

Across the Editor's Desk

On Farm Productivity

The following is an excerpt from President Richard Nixon's speech May 7 during the Salute to Agriculture Day in Washington:

Did you know that over 90 per cent of the radios in America today are not made in the United States of America? They are made abroad.

You have been hearing about the problems of America's steel industry, still a very strong and a powerful industry, and it must always be strong and powerful because you cannot have a strong industrial economy without having a strong steel industry. Let's look at what has happened to the competitive position of America's steel industry in the last 20 years.

Twenty years ago in the United States of America we produced 50 per cent of all the steel in the world. Today we produce 20 per cent of all the steel in the world.

Twenty years ago the Japanese, for example, strong competitors, and we do not complain about competition, but the Japanese produced over 50 million tons of steel. Today they produce 100 million tons of steel. Within two years in Japan they will produce more steel than is produced in the United States of America.

The problem? The problem has to do, of course, with national priorities, and it also had to do with productivity and the competitive capacity of American industry.

We could go down the line. There are many industries where competitively we have stayed ahead and moved ahead. There are others where we have fallen behind.

But the most dramatic, the most exciting statistic of all is what has happened in agriculture. I sat in a meeting recently with a group of America's business leaders and labor lead-

ers. They disagreed on many things. But they all agreed that increased productivity, those who live on America's farms, American agriculture led not only the United States but led the world. Another statistic that we will bring home.

In the last 20 years, the total of the American economy or American industry increased its output per man-hour by 150 per cent. That is, of course, a significant increase.

But in that last 20 years, American agriculture, America's farmers and farm families, increased their output per man-hour by 300 per cent, almost twice as much.

Now we come to the problem. It is a rule in a free society that whoever produces more should be compensated for more. The income per capita of those who live on America's farms has gone up in the last 20 years.

But in terms of sharing in this increased productivity, those who live on America's farms, those who produce from America's farms, have not had the rewards from increasing productivity that their colleagues who work in American industry have had for their increases in productivity.

It is that problem that we have been addressing ourselves to. It is that problem in which, of course, we need cooperation between all branches of Government, the Administration, the Congress, and the farm community to see how we can see that America's farmers receive their fair share of a dramatically increasing productivity.

Hosting Vacationers?

The following may be of interest to farm families which like visitors and want to use

their farms as a means to cash in on the growing desire of city dwellers to get away from all by visiting the relatively quiet and orderly atmosphere of the farm.

The publication in May of a Spring Supplement to the Farm & Ranch Vacation Guide has been announced by the publisher, Patricia Dickerman, who is distributing the 1971-1972 edition of the guidebook that acts as liaison between rural hosts and city vacationers.

The Supplement will carry information on additional farm and ranch families who welcome paying guests in their spare rooms, cottages, bunkhouses and extra farmhouses.

Now in its 23rd year of serving vacationers and rural hosts, the guidebook is sending an estimated million dollars of holiday business into farming areas annually, according to Miss Dickerman, who explains that aside from the extra income, having

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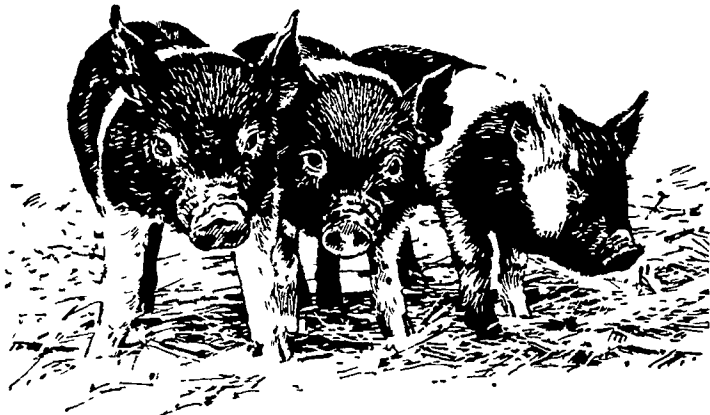
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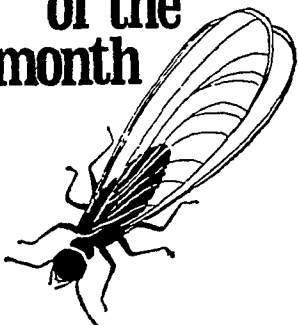
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