

Ag Real Estate Values Continue Up

Advancing values of farm real estate made up more than half the \$9.3-billion gain in farm assets during 1970, according to a report issued recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

USDA's Economic Research Service estimates the major asset and liability accounts of the U. S. farming sector each year. In this report, which details the balance sheet as of January 1, 1971, farm assets were estimated at \$318.9 billion and farm debt at \$61.1 billion, leaving proprietors' equities of \$257.8 billion. The \$6.3 billion gain in equities was the smallest since 1964.

Farm real estate represented \$214.0 billion of the farm assets at the outset of 1971—a gain of 2.8 per cent over the year before. Gains were generally far higher during the mid-1960's: in 1970,

farmers appeared reluctant to bid up prices of farmland in the face of prevailing high interest rates. Land that depended more on farming activities to pay for itself—as in the Corn Belt States and westward—showed less increase in value than in the eastern and southern States where nonfarm uses influenced prices more.

Farm debt gained \$3.0 billion during 1970. On a percentage basis, the increase amounted to 5.3 per cent, the smallest annual rise since 1960, reflecting relative inactivity in farm mortgage lending. Farm real estate debt, at \$29.5 billion, was up only \$1.1 billion from the year before as farmers shied away from entering into long-term contracts at the existing high interest rates. Non-real estate debt rose \$2.7

billion during 1970, reaching a total of \$29.7 billion on January 1, 1972.

The ratio of farm proprietors' equity to value of assets was 80.8 per cent on January 1, 1972, slightly under the 81.2 per cent of a year earlier.

A copy of "The Balance Sheet of the Farming Sector, 1971" AIB 356, is available free on postcard (please include your zipcode) or telephone (388-7255) request to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

In the Kitchen

ZIPPY POTATO STICKS
6 medium potatoes
1/2 cup margarine, melted,
or
1/2 cup low-calorie Italian
salad dressing
3 to 4 tbsps. packaged
seasoning mix*

Salt and pepper to taste
Wash and peel potatoes.
Cut into sticks, 3/8-inch
in diameter. Toss with margarine or low-calorie dressing and choice of packaged seasonings. Place on baking tin in a single layer. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden and tender. Season with additional salt and pepper if necessary. Makes 6 servings.

*For packaged seasonings, choose from choice of dip mixes; casserole seasonings; taco, chili or meat loaf seasonings; spaghetti sauce mix; or crumb coating mixes.

Chester County Sewing Courses

A series of clothing construction courses are being offered in basic skills, intermediate skills and advanced skills, according to Carol Rothermel, Chester County assistant home economist.

The classes will begin the week of March 20 and meet weekly from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registrations will be accepted until March 9.

The basic skills course will meet on Wednesday beginning March 22 at the United Methodist Church of West Chester. This course is designed for persons who have had little or no sewing experience and will teach "how to's" in choosing correct pattern size, fabric selection and preparation, layout, seams, darts, facings, and hems. The course will run for six weeks.

The intermediate skills course will be met for six Tuesdays at

the United Methodist Church of Paoli. The skills stressed in the intermediate course will be selection and use of interfacing, gathers and pleats, collars, set in sleeves, pockets and zippers.

Beginning March 22, the advanced skills course will meet at the United Presbyterian Church of Paoli, for a series of five meetings. This course is concerned with sewing on and using designer touches with difficult fabrics, selection and use of linings and underlinings, loops, belts, and designer touches.

There will be no meetings held the week of March 26.

A small charge is made for each of the courses.

To register for your selection of courses, contact the Cooperative Extension Service, Room 402, North Wing, Courthouse, West Chester. 696-3500.

Grange 66 to Hold Meeting on Land

Fulton Grange 66 met in regular session February 28 at the Grange Hall in Oakryn with Richard Holloway, Master, conducting the business meeting.

A committee was appointed to arrange a public meeting and invited Philadelphia Electric Company representatives to attend to find out what their intentions are concerning buying land in the Solanco area and how it will effect the citizens.

Local township supervisors are to be invited to answer questions concerning road construction and damages which will be inflicted upon property owners.

Also school board members will be invited, as they will be confronted with loss of taxable property and an influx of students to attend Solanco area schools. David Wissler was named publicity chairman for the Grange's annual supper which will be held April 8 at the Grange Hall.

The Youth Committee is sponsoring a bowling party at Strasburg March 11 at 9 p.m. and a Code-Reading class March 17 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wood, Little Britain. Lancaster County Pomona Grange will host the Pomona District visitation meeting April 22, 8 p.m. at Honey Brook Grange Hall on Route 10 in Chester County.

Mrs. Rebecca Quinn, chairman

of the Women's Activities committee, presented the program, and read "Ten Tips for 1972".

Lancaster County Pomona chorus, accompanied by Glenn Hough, sang "He Lives" and "School Days." Mrs. Edgar K. Brown spoke on "Educating of the Retarded Child."

