

Drought Broken, Barn Blows Down, Crop and Market Conditions, Americans Visit

Former Lancaster County Man Reports From Australia

By Amos Hively
A Special Report

I was beginning to think that the drought in Queensland would never be broken but this past week we had about six inches of rain, so I learned that it can get wet here (Toowoomba, Queensland)

Some areas reported the best rainfall in 10 years, and even had minor flooding in several towns 100 to 200 miles west of here

It came at a time when most of the summer crops are being planted so if we get reasonable follow-up rains it should insure

"a good season" as they call it here

Soybeans and Beef

Our company has increased its soybean acreage contracts to about 4,000 acres this year. Other companies are also giving soybean contracts for the first time and the going price offered is \$100 a long ton (2,240 pounds).

The older growers are quite pleased as they reach close to a ton to the acre, and many new growers are anxious to try growing this new crop

Sorghum (milo) is the big summer crop here but the price was only about \$30 a ton last year. A large tonnage was sold

to Japan last year and increasing sales are anticipated to that country this coming year

The sale of beef to Japan is also on the upswing and the Japanese seem to prefer grain fed beef which is just starting to develop here. Most of the beef here are fattened on grass and grain crops and have equal value to cattle fed in feed lots. I can believe that this will change soon

Barn Wrecked

During a severe wind and thunder storm on November 18 the bay barn on my farm was badly wrecked. It was 86 feet long and 60 feet wide and about two thirds of the roof was blown off and scattered for 200 feet

A man I had working there had just left the barn a few minutes before it was blown down

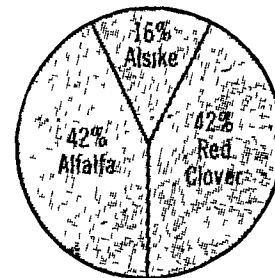
The insurance should cover most of the cost of rebuilding it

I hope it is completed by Christmas, as we have 50 acres of lucerne hay to cut and no

(Continued on Page 15)

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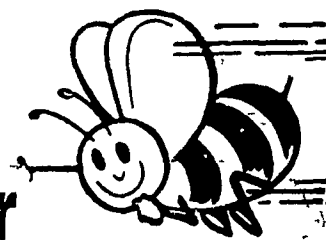
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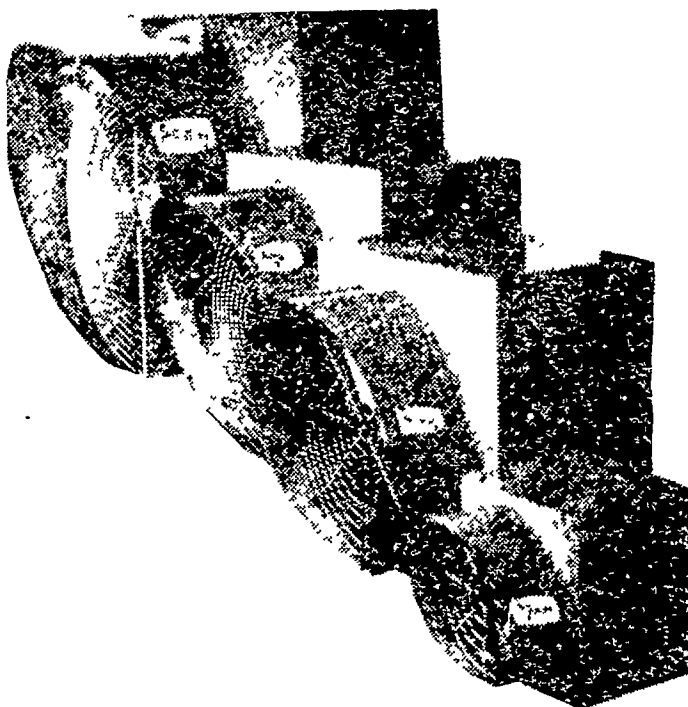
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