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AFB Says Rising Wages Speeds Mechanization

The federal minimum wage for farm workers is hastening farm mechanization, according to a story in the September issue of Nation's Agriculture, official monthly publication of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

C. M. Wilson, a contributing editor to Nation's Agriculture, reports that a bill by New Jersey's Senator Harrison Williams would increase the federal minimum wage to \$2.25 per hour for farm workers and also require farmers to pay time and a half for more than 40 hours a week.

To counteract higher production costs, many farm operators are switching to mechanization. In Salem County, N.J., Wilson writes, 20 new mechanical tomato pickers are operating this summer and another 15 are at work in adjoining counties of Cumberland and Gloucester.

In Yakima Valley in Washington state, over 50 per cent of all processing grapes were picked by hand last year. This year

Dr. Nelson Is Honored

Richard R. Nelson, Penn State University professor of plant pathology, has been elected a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society. Dr. Nelson was cited for outstanding contributions to the science of plant pathology during the Society's 63rd annual meeting in Philadelphia August 18.

A member of the Penn State faculty since 1966, Dr. Nelson has become nationally known for his experiments with genetics and the evolution of plant pathogens. He is equally well known in the field of plant pathology for studies of disease resistance in plants, experiments with corn diseases, and epidemics of plant diseases.

Dr. Nelson and associates received recently a grant of \$150,000 for research on corn blight.

The grant came from the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Editor of an upcoming book entitled "Breeding Plants for Disease Resistance," he is the author of 150 scientific papers and reports in technical journals. The book will be published by The Pennsylvania State University Press.

He has traveled and lectured in Scotland, England, Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain, Greece, Mexico, Guatemala, and Alaska. At Penn State his responsibilities include those of graduate school teacher and advisor.

Dr. Nelson served as plant pathologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Raleigh, N.C., before coming to Penn State. He served as a Rockefeller Foundation Research Fellow at the University of Minnesota from 1953 to 1955. His graduate degrees were both conferred by the University of Minnesota.

there are 22 machines in operation. A similar development has occurred in the Great Lakes grape area of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan.

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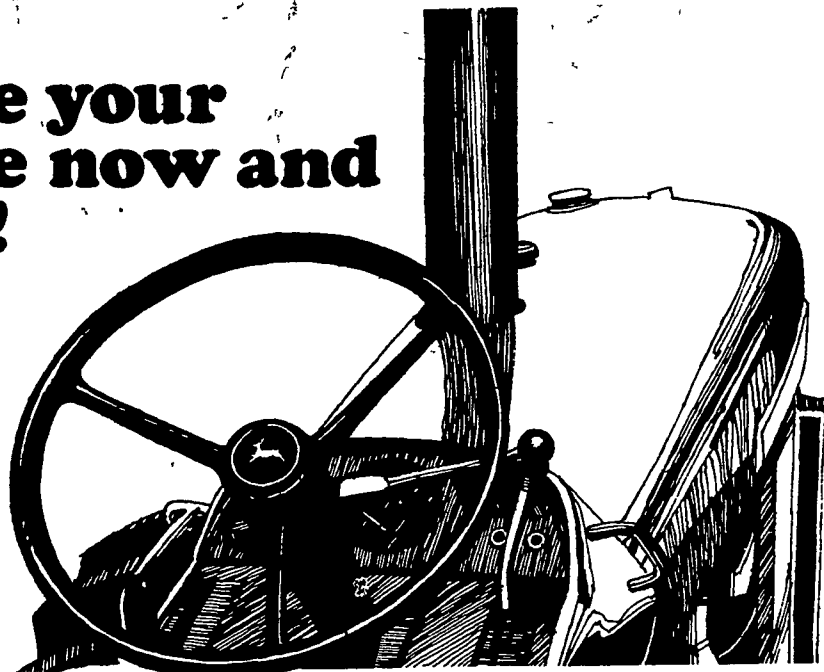
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