

## Modern Farmer Needs The Tools Of Big Business, Dean Tells Bankers

Dr. Russell E. Larson, dean of the College of Agriculture at Penn State University, told an agricultural credit conference at the University last week that the farmer today needs all the tools of big business — a sophisticated records keeping system, modern farm management techniques, and an understanding of the proper use of capital and credit.

The business of agriculture in Pennsylvania, the Dean said, accounts for some 30 percent of all manufacturing plants, 19 percent of the total industrial production, 32 percent of the total dollar volume of wholesalers, and 35 percent of total retail sales.

Looking to the future, Larson predicted "an increasing volume of agricultural products will be produced by fewer people and by fewer but larger business units with more personnel to service them."

## NFU President Calls '67 Wheat Plan Inadequate

National Farmers Union President Tony T. Dechant said recently that the provisions of the 1967 wheat program announced Thursday by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman "do not live up to the price and income objectives and expectations" of his organization.

The national farm leader said that farmers should not be expected to produce wheat for export and food for peace use at the \$1.25 level established for 1967. He called upon the Administration to use its authority under the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 to establish 25c-per-bushel export certificates.

He indicated that if the Administration did not act to boost export prices his organization may press for an amendment to the 1965 four-year farm law making certificates mandatory.

Dechant noted that the blend price farmers receive for all of their wheat production would drop from \$1.84 to \$1.79 under the 1967 program because of a decrease in the proportion of their output used domestically. Food wheat consumed in the U.S. is supported at full parity. "The costs of production will not go down — they can be expected to rise again. But the program announced yesterday requires the farmer to take a 5c-per-bushel beating in his total return," he said.

Dechant pointed out that the wheat carryover on July 1, 1967, is expected to be down to around 350 million bushels, less than one-fourth of a year's requirements, even with the 15 percent increase in allotments recently announced. He said this is far below the 620 million bushel level recommended as a minimum strategic reserve.

Contrary to the views of some advisors to the Secretary of Agriculture, I am convinced that additional income must be provided if farmers are to increase production commensurate with spiraling needs at home and abroad. The development of severe wheat shortages similar to what is occurring today in the dairy industry, is not a remote possibility. It is very nearly upon us," he declared.

He said that the world population explosion poses a great challenge for agriculture, noting published reports that our nation will have to discard agricultural restraints and "gear up" to feed the increasing number of people.

Larson also told the 75 bankers attending the meeting of the trend toward automation on the farm due to the scarcity and expense of labor, the growth of specialization in farming and the concentration of market power into fewer organizations.

"A strong agriculture is the

## Sloping Wire Floors Control Egg Problems PSU Experiment Shows

Sloping wire floors in poultry houses, combined with roll-away nests, can control the problems of eggs laid on poultry house floors, stated Dr. Glenn O. Bressler of the poultry science department at Penn State University during a sales and service short course held recently at University Park.

Bressler said the floor egg problem was brought under control last year at Penn State, the first year of experiments with the sloping wire floor. Eggs laid on the floor

on a basis of a strong economy," Larson stated.

roll to the center aisle where they are gathered along with nest eggs, he explained.

In both solar and windowless houses at Penn State's poultry farm, involving over 6,000 Leghorn layers, pullet production averaged better than 250 eggs per layer in 12 months of lay, starting with pullets 22 weeks old. Capital investment, it was pointed out, runs less than \$3.00 per layer for house and equipment in the sloping wire floor system of egg production.

Mortality in the windowless house was less than 5 percent and in the solar house about 10 percent, the difference being due to cannibalism in the solar house. Feed conversion for all flocks kept on wire floors was 41 pounds of

feed per dozen eggs. This performance, Bressler pointed out, was achieved with pullets housed at two-thirds of a square foot per layer. Pullets housed on litter at eight-tenths square foot per layer did not do as well, he added.

In addition to controlling the floor egg problem, the sloping wire floor system has advantages of simplicity, speed, and ease of egg gathering from egg trays in the center aisle. Rate of egg breakage is low and the eggs are clean. Another advantage is the rapid drying of droppings in well insulated houses using a pressurized ventilation system. This makes manure handling easier and reduces the quantity to be removed, Bressler concluded.



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