

POTATO PACKAGES of film made of polyethylene offer greater moisture-weight retention than paper bag counterparts, according to recent tests evaluated by the United States Department of Agriculture In 1956, a weight savings of some 425 million pounds was possible had the polyethylene film packages been used

### **Conservation Slide Rule Helps Reduce Soil Loss from Erosion**

Research data on soil conser-, of a simple "conservation slide" vation, gathered by US Depart- rule" which makes possible fast designed by Dr J J. Peters of ment of Agriculture scientists and reliable soil-loss estimates the Soil Conservation Service, usreadily available for practical right in the field use by technicians in the form This slide rule, de over the past 30 years, is now This slide rule, developed from

information compiled by scien tists of USDA Agricultural Re-

conservation technicians in the nine Corn Belt States to help farmers protect their land It was

ing information prviously available to soil conservation technicians only in tabular and chart form

ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT slide rule is adapted only to Kentucky, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, research information is being developed to make similar prediction methods available to soil conservation technicians in other parts of the United States

Since 1929, soil and water conservation stations throuhout the country have been studying the most important factors govern ing the amount of soil and water lost from faimland during rain-11 these lainfall itself are influenced to some extent by the method of cropping and conservation plactices used The rate of elosion caused by storms depends on the force with which raindrops stir up soil and the amount and speed of the runofi water Elosion is also at fected by the kind of soil, kind and amount of soil cover, and steepness and length of slope as well as soil-management and con servation practices WHEN ENOUGH experimental data are available to give accurrate relative values for these various factors mathematical methods can be used to estimate or predict soil loss on a paiticular faim Such data are now available for some areas of the country in the humid region Soil-loss prediction methods based on these data have been developed and used in both the Coin Belt and the Northeast The conservation slide rule developed for the Corn Belt States \* has been checked by many scientists and field workers and found \* to be a valuable and effective tool for held work In the hands of a trained technician — familiai with the soils and climate of the area in which he is working and with the erosion allowance for each soil intercourse — the slide rule makes possible a rapid calculation of soil loss With this tool the field worker can readily select the combination of cropping system and conservation practices that will most economically meet the needs of

bags

### **Polyethylene-Packaged Potatoes Offer Savings, Increased Sales**

Polyethylene packaged potatoes and those in paper mesh winoffer greater economy through dow bags were shipped side bymoisture-weight retention than side from California to New York After eight or nine days paper packed counterparts, accolding to recent tests evaluated in transit, polyethylene packaged-potatoes lost four ounces by the United States Department less weight per ten-pound bag of Agriculture than those shipped in paper

In terms of the amount of po tatoes sold each year the new packaging film makes huge savings possible. In 1956 for example Americans purchased almost 17 billion pounds of potatoes at an average retail price of 57 cents per pound A saving of 04 ounces per pound, or some 425 million pounds in all could have been possible had polvethylene film packages been utilized in packaging the national potate crop

INITIATED BY Bakehte Co Division of Union Carbide Corp in co-operation with Kein Countv (Calif) Potato Growers Assn extensive field and laboratory tests revealed that white potatoes packaged in polyethylene film can be shipped throughout the country with less weight loss than those packed in paper bag

Using polyethylene growers can ship more packaged units with each harvest, not needing to adjust for the excessive loss of weight

PLASTIC PACKAGED potatoes

#### **U.S. Livestock Exports Decline**

During the first quarter of 1958 LS exports of all types of live--tock dropped sharply, according to the Foreign Agricultural Serv 1C6

The current report on the subrect says reduced meat production search Service, is in use by soil-in this country pushed livestock prices up, thus making US animals less attractive to foreign buyers



Other test findings show that

after two weeks of storage at

70 deg, F, potatoes packed in

seamless, perforated film bags

made of polyethylene were of

good quality and firm texture

Paperf packed potatoes however

were shrivelled spongy and dis

colored Moreover weight loss

was approximately twice that

of potatoes packaged in poly-

ethylene film







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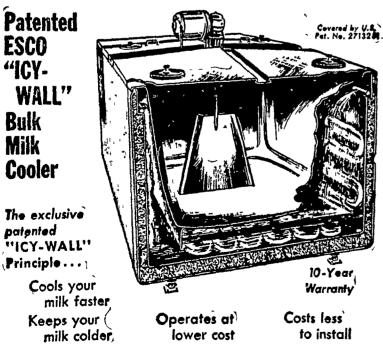
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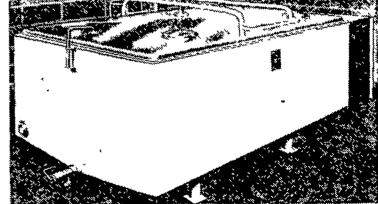


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