

Specialists Seek An Agricultural Solution For Viet Nam Problems

by Harold Joiner

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was written for members of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America by its president, Harold Joiner of the Atlanta Journal, who accompanied Secretary Freeman on this Viet Nam visit).

SAIGON, February 15 — A team of American agricultural specialists concluded here this week that agricultural improvements can drastically assist the overall military conflict in this country.

The top-level teams have visited all parts of the South Vietnamese countryside to get grass-roots level information on the current programs, and to see what recommendations can be made to further assist the economy that is nearly 85 percent agricultural.

Specific recommendations will be made to President Johnson upon the arrival back in Washington of the team which is led by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman.

Pressing needs include additional lumber facilities. One of the team members Robert Dwyer of Portland Ore, a private lumberman has elected to remain in Vietnam for another few days to finalize plans for introduction of a lumber complex.

Credit systems apparently will be a major area in which the American team will dwell in its final report. Several of the team members expressed concern over both lack of adequate credit and high rates of interest.

The team was unanimous however in expressing pleasure at the progress of the Vietnamese people in recent years. Much of this progress has come through technical assistance provided through U.S. programs.

Freeman said he found more agricultural development than he had expected, and said this would provide a base on which still further improvement could be made.

He and the team members emphasized however that such a program would not show dramatic, overnight results. Rather they will be designed to alleviate immediate problems and will also aim at a long-range economic improvement.

Dr. Charles B. Ratchford of the University of Missouri said he found farmers in all areas aware of the need for improved seed, fertilizer, pesticides and other modern farming tools.

"They are aware of these tools and are ready to go with them," he said upon completion of his 3-day visit to the provinces.

Robert Nathan, a nationally-known Washington econo-

mist, said, "We must not overpromise, but we will initiate programs to help our friends in Vietnam."

The Secretary of Agriculture met with Vietnamese and American leaders here prior to his departure for a report to President Johnson. Continued refinement of the program will be made even after final drafting, Freeman said.

Dr. Ratchford said the 4-T program, comparable to the American 4-H Club, is perhaps the most encouraging of the things he saw while here.

"It is democracy in action," he told other members of the team.

No Profits In Dead Pigs, Specialist Says

The value of a pig to a farmer has seldom been higher than it is now. In view of present high prices, every pig farrowed and saved represents increased profit, says Melvin Bradley, extension livestock specialist from Missouri.

Bradley suggests several factors to consider to produce good healthy litters.

He points out that litter size is influenced at time of mating by age and health of parents. On an average, litters from sows are larger than from gilts. Sows pass on to their pigs more immunity to disease than do gilts. Some swine breeds naturally produce larger litters than others and work well in a crossbreeding program.

Sows and gilts should be

prevented from getting too fat during gestation. Research indicates hand feeding in stalls is a good way to regulate condition of sows and gilts, especially if they run together.

Although elaborate central farrowing houses are not necessary to save pigs, supplemental heat is considered necessary by most producers. Safety from fire should be a major factor in selecting, installing, and operating heating equipment.

Farrowing quarters should be cleaned and disinfected before sows are brought in. The hard labor needed to do this job will pay dividends.

Two principles are noted with respect to farrowing quarters:

● Few producers are successful with continuous farrowing in them. If quarters are cleaned and allowed to

remain empty a minimum of two to three weeks between.

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County Crops & Soils Day Set For Feb. 25

The 6th annual Lancaster County Crops & Soils Day will be held next Friday, February 25, at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion.

According to Arnold G. Lueck, associate county agent, the program will emphasize current trends and thinking on forage crops and fertilizers, with considerable time spent on the latter.

"It will be a well-rounded program which promises to be of interest to all farmers," Lueck said.

Four Penn State Extension men will be on the program; three agronomists and one entomologist.

Lunch will be available.

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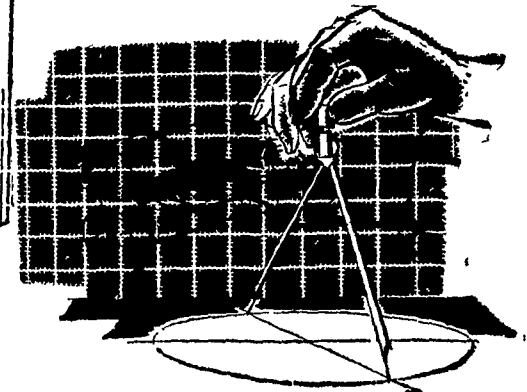
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● 4-H Play

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Lilli Ann Wivell, Nancy Riser and Kathleen Ney These youngsters have worked hard and enthusiastically in preparing this year's effort and they report it is a play that the whole family will enjoy.

The money derived from ticket sales for the 4-H play provides the funds that the County Council uses to sponsor such events as the Leaders Banquet 4-H Field Day and other county-wide activities.

Tickets may be obtained from any cast member, or at the door on the nights of the play. Price to adults is \$1.00, children, 50 cents.