

## Feeding Soilage To Lambs May Be Profitable

Feeding soilage or freshly-cut green forage to lambs may be economically sound in humid areas where internal parasites of sheep are a major problem, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. In tests conducted by US-

DA's Agricultural Research Service, lambs fed soilage made about the same average daily gain as did lambs on clean pasture, and they gained more than those on contaminated pasture.

This research finding could be important to farmers in areas where high-cost land makes frequent pasture rotation impractical. Since many of these areas, a com-

bined dairy-lamb feeding operation might be economically sound.

The soilage feeding experiment is part of long-term USDA research designed to evaluate various management practices for controlling internal parasites in lambs.

At USDA's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., animal husbandman Ivan L. Lindal and co-workers divided 437 lambs and their dams into four treatment groups when the lambs averaged about 60 days of age. Four days before going on the experimental treatments, all ewes were given a therapeutic dose of phenothiazine.

Lambs in group I were kept in a barn or drylot at all times and were fed soilage free choice plus a limited amount of pellets. Ewes were kept in drylot at night and allowed to graze during the day.

Ewes and lambs in group II were turned out on pasture in April and at intervals not exceeding 14 days were moved to new pasture that had not been grazed previously during the year.

Ewes and lambs in groups III and IV were also turned on pasture, but they were given free choice among pastures. Choice of pasture was influenced by availability of forage, and the two groups grazed their respective pastures at frequent intervals. Ewes in group III were treated with NF phenothiazine and ewes in group IV with purified phenothiazine—the only difference in management.

Lambs fed soilage gained 0.51 pound per day, lambs on clean pasture gained 0.53 pound, while lambs on parasite-contaminated pasture gained only 0.42 pound.

Soilage for group I was cut daily and average consumption of soilage per day was measured on a green and dry matter basis. During the test, average daily consumption per lamb increased from 3 pounds (0.65 pound dry matter) in late April to about 8 pounds (1.25 pounds dry matter) in late June, when the lambs were weaned.

farmers, was 216 per cent of the 1910-14 base (100). This compares with 214 a month earlier and 212 a year ago.

The index of prices received by U.S. farmers declined 1 per cent during the month ended June 15 to 232 per cent of its 1910-14 average. Lower prices for wheat, associated with changes in the support program, contributed most to the decline. Offsetting in part were price increases for potatoes and hogs. The index was 4 per cent below June, 1963, and the lowest for the month since 1946.

### Wade Groff

(Continued from Page 1) of controlling cash cost in equipment," said Fred A. Hughes. "Farm Adjustments for Profit" was his concluding topic of the afternoon. He stated that the use of the custom operator on the smaller farm is cheaper than owning your own machinery even if the man doesn't get there the day you want him.

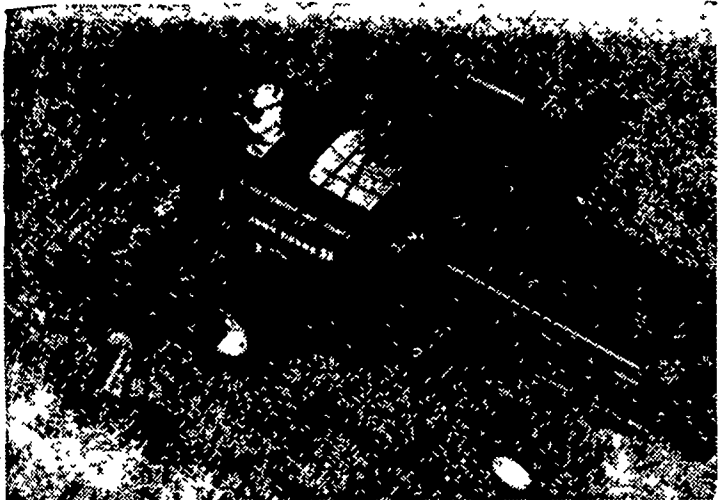
### Pa. Farm Prices

(Continued from Page 1) \$4.25 per hundredweight the same as last month and 13 cents higher than last year. The index of prices received, a measure of the trend and changes of prices received by

Mi and Mis Groff came to this farm in the spring of 1952 as tenant farmers, they became owners of the farm in 1963. The farm consists of 100 acres of land and the dairy herd is their major source of income.

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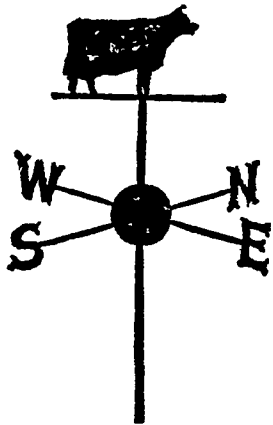
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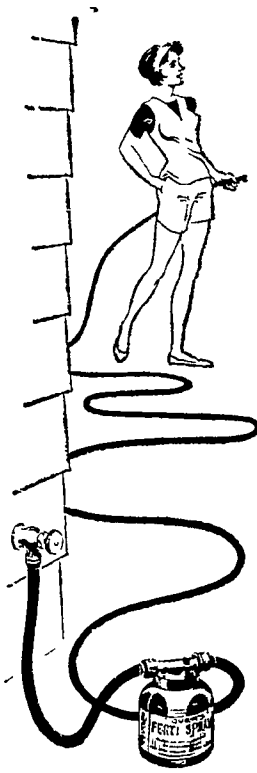
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