

World Beef Trade Grows in '60s

For the world's beef industry the past decade has been a period of strong demand unevenly rising production, a general increase in market prices, and unprecedented growth in trade.

For the future, there are some question marks, but demand remains strong and further market growth is in prospect, according to the USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service.

In the first few years of the 1960's beef production in the major importing and exporting countries increased at the rate of about five per cent a year, keeping pace with the growing demand.

By the mid 60's, a decline in production in the major exporting countries held beef supplies relatively constant for a time.

In the late 60's production again picked up and has increased at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent since then.

Meanwhile, demand for beef has continued to climb, resulting in tight supplies and a general increase in market prices throughout most of the world's major commercial markets.

World trade in beef—in spite of major deterrents—almost doubled during the 1960's and closed in calendar year 1969 at a record level of almost six billion pounds. Highlighting the picture were these facts:

Traditional exporters—Argentina, Australia, New Zealand—boosted their sales sharply, other countries, chiefly in Central America, became significant exporters.

The United States, already the largest producer and consumer of beef in the world, became the largest importer as well, leaving the United Kingdom in second position followed by the European Community.

Japan, a small importer in 1960 turned into a major beef customer, along with such countries as Spain, Canada, Switzerland, Greece, and Sweden.

How long and at what rate this growth trend will continue is a matter for conjecture. The important fact is that meat remains in strong demand both in the older markets of the world and in many of the newer ones, as well.

In most countries, as in the United States, beef is a highly preferred food which people want to enjoy as often as they can.

Only a few countries—the United States, Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—may be said to have truly sophisticated beef production industries. These also are the countries of high per capita consumption.

In most of the rest of the world beef is largely a byproduct of the dairy industry. This means that local supplies are usually quite limited.

Moreover, even those nations that are making a deliberate at-

tempt to increase beef production, such as Japan and the EC, kept high and consumer use is have erected such formidable discouraged. Yet the pressures protective walls of tariffs, levies, to import are still there.

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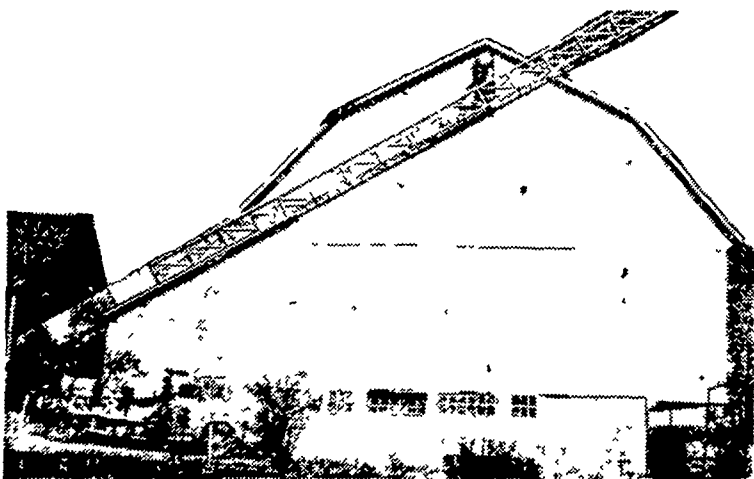


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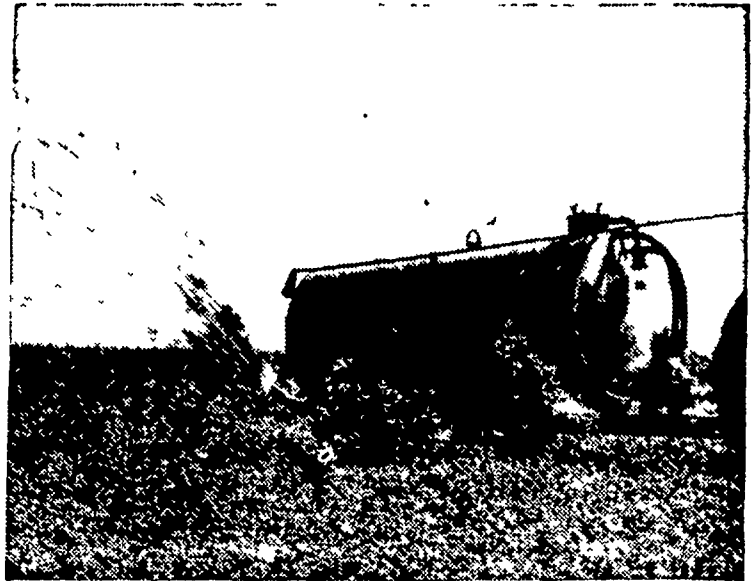
Sheep Scabies Alert

The Department of Agriculture is calling on all commercial sheep shears to report any evidence of scabies in flocks they clip.

Lancaster County has the third largest number of sheep in the state.

Pennsylvania had been given a scabies-free status by the USDA in 1963, after a prolonged attack on the problem. Reinfested flocks appeared in seven counties two years ago, as well as last year.

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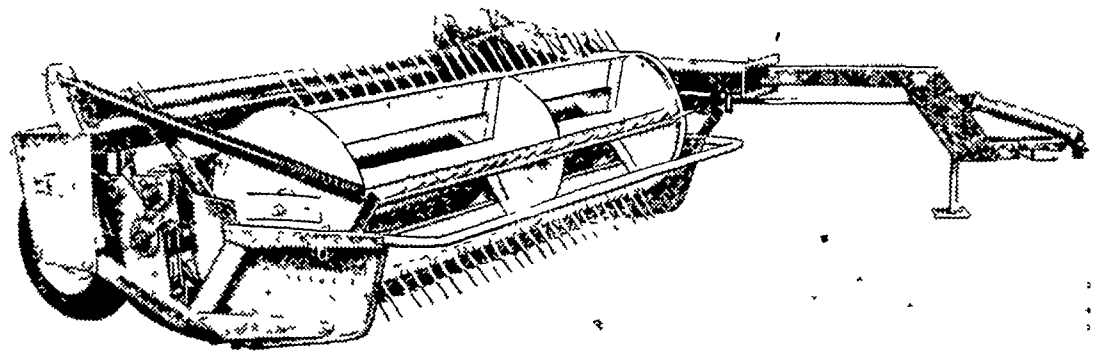
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