



ALTHOUGH BROILERS were the order of the day at the Poultry Assn. Barbeque Saturday, the egg industry also was represented. Kenneth Fisher, 9, of Leacock,

(left) and Robert Bard, 10, also of Leacock, were kept busy making egg sandwiches to demonstrate eggs versatility in the family menu (LF Photo)

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MINER
Iron, Calcium & Phosph
healthy bones, teeth &
Eggs are the best source
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good for reducer
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Farm Cooperative Membership Triples During Past 30 Years

Memberships and average number of memberships in marketing, farm supply and related service cooperatives have shown marked growth in the past three decades according to Farmer Cooperative Service, U S Department of Agriculture

In fiscal year 1926 the number of memberships was 2.7 million. In fiscal year 1956 — the latest year for which complete figures are available — number of memberships exceeded 7.7 million, or almost three times as many. The fiscal year 1956 figure was an increase of 17 per cent over fiscal year 1955. Many farmers are, of course, members of more than one cooperative.

Average membership for each cooperative was 250 in fiscal year 1926; by fiscal year 1956 it was 783, or more than three times as many.

THESE FIGURES attain greater significance when contrasted with decrease in total number of farmers within approximately the same period. In 1925, the number of farmers was almost 6.4 million; by 1954 it had fallen to little more than 4.7 million. As the number of farmers has decreased, those who remain on the farm are relying on their own cooperation to market their products and purchase their farm supplies.

The survey for fiscal year 1956 showed total number of farmer cooperatives as 9,876, a slight decrease from the 9,887 in fiscal year 1955. Net volume of business was \$9.8 billion, 77 per cent of this in products marketed. This fiscal year 1956 net volume was 15 per cent greater than in fiscal year 1955.

Dairy products again held first place among the marketing associations with a net volume of

\$2.5 billion, against \$2.4 billion for the preceding year. Grain, including soybeans and soybean products, remained in second place with a net volume of almost \$1.6 billion, compared with \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 1955.

FEED REMAINED in top place with a net volume of almost \$774 million from a total net volume for farm supplies handled of \$2 billion. This drop of \$33 million from the preceding year reflected the reduction in prices to patrons effected by many farm supply cooperatives.

Second in value among farm supply items were petroleum and petroleum products with a net volume of \$494 million, compared with the fiscal year 1955 figure of \$466 million.

Stubble, Straw Burning Costly

The practice of burning stubble and straw is much more costly than many farmers realize, according to Extension soils specialists at South Dakota State College.

To prove their point they say that the straw and stubble from one acre that has produced 50 bushels of oats contains 20 pounds of nitrogen, 6 pounds of phosphorus, 30 pounds of potash, and 400 pounds of humus. The same would be true, they say, for a 25 bushel-per-acre wheat field or 35 bushels of barley.

Burning of such fields would mean a drop in yield of 5 to 8 bushels per acre for next year's corn crop, 7 to 10 bushels for oats, and 3 to 5 bushels per acre loss on wheat, the South Dakota specialists say.

16 Plants Are Poisonous to Stock

Just off the press is a 49-page Farmers' Bulletin (No. 2106) titled 16 Plants Poisonous to Livestock in the Western States. For each of the 16 plants covered, in

formation is given as to where and when each plant grows, how it affects livestock, and how to reduce losses as a result of livestock eating the plant.

In each case a full color photo shows just what each plant looks like.

The 16 plants treated in the new bulletin are arrowgrass, bracken fern, chokecherry, copperweed, death camas, greaseweed, halogeton, horsebrush, larkspur, locoweed, lupine, milkweed, oak brush, rubberweed, sneezeweed, and water hemlock.

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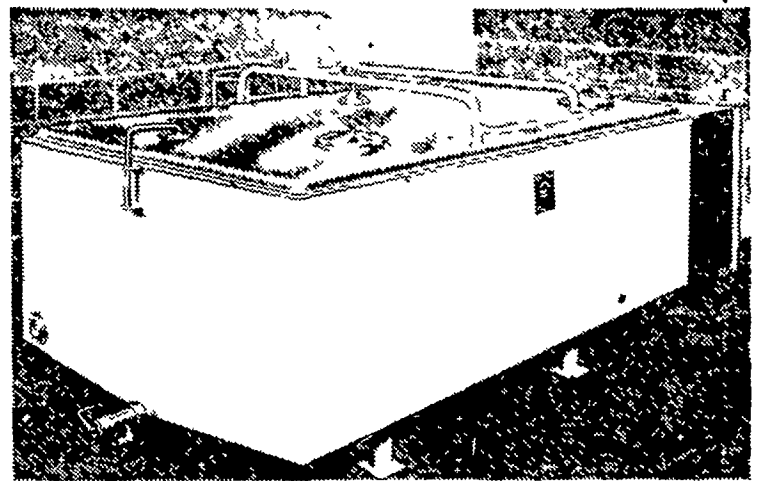
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