

## Second U.S. Observer Group Leaves For Agricultural Tour of USSR

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that its second official group named to conduct agricultural studies in the Soviet Union left for Moscow July 12.

The second group's objective will be to study temperate and subtropical Russian plant materials not grown in the United States but which could be developed here.

The team is one of six USDA groups which will go to the Soviet Union to make agricultural observations under an exchange arrangement. An equal number of Russian observer groups will come to the United States.

LIKE THE OTHER teams in the U.S.-Soviet Union exchange the second group is composed of specialists seeking information beneficial to U.S. agriculture. There has been little previous U.S.-Russian agricultural scientific and economic contact.

The crop study team, on reaching Moscow, will visit the Russian Ministries of Agriculture and

of Grain Products, the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Science Experiment Station, the Timirязev Agricultural Academy, the Agricultural Exhibition, and the Research Institute of Grain

THE GROUP WILL then go to Kiev to visit farms, the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Science and the Mironovskaya Experiment Station, and to confer with the Ministry of Agriculture officials.

Traveling by automobile plane and train, the group will visit the Corn Research Institute at Dnepropetrovsk, the Research Institute of Oilseed Crops at Krasnodar, the Institute of Grain Farming at Saratov, the Lenin Academy (Kazakh Branch) at Alma-Ata, the Siberian Research Institute of Grain Farming, and the Research Institute of Plant Protection, the Research Institute of Crops, and the Physico-Agronomic Research Institute at Leningrad. The team will visit farms near most of its stops.

The crop study group is composed of Herman A. Rodenhiser, John R. Magness, and Carl O. Erlanson, Production Research Division, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Herbert H. Kramer, Agricultural Experiment Station, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and Ivan A. Wolff, Utilization Research and Development Division, Agricultural Research Service, Peoria, Ill.

The team will be in Soviet Union about 30 days.



## Automation Invades Hog Feeding Field

Automation in the care and feeding of hogs has been made possible as a result of research by an engineer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and two cooperating scientists of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana.

They have devised facilities using both experimental and commercial equipment, operated by electronic controls, to automatically (1) maintain constant supplies of feed and water, (2) provide sanitation by periodic washing of an exercise area, and (3) dispose of waste by drainage into a septic tank.

These completely automatic housing and feeding facilities for hogs were described to members of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers at the final session of their 51st annual meeting at Santa Barbara, Calif.

H. B. PUCKETT, USDA engineer, was chiefly responsible for arrangement of the electronic devices used to operate the facilities. He was assisted in design and arrangement of the housing and feeding layout by E. L. Hansen, professor of agricultural engineering and S. W. Terrill, professor of animal science, both of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station.

The cooperative project Puckett explained to the ASAE meeting, was undertaken to determine the engineering requirements of a system that would have the advantage of raising hogs in confinement without the relatively high labor costs normally involved in such operations.

The facilities developed at Urbana represent a step toward more fully mechanized hog production, Puckett indicated. He pointed out that mechanization of field-crop production has increased by 300 per cent per man hour since 1939, while mechanization of livestock production has increased only 20 per cent.

RAISING HOGS in confinement is possible with improved sanitation and management practices, Puckett said, but these practices call for added labor, unless they can be accomplished by self-operating machines.

The new hog-raising facilities feature a feeding system that (1) automatically maintains a constant supply of feed, (2) provides given quantities of feed at specified times, or (3) can be manually controlled to supply feed as the operator desires.

Under automatic operation, a supply of feed is carried to the troughs by motor-driven augurs from hoppers of mixed feed. Delivery starts automatically as the level of feed in the troughs runs low, and it is stopped when the troughs are filled.

HOPPERS CONTAINING the mixed feed are supplied directly from a commercial feed mill, which is also automatically operated and is a part of the feed preparation system. The mill is fitted with built-in metering devices to measure the required quantity of each feed ingredient. The feed is ground and mixed before it is conveyed to the troughs by a high-pressure pneumatic system.

Storage bins hold large quantities of the feed ingredients which are conveyed to the mill by automatically controlled augurs. The bins hold reserve supplies adequate for a week or more.

Failure of the feeding system to operate automatically switches on a warning signal.

The hogs are housed and fed in a small building located at one side of a circular concrete exercise floor. Housing and feeding accommodations are purposely restricted to force hogs that are neither eating nor resting into the exercise area. This arrangement has proved to be an aid to maintenance of sanitary conditions in the housing and feeding quarters.

The exercise area is cleaned au-

## Baltimore Sales Slow, Weaker On Fat Cattle

BALTIMORE, July 15 — CATTLE AND CALVES. The supply was made up of approximately 40 per cent slaughter steer, 50 per cent cows, 8 per cent bulls and 3 or 4 loads of stockers and feeders. Slaughter heifers were very scarce. Trading was slow on fed steers, with choice to prime selling fully steady and other grades steady to 25 cents lower. Cows were very slow. Utility and commercial cows sold unevenly steady to 50 cents lower, canners and cutters opened steady but closed 50 cents lower with instances \$1.00 off mostly on light canners. Bulls were moderately active and strong to 25 cents higher. Vealers were scarce and steady to strong. Stockers and feeders nominally steady. About 3 loads of 997-1045 lb average-choice to low prime fed steers \$29.50, package prime \$30.00, bulk 900-1170 lb good to low-choice steers \$26.75-28.25. Few standard and low-good \$25.25-26.50. Few small packages 800-1000 lb standard and good slaughter heifers \$27.00-27.50. Utility and commercial cows \$18.75-21.00, few high commercial and standard \$21.50-22.00, canners and cutters \$16.00-18.75 with light-canners down to \$13.00. Utility and commercial bulls \$23.00-25.00, bulk \$24.00 and up. Individual 1930 lbs \$25.00. Good and choice 160-230 lb vealers \$25.00-30.00 with few scattered head choice at \$31.00. Load 583 lb mostly good stock \$26.00. One lot 823 lb medium and good steers \$27.00, one lot 645 lb choice feeder steers \$26.00, two small lots \$40.96-1 lb medium \$24.50-24.65. Load 264

lb mostly choice stock steer calves off at \$27.00. Three small lots 376-432 \$30.00, small lot 171 lbs good sorted lb good and choice mixed steer and heifer calves \$26.00-29.00. Two sizeable lots 603-651 lb mostly good feeder heifers \$23.75-24.00. Short load slaughter steers unsold, good clearance other classes.

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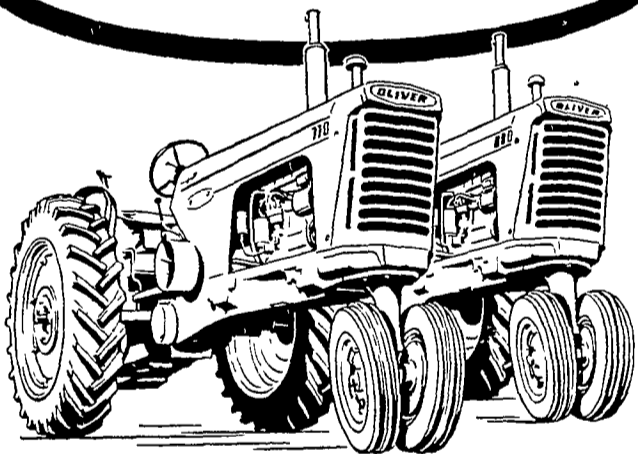
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