

Winding-Up Potato Harvest In Lancaster County



BRINGIN' IN THE SPUDS — Potato harvest is running a little late this year on the Noah W. Kreider & Sons farm in the Manheim area, because of the frequent rains this month. But with about 200 acres already harvested, the end is in sight with the large capacity of the mechanical harvesting equipment like the one shown above. Using a crew of four on the

harvester to separate stones and dirt from the potatoes as they are picked up, each harvester can cover four to eight acres a day, depending on digging conditions. Potatoes are augered into a bulk potato body which is towed alongside until it is filled. According to Noah Kreider, Jr., most of the crop this year is being shipped in bulk truckloads to processors. L. F. Photo

● More Hog Research

(Continued from Page 13) field back by the lack of scientific research necessary to control the disease risk in large producing units.

Pointing out that the number of Corn Belt farmers producing hogs had dropped by 33 percent from 1959 to 1964, DeGraff said that efforts of farmers remaining in hog production to increase the number of hogs raised per farm, have been hampered by hog diseases.

"Hog disease problems are nothing new," he said. "They have merely come into new and sharper focus: first, because they exact a heavier tribute relative to the value of the hog crop than is now experienced with any other livestock; and second, because the advantages in more economical production that could come from larger, specialized hog-producing units are diminished or blocked by the ever present threat of disastrous disease outbreaks."

DeGraff cited the poultry industry as one which has used scientific knowledge to vastly improve production efficiency.

He said that improved efficiency in hog production lies precisely in the areas where the poultry business has made its great gains: improved disease control, improved genetic quality, and sharply improved feed-conversion efficiency.

"The hog has long been known as the 'mortgage lifter' throughout the Central states," DeGraff said. "But he is losing out as a market for feed,

as a source of profitable employment for farm families, and as a source of succulent and nutritious food for consumers.

"The hog business is losing out because its problems have been relatively neglected in the allocation of research funds and research talent both our state and federal research stations."

DeGraff called the remarkable rise in consumer demand for beef — from about 55 pounds per capita twenty years ago to 100 pounds per capita this year — "One of the truly

great romances of our food supply." He said that it is remarkable that the beef producing industry has kept pace with the greatly increased consumer demand.

The development of hybrid seed stocks, expanded use of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and high-speed power equipment have created a shift away from livestock production to grain farming, he said. He urged greater efforts by agricultural scientists to make available for animal agriculture similar risk-reducing developments.

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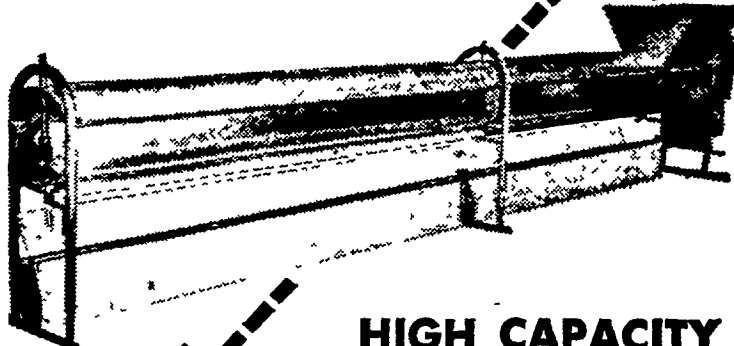
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