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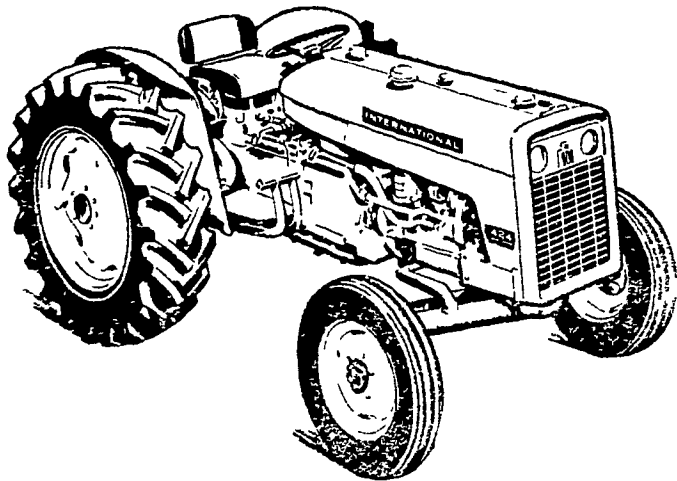
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Agr. Economist Sees Changes In Competition For Farm Labor

To compete in the labor market, farmers find they must increase pay rates, shorten hours, and improve working conditions. Agricultural economist James S. Holt of Penn State University described the Pennsylvania farm labor situation in a recent issue of "Farm Economics," published by the Cooperative Extension Service at Penn State.

In some cases, said Holt, farmers adopt these policies to maintain their present labor force. In other cases, such actions may enable farmers to attract better workers whose increased productivity will help to offset some of the increased labor cost. Other attractions may include improved supervision and fringe benefits such as life insurance or hospitalization.

The Penn State economist sounded a note of caution. Unless increased labor productivity can offset the increased cost of attracting and holding qualified workers, farm earnings will decrease, he points out.

There is also the consumer's side to increased farm labor costs, he stated. Higher farm labor costs can mean somewhat higher food prices.

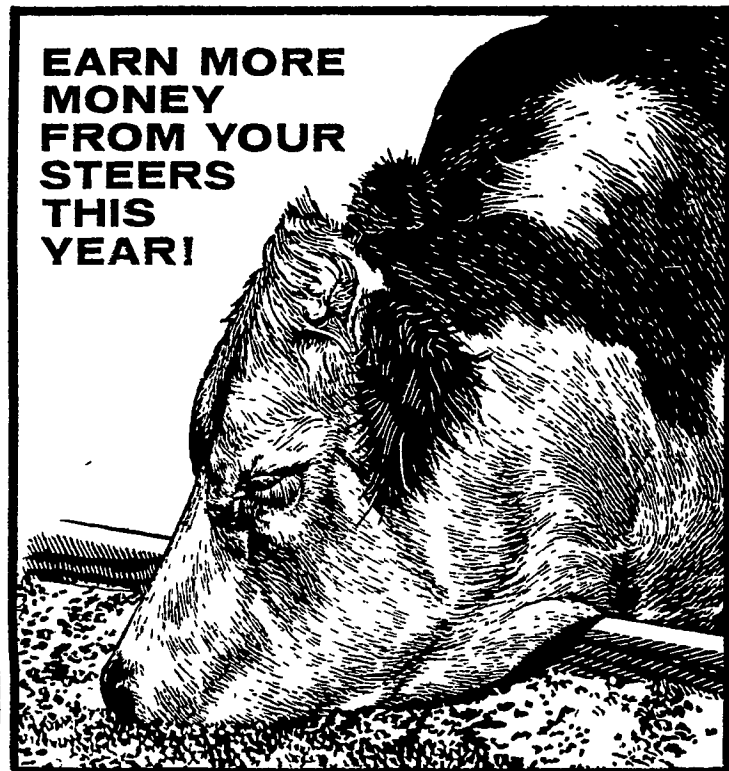
Holt listed governmental or group action as an alternative solution to the farm labor problem. He indicated labor legislation has tended to exclude agriculture in the past.

"We have no real proof that the farm employer's competitive position is strengthened by excluding farm labor from wage and hour legislation, unemployment compensation, and workmen's compensation, and

Nitrate Poisoning

(Continued from Page 13)
lack of moisture or cutting. Although all plants contain nitrates, nitrate buildup is dangerous only in roughage. Nitrogen poisoning exists in varying degrees. Poor weight gains, lowered milk production, abortions and, in some cases, death are symptoms. If silage is suspected of having high nitrate levels, it can be fed sparingly with corn or roughages, and it should be fed to animals that normally eat large amounts of corn. Animals consuming high levels of carbohydrates are less susceptible to nitrate toxicity. If symptoms of nitrate poisoning appear in a herd, a veterinarian should be contacted immediately.

collective bargaining," he said. "These programs provide protection and security that workers find highly attractive," he commented.



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