

PSU Agronomist Will Retire June 30

Elmer C Pifer, associate professor of agronomy Extension, who has served on The Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Service staff the past 22 years, will retire June 30.

A native of Punxsutawney, Pifer received his bachelor of science degree in 1929, majoring in agronomy, and master of science degree in agricultural education in 1933, both from Penn State.

Prior to being named to the Extension Service staff in 1947, the agronomist taught school in Jefferson County and was employed as a soil conservationist for the U S Soil Conservation Service in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

A specialist in the cultural management of small grains and potatoes, Pifer provided leadership in establishing extensive small grain demonstration plots to promote farmer use of newly recommended varieties. He also assisted in initiating contour strip cropping practices on hundreds of Pennsylvania farms.

Pifer promoted and conducted summer small grain field days and annual seed conferences to supply current information on small grains to seed growers and dealers. He assisted with annual training sessions with seed inspectors of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Plant Industry.

Working with state potato growers, he established potato seed piece spacing demonstrations which determined current seed spacing recommendations



Elmer C. Pifer

Pifer also introduced potato fertilizer demonstrations to show growers the value and effect of proper fertilization on yield and quality.

In 1951, the agronomist set up a soil testing program for potato growers in the Commonwealth. Currently, about 1,000 potato soil samples are tested annually for lime and fertilizer recommendations at the Penn State Soil Testing Laboratory.

Maintaining a close working relationship with the state potato growers organization, Pifer served as a program speaker at their annual statewide meetings. He also supplied cultural recommendations to 4-H Chip Potato Club members during the past 12 years.

He is author of numerous publications and articles on potato and small grain management

Pifer is a member of the Kiwanis Club, American Society of Agronomy, Potato Association of America, Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association, Pennsylvania Plant Food Educational Society, Epsilon Sigma Phi, national honorary Extension fraternity, and a life member of Penn State Alumni Association.

Her served as chairman of the Potato Extension Programs Committee of the Potato Association of America. In 1968 he was an educational member of the Pennsylvania Potato Producers, Processors, and Distributors Goodwill People-to-People Mission to Western and Eastern Europe.

Pifer is married to the former Nancy P. Postlethwaite of Brookville. They are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Patricia Jean Niess of Lincoln, Ill., a 1956 Penn State graduate, and a son, James R., of Olympia, Wash., a 1961 Penn State graduate.

The Mexican jumping bean is really the seed of a swamp tree named Euphorbiaceous.

New-Fangled Cow Barn Has No Windows

You've heard of "high-rise" poodles and catered-to cats whose owners never let them nearer the wicked outside world than their favorite window sill.

Now cows are getting the same pampered route.

Yes, cows. It's all due to a new trend in dairying called "total confinement housing."

What it means is summed up succinctly by Wisconsin dairy farmer, Leo TePoel: "My cows haven't been outside in the past year." Not only that, his dairy barn doesn't even have windows. But don't worry about the cows.

Breezes for the herd are supplied by 20-inch exhaust fans. In good weather, they pull in fresh air—when it gets chilly, tempered air. When was Nature so thoughtful to Bossy?

Inside their atmosphere-controlled world, the sun always shines for farmer TePoel's herd

—at least the fluorescent lights burn 24 hours a day. The cows enjoy a scientifically figured three squares a day and enjoy their lack of problems with flies. Some have required manicures, though, because long hooves build up under their "soft" living conditions.

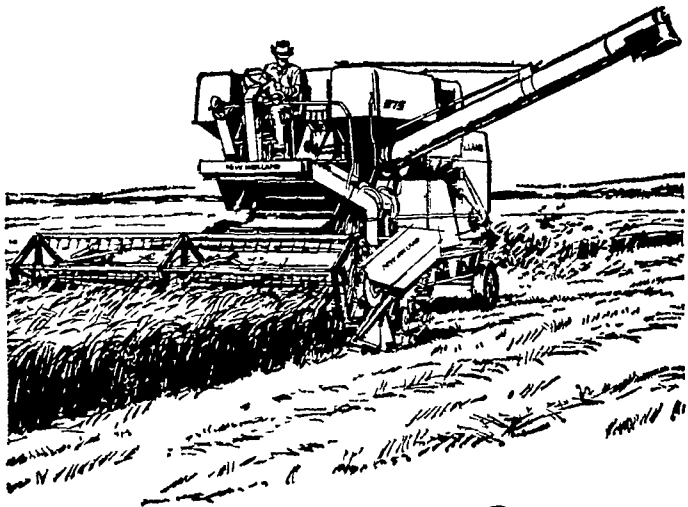
According to the dairyman, the cows aren't the only ones who thrive on this new kind of care. It's a labor-saver for him and he expects even milk production year 'round to help offset the cost of his veritable "cow palace."

SUPER SHOES

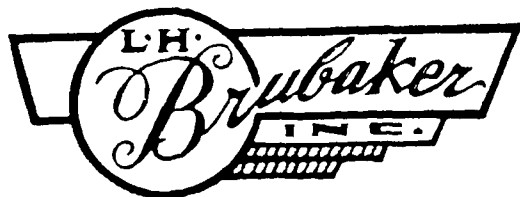
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