

What Is A Bargain

Little Work Buys A Meal

Many people don't realize that meat is becoming a bargain all the time.

This conclusion is based on new figures just released by the American Meat Institute, national trade association of the meat packing industry.

These figures translate the tags into terms of purchasing power—the amount of working time it takes to buy a given item.

The AMI points out that in 1958 the average worker (earning \$2.22 an hour) could buy only 18 minutes of meat for an average pound of beef.

This was about a minute and a half less time than it took him to earn the same

quantity of this basic food in 1958, and only about a minute and a half longer than in 1956, the all-time bargain year.

If our average man could have banked the saving in working time resulting from last year's lower purchasing power price, he would have put away almost three minutes for every lb. of pork he earned and 24 seconds for every pound of beef.

This would have amounted to a total saving of almost four hours of work time during the course of the year.

And, although he didn't find this saving in his bank book, he profited from it another way — he was able to spend the extra time working for other things.

This is actually a more realistic method of measuring value than the monetary system, which relies on the deceptively inflated dollar, AMI economists assert.

According to statistics which have been kept for more than 40 years, the all-time high cost of meat occurred in 1929, when 36 minutes of work were required to purchase one pound. The figure moved gradually downward through the 1930's, rose slightly right after World War II, then started downward again to a low of 16.6 minutes in 1956. During the next two years, the figure went up once more, then took a downward turn again in 1959.

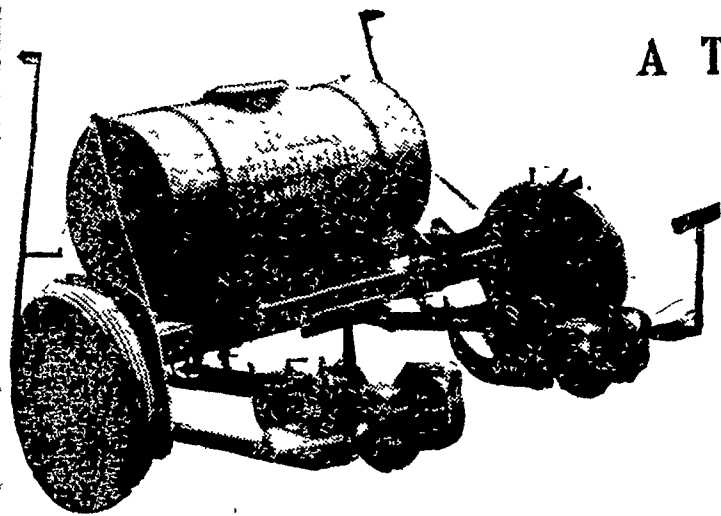
With plentiful meat supplies forecast for 1960, meat prices are expected to continue at bargain levels.

Don't let spring fever push you out into the garden while the soil is too wet to work, warns Lynn Smith, Penn State extension floriculturist. Working wet soil will puddle it and when it dries it will be hard all summer.

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Benson Defends Sprays Chemicals Mean Better Crops

"We cannot continue to produce adequate amounts of safe and wholesome foods without chemicals," said Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, in a statement issued by the U. S Department of Agriculture.

Chemicals play an important and necessary role in food production, Mr. Benson said, and the government takes the responsibility for seeing that the chemicals used are carefully controlled and that better chemicals and methods are developed. The responsibility includes pesticide and insecticide regulations, chemical tolerance levels, chemical methods, and an extensive research program. The objectives of research are to develop safe and effective chemicals and to discover

non-chemical means to insure better and safer foods.

Chemicals used in food production must be approved and tested. Then they must be used safely and carefully, he emphasized.

When proper precautions are taken, chemicals can help give us bigger and better crops.

"Abandoning their use on farms and in the food industry would result in an immediate decline in the quantity and overall quality of our food supply and cause a rapid rise in food prices paid by consumers," he said.

It is vital that the regulations and work of the federal government be understood so the public can be assured of clean, safe, and wholesome food.

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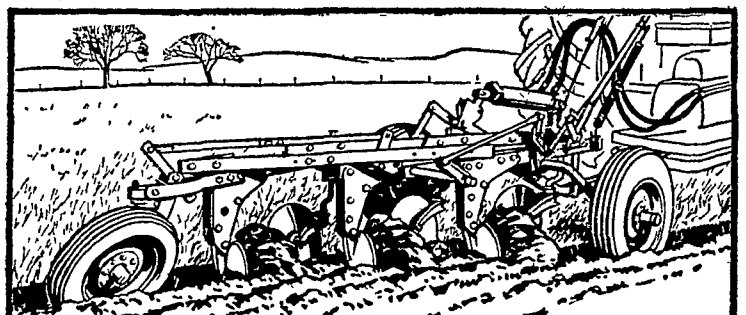
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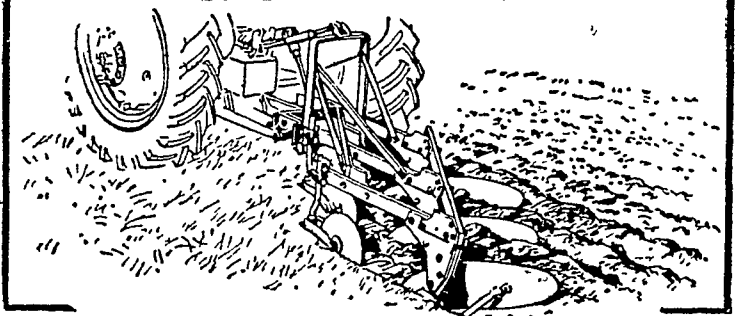
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