Mrs. Gyles Brown spoke on "Feeding the Child." Mrs. David Knight gave a reading "Does History Repeat Itself."

Mrs. Thomas Galbreath conducted quizzes on Lincoln, Washington and Valentine's Day. Mrs. J. Stanley Stauffer Jr read "Today's Mothers."

The program themem for the next meeting, March 13, will be "Absent Minded Grangers." The Junior Grange will also meet.

Ladies' Have You Heard?

(Continued from Page 28)

monia, lye, rust remover, vinegar, or oven cleaner.

Remember, the safest way to use cleansers is to follow the directions on the label exactly.

Add the Soft Touch

To Your Wash

Adding fabric softener to your laundry will give softness and fluffiness to all washable fabrics. Perhaps more important, it reduces or eliminates static cling that often makes it necessary to peel away synthetics and permanent press items when folding laundry or wearing garments. Some fabrics no longer need ironing when softener is used, and those that do, dry with less deep-set wrinkles than ever before.

Though it isn't necessary to use fabric softener in every washload, frequent use is recommended. If softener is used with towels, for instance, where fluffiness is desirable but moisture absorption is also important, skip the use of fabric softener occasionally.

There are two types of fabric softeners. The most familiar is the one used in the rinse cycle. Either dilute with water first and add it to the rinse water or pour into the washer's fabric softener dispenser, if available.

It is important not to add other agents to the water when rinse cycle fabric softener is used. This includes bluing, water conditioner or any other additives. In fact, though fabric softener is effective in both hard and soft water, it should not be used in rinse water containing a packaged water conditioner.

A new type of fabric softener can be used in the wash cycle or the rinse cycle. Compatible with other wash cycle compounds such as detergents, these fabric softeners usually require that you add the fabric softener to the wash water before adding detergent and laundry. Then proceed as usual.

Do not pour a wash cycle fabric softener into a fabric softener dispenser unless you want it used in the rinse cycle, the manner in which the dispenser is designed to work.

Never add any kind of fabric softener to a bleach dispenser or a detergent dispenser. These features are not equipped to handle softeners.

Take care not to pour fabric softener directly on fabrics as it may cause staining. If, however, this should accidentally occur, immediately hold the stained area under cool running water and rub with bar soap.

Softeners are helpers worth trying. Next to getting clothes, towels and sheets really clean, a fresh, almost new appearance and soft, cozy comfort are the icing on the laundry basket.

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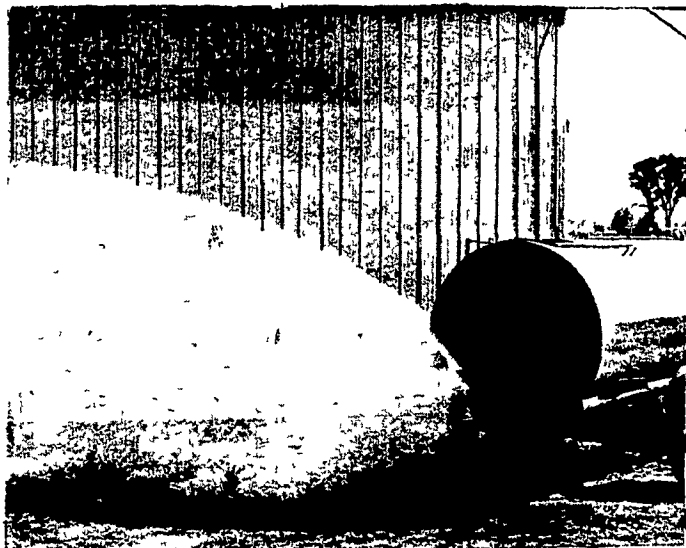
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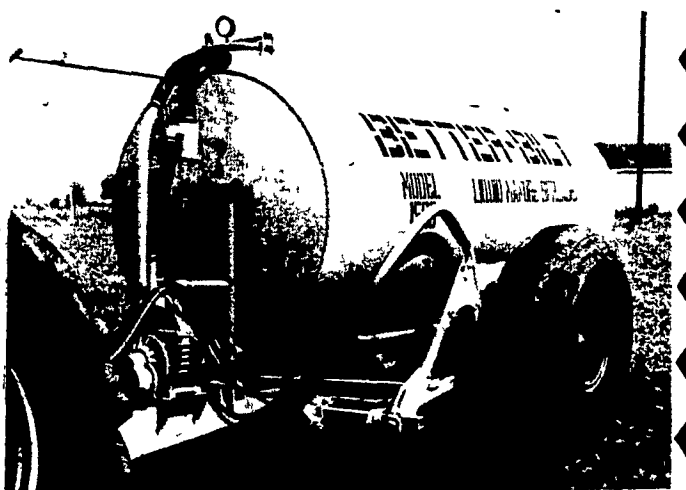
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