. Cover. Bake about 15 more minutes or until the rice is tender. Add a small amount of water if mixture cooks dry. Stir in the

peas. This recipe makes 5 to 6 servings.

Another lamb dish, this time using lamb chops.

LAMB CHOPS, COUNTRY STYLE

6 shoulder lamb chops (4.5 ounces per chop)
3 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons shortening
1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
3 tablespoons water

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Dredge chops with mixture of flour, salt and pepper. Brown well in shortening. Remove to baking pan. Combine soup and water; spoon over chops. Bake 1 hour or until meat is tender. Garnish with fresh mint. Makes 6 servings.

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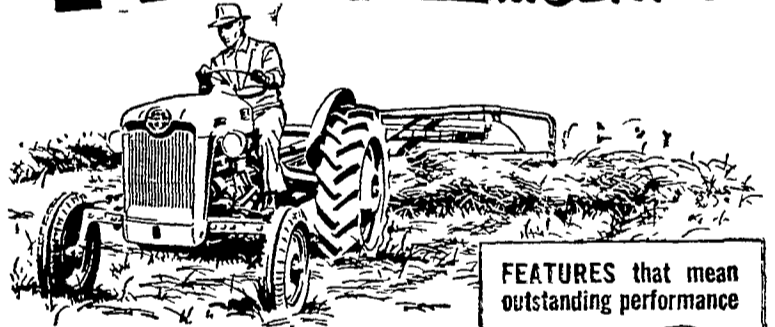
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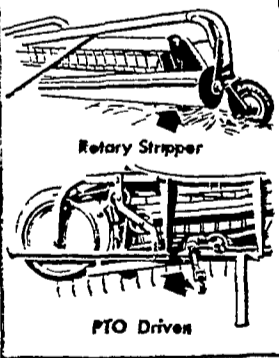
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