

Farmers Share Of Food Dollar Continues To Grow Smaller

Farmers got lower prices in 1960 for the foods they produced than they got in 1947, but consumers paid substantially more for the foods, according to a research report issued today by the U S Department of Agriculture

With the wages from an hour's work, however, a consumer could buy in 1960 a substantially larger amount of food than in 1947-49, even though food prices are higher. This is because personal incomes have risen considerably faster than food prices. For example, an hour's work in 1960 would buy 2.5 pounds of beef compared with an average of 1.9 pounds in 1947-49.

In 1960, the farmer received only 39 cents of the dollar spent by the consumer for food, the study showed. The remaining 61 cents went to pay marketing charges. The farmer's 39 cents in 1960 compares with 51 cents that

he received in 1947, the year after wartime price controls ended, and with 32 cents in the depression years of 1932 and 1933.

The farmer's share fell, the study showed, because farm prices dropped 13 percent while the spread between what he received and what the consumer paid rose by 45 percent. Reasons for the wider spread were substantial increases in marketing costs for wages, containers, fuel, freight rates, depreciation, rents, advertising, taxes, and most other cost items. Marketers' profits, as a percentage of the consumer's dollar showed no decided trend, either up or down, although the total profit was up.

The consumer's annual expenditures for food rose from \$318 per person in 1947 to \$394 in 1960. But because the consumer's disposable in-

come rose faster than the price of food, the amount he spent for food in 1960 was only 20 percent of his disposable income, compared with 27 percent in 1947.

number of sales are being made to former tenants who have become part-owners by buying "base units" and then renting additional land to make more efficient operating units.

A part of the slow-down in farm real estate activity last fall can be laid to uncertainty about the upcoming new agricultural programs. Home building also slackened, and this, too, eased demand for development land. Low returns from farm land as an investment as compared to other gilt-edge securities also caused non-farmer buyers to withdraw from the real estate market.

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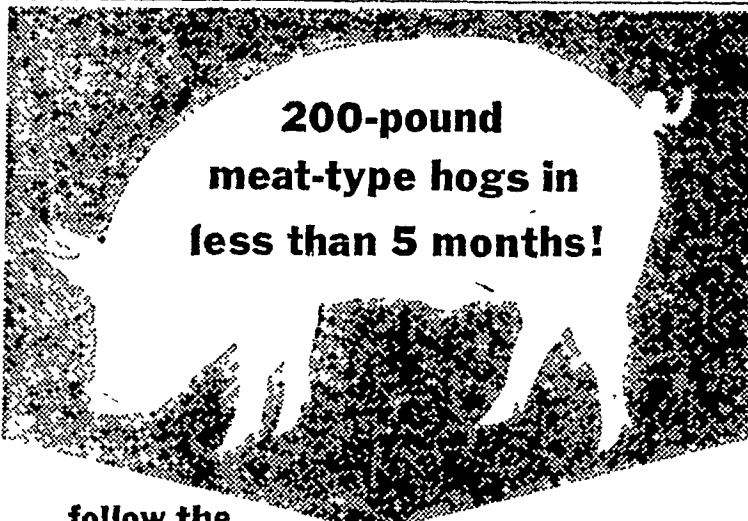
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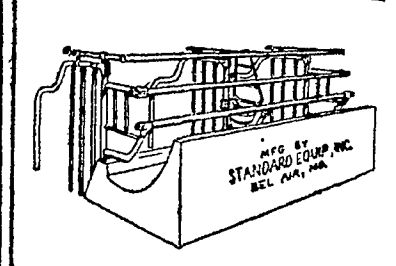
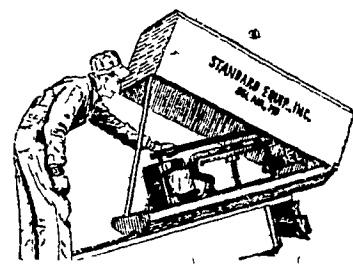
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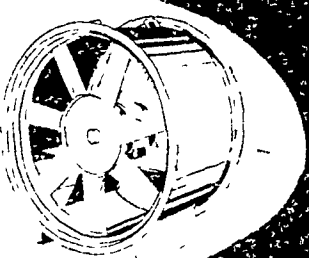
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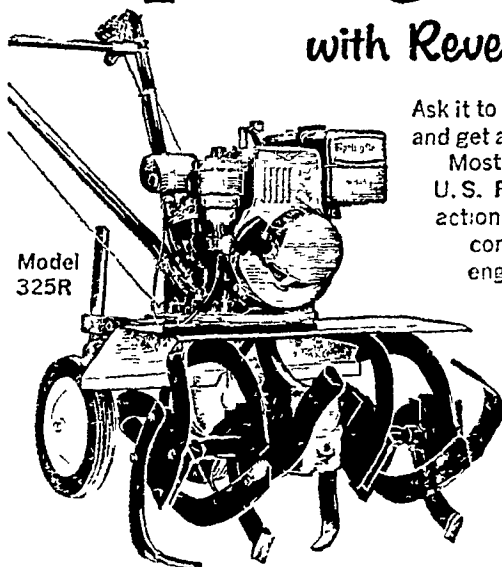
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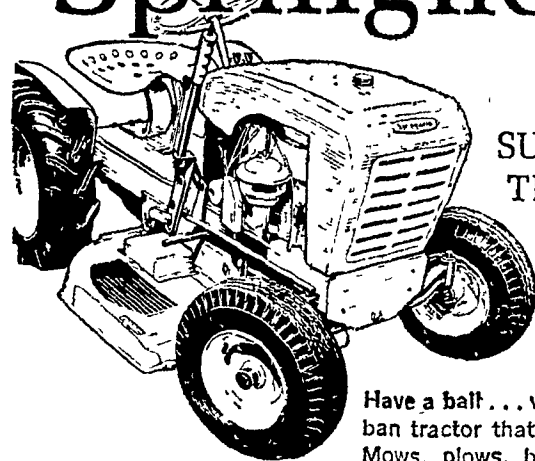
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