

**Plans Announced**

**USDA Maps Swine Bangs Plan**

A new phase of the brucellosis eradication program—an intensified effort to eradicate swine brucellosis—officially gets underway today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced.

The nationwide swine brucellosis eradication program will be carried out jointly by the States and USDA.

Three good reasons for the program were cited by Dr. C. K. Mingle, who heads brucellosis eradication work for USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "First of all" he pointed out, "swine brucellosis costs the swine industry about \$10 million a year. Second this disease presents a threat of cross-infection to cattle. Third—and highly important—it is a serious hazard to human health."

In the past, Dr. Mingle explained, most cases of human brucellosis, or undulant fever, were contracted from cattle infected with the bovine form of brucellosis. "But now" he said, "the main source of human infection is diseased hogs." Last year, for instance, 65 per cent of all the reported cases of human brucellosis were thought to be of swine origin—compared to 40 per cent only three years ago." (In 1959—the last year for which complete figures were available—there were 892 cases of human brucellosis.)

"This points up the progress being made in eradicating brucellosis in cattle," he continued, "but it also indicates the need for doing something more about brucellosis in swine."

The first stage of this intensified swine brucellosis program is based on the "validation" of individual swine herds as brucellosis-free. Validation is achieved by following procedures recommended by the U. S. Livestock Sanitary Association and approved by USDA and cooperating States. The herds are validated for one year after all adult animals pass two consecutive negative blood tests. When a herd qualifies, the owner is supplied with an appropriate sign bearing the symbol of validation—identifying his herd as a source of brucellosis-free hogs.

Dr. Mingle pointed out that such a herd will be known as a "Validated Brucellosis-Free Herd." This new term replaces the designation "Certified Brucellosis Free Swine Herd," which has been used in various State swine brucellosis pro-

grams. "Reason for the change," Dr. Mingle explained, "is that hog producers generally associate the term 'certified' with certification achieved in production testing programs of purebred swine associations—'Certified Litter' and 'Certified Meat Sire' for instance. The word 'validated' is being used in the swine brucellosis program to avoid confusion.

Eventual eradication of the disease in all swine herds is the goal of the new program, Dr. Mingle said.

**FHA Program Is Broadened**

Farmers are borrowing and using more dollars today so that the families of the nation may be assured of an adequate food supply in the years ahead, Richard W. Hoover, Farmers Home Administration County Supervisor said today.

"Food is a bargain today. Only twenty percent of the consumer's income goes for food. Most of the people in other countries spend half of their income for food. However, to maintain the efficient production that makes food such a bargain the farmer needs to pour increasing a-

mounts of capital into his operations," he said.

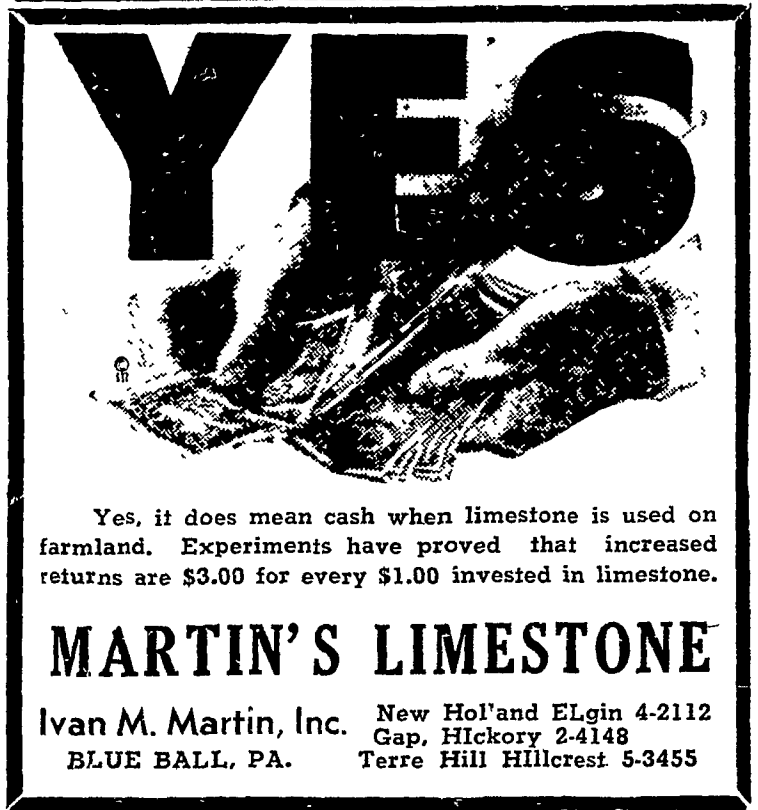
The average investment per farm has climbed from \$6,000 to \$42,000 since 1940 a seven-fold increase, Hoover pointed out. Farmers are using the funds to acquire the machinery, fertilizer, land and other essentials for efficient farm operations.

Recent legislation passed by Congress has raised the maximum amount that a farmer can borrow from the Farmers Home Administration from \$20,000 to \$35,000. "The increase in loan limits reflects the growth need for agricultural capital," Hoover said. "The technological revolution in agriculture has greatly increased the amount of capital farmers have to invest in their opera-

tions. Many young farmers who are just getting started and established farmers who need to make major adjustments in their operations will benefit. Urban families will benefit, too, for every dollar wisely invested in our farms strengthens our ability to produce the food that is so essential to our survival."

The Farmers Home Administration makes loans only to farmers who are unable to obtain needed credit from other lenders at the time they apply for the loan. As soon as borrowers progress to a point where they are able to obtain credit from conventional sources, they graduate to those sources.

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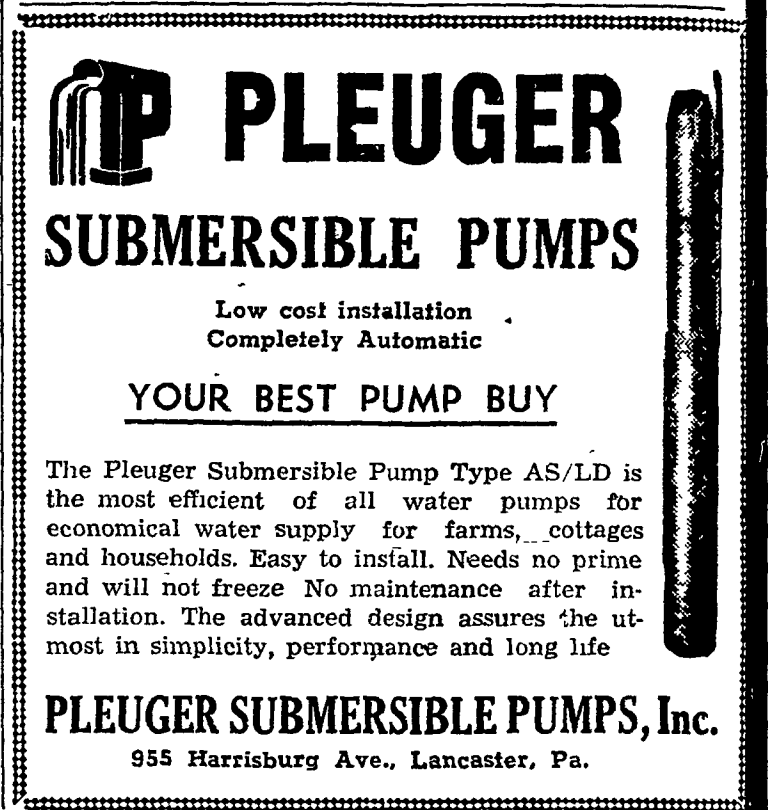


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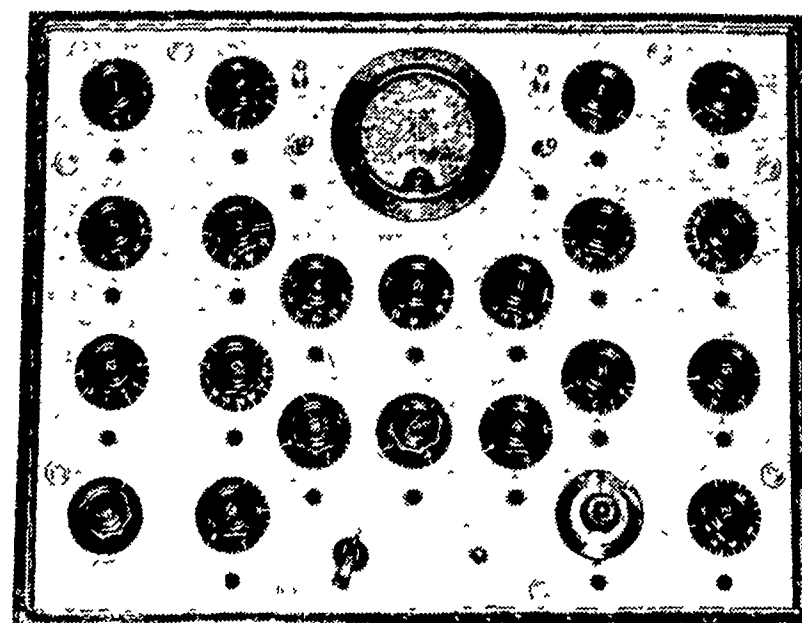
Farm Income Tax and Social Security is the title of a two-day course scheduled for December 11 and 12, 1961, at The Pennsylvania State University.

The course will include a discussion involving the application of the Federal Income Tax law to farmers as well as the latest information concerning Social Security for farmers. Staff members of the University and representatives of the Internal Revenue Service will present the material.

The course is designed primarily for people who assist farmers with their income tax returns. Accountants, bankers, lawyers, justices of the peace, farmers and anyone else interested is welcome to attend.

Further information and application blanks can be obtained by writing the Director of Short Courses, College of Agriculture, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.

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