

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



What to a technician in a pharmaceutical lab, an oil refinery worker, a rubber plant worker, a date programmer, a lawyer, a truck driver, a warehouseman, a supermarket cashier, and a farmer have in common?

The answer is: related employment.

All these kinds of worker and many more are employed in agribusiness—that is, in manufacturing and distributing farm supplies, in production on the farm, and in processing, storing and distributing farm products and items made from them.

Agribusiness now engages nearly one fourth of all employed persons in the United States.

Although the number of farm workers has fallen to fewer than five million persons, the number of persons employed in off-farm agriculture has risen.

Industries that process and distribute farm products employ over 10 million workers and industries that supply goods and services to the farm producer has grown to employ over two million persons.

Employment in farming has decreased in recent years as agriculture has become more

efficient, but there are still many employment possibilities; possibilities in agribusiness.

As wages have risen farmers have found new ways to reduce labor costs. They have substituted machines for farm workers.

However, not all the decline in farm workers can be attributed to machines, some jobs have moved off the farm.

For example, 30 years ago fertilizer was delivered in bags and spread by the farmer. Today a farmer and fertilizer dealer test the soil and determine the necessary elements for top performance and have it spread by bulk trucks coming directly to the field being applied at the proper time and rate.

Thus, fertilizer industry salesmen, chemists, warehousemen and truck drivers are directly involved in providing fertilizer to the farmer.

Similar job opportunities exist in providing other inputs to farmers. Pesticides are a good example. They may be applied by both ground equipment and aircraft.

Most farmers using ground equipment apply their own pesticides, those using aircraft pay to have it done. Aircraft use in farming has increased as new

technology has permitted precision application of seeds, foliage fertilizer and pesticide material.

Production of farm machinery and equipment provides employment opportunities for over 150,000 workers, with their output channelled to farmers through over 16,000 dealers.

The average franchised farm machinery dealer has, besides his sales and clerical force, five shopmen - foremen, mechanics, and helpers. Thus, probably 100,000 workers are engaged in distributing and maintaining farm machinery and equipment.

Besides the opportunities in planning, engineering, manufacturing and servicing farm equipment, opportunities also are growing in supplying services to the farmer.

Many job opportunities have also been opened in recent years

Weak hearts may get atom power

The Atomic Energy Commission may allow Metronics, Inc., of Minneapolis to implant nuclear-powered heart pacemakers in 10 patients at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y.

The nuclear pacemaker will work for as long as 10 years, compared with one and a half to two years for the battery types.

16th AMENDMENT

On Feb. 25, 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, authorizing income tax, was proclaimed.

New Corn Hybrids Developed

This spring, for the first time, Pennsylvania farmers should be able to obtain adequate seed of four new field corn hybrids developed by corn breeders at Pennsylvania State University. The four hybrids are Pa 604, Pa 7703, Pa 870S, and Pa 8703. These hybrids are all available from commercial seed producers.

Pa 604 requires about the same growing season, and reaches the same height, as Pa 602A, a prominent old hybrid. However, it is superior to Pa 602A in grain yield and resistance to stalk rot. It is similar to Pa 602A in yellow leaf blight.

Pa 7703 is a medium late maturing corn. It is described as outstanding in yield trials, according to Dr. Melvin W. Johnson, department of agronomy, who developed the new hybrids. Pa 7703 has good resistance to the most serious leaf blights attacking corn.

Pa 7703 has shown good drought tolerance and has very good resistance to root and stalk rot. Dr. Johnson says it performs well at the higher plant populations. It matures slightly later than Pa 711, a similar hybrid, and is somewhat shorter in height.

Pa 870S is another new late season hybrid, that has shown superior performance in trials over the past several years. It has exhibited good drought tolerance and outstanding blight resistance. Pa 870S has shown excellent resistance to root and stalk rot.

Pa 8703 is a late season hybrid that performs much like Pa 870S. In research trials it has given superior performance, good drought tolerