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Agriculture In Libya

By E. I. Robertson, Ph. D.

(Ed. Note: Dr. Robertson, Director of Nutrition, John W. Eshelman & Sons, recently returned from a 3-month assignment in Libya with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The purpose of the appointment was "to advise the government of Libya on formulating animal feeds and on nutritional problems in the operation of a feed mixing plant." Lancaster Farming asked Dr. Robertson to share the following observations with our readers.)

Libya whose northern border is the Mediterranean Sea extends deep into Africa's Sahara Desert. It is about three times the size of Texas, approximately the same area as all of the United States east of the Mississippi River with a population of about 15 million people. The nationals are Arabs and Arabic is the official language. Priests call the Moslems to prayer five times daily with a loud speaker from the steeple of Mosques. Their Book is the Quran and a frequently used term is "It is written." The nation is a kingdom under King Idris and operates through ministries under a council of ministers headed by a Prime Minister.

Gaining independence in 1951 under a United Nations charter, it was a poor nation until development of its oil resources in 1959. The oil boom in Libya has been described as the fastest in oil industry history as no other area has reached a million barrels a day production with-

in three years of its first shipment.

Profits from the oil industry, estimated at 250 million dollars in 1964, are used by the government for education and other programs to benefit all the people. In 1951 there were only 16 high school graduates, but 10 years later 279 Libyans were studying in colleges abroad and 218 thousand children were en-

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Small Game Season Reopens Dec. 26

Pennsylvania small game hunters will have another chance to test their skills as the 1964 extended small game season on grouse, rabbits and squirrels re-opens Saturday, December 26, and closes January 2. This will be the seventh consecutive year that Pennsylvania has offered a late small game season. Daily shooting hours will be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day except Sunday, December 27 when no hunting is permitted.

Daily bag limits, the same as during the regular season, are four rabbits, six squirrels and two grouse. Hunters are reminded, however, that they may not exceed season bag limits of 20 rabbits, 30 squirrels and 10 grouse and must include any of these species killed during the regular small game season in November.

Also included in the extended small game season is the legal hunting of snowshoe hares statewide. Bag limits on snowshoe hares have been set at two per day, six for the season.

Federal Crop Ins. Reaches Record Of \$550 Million

The USDA announced at their year-end roundup of Federal Crop Insurance activities that nearly \$550 million in farm crop production investments were protected in 1964. This is the highest figure in the 26-year history of Federal Crop Insurance.

"With credit becoming increasingly important to farmers as the agricultural revolution increases its pace, the use of Federal Crop Insurance (FCI) policies as loan collateral is becoming an important management tool for farm operators," says Manager John N. Luft.

"The combination of credit value and investment protection offered by FCI is a major factor in the growth and public acceptance of this service to agriculture," Luft said.

In 1964, Federal Crop Insurance protected farmers in 1,187 counties in 36 states. Six of these counties, including Lancaster, were in Pennsylvania.

Ed Gamber, District Director of the FCI office in York, told Lancaster Farming that possibly 1,000 crops are currently insured in Lancaster County. About three-quarters of these are tobacco. He said that on tobacco insurance farmers in Lancaster County have one of the lowest premium rates of any county in the East.

Gamber felt that the loss ratio for corn was fairly high, and for that reason more farmers should consider insurance for that crop.

Elias Frey, Rawlinsville,

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Recreation Boom May Be Answer To Lower Income On Some Farms In County

Population in the United States is expected to reach 350 million by the year 2000. That is almost double today's population, and it is the most important factor shaping the demand for increased recreational provisions in the U.S. Early in this century two and one-half cents of every consumer dollar went for recreation, now the figure is five and one-half cents.

Another factor effecting this demand is higher family income. Studies show that families in the \$7,500-\$10,000-income range have the highest participation in outdoor recreational activities. With more people moving into that financial bracket there will be more time and money available for outdoor recreation.

Leisure time is definitely on the increase, and with constantly improving means of transportation distance is a shrinking problem. But outdoor recreation does not have the field all to itself, it has competition from such spare time activities as music, television, spectator sports, or such backyard projects as gardening and lawn work.

In 1962 Congress passed the Food and Agriculture Act. Secretary Freeman said this Act "was especially signifi-

cant, for it enabled us to apply multiple-purpose conservation principles to private lands, through state and local agencies." It enabled the USDA to provide technical assistance, cost-sharing, and credit to individuals, organizations and groups in developing recreational facilities to meet the increasing needs of an expanding population, and to divert unneeded agricultural land to other uses.

One federal agency immediately involved in assisting with the recreation business

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Tax and Social Sec. Meet Tues.

On Tuesday, December 29, a meeting for state and regional income tax and social security training will be held at the Avalong Diner, east of York.

The purpose of the meeting will be to acquaint farmers, and those filing for farmers, of any changes in tax or social security regulations that would effect them.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting is asked to contact Victor Plastow, Associate County Agent, not later

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Brubaker And Skromme Named To Co-Chair Farm & Home Campaign

An agricultural leader and an industrial executive have been named Co-Chairmen of the Farm and Home Foundation Campaign, Willis Z. Esbenschade, President of the Foundation's Board of Directors, announced today.

Levi H. Brubaker, of Rohrerstown, and L. H. Skromme, Lancaster, will head the drive which has a \$375,000 goal for the construction of a Farm and Home Center and the establishment of a Scholarship Fund to aid students majoring in agricultural studies. The project, first undertaken several years ago, was delayed until a favorable ruling was obtained from Internal Revenue that gifts to the Foundation will be tax-deductible.

contain a conference room and a large multi-purpose room fitted with banquet tables for about 500 persons.

In addition to the two general Chairmen of the drive, announced by Esbenschade, Area and District Chairmen have been named to lead in organizing the Farm Gifts Division of the appeal. Named to head major areas are: Northeast: C. Warren Leininger, Denver, R.D.; and Willis Esbenschade, Lancaster; Northwest: Noah W. Kreider, Manheim RD., and Phares S. Risser, Elizabethtown; Southwest: Amos Funk, Millersville; Jay Garber, Lancaster RD.; and Robert Bushong, Columbia RD.; Southeast: John H. Herr, Lancaster RD.

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Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the five-day period Thursday through Monday are expected to average near normal, turning colder over the weekend. Normal high for the period is 39 degrees and the low is 24.

Precipitation will occur as rain and drizzle, accompanied by fog, on Friday, Saturday, and possibly again on Monday.



CAMELS, "SHIPS OF THE DESERT", FULFILL MANY PURPOSES IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID AREAS. They serve as producers of milk and meat and for transport. The camel, "Gemel" in Arabic, can go for long periods without water. Its hump is used to store fat, not water. The ability to conserve water is due to its blood plasma. About one-third of all the meat produced in Libya in 1961 was camel meat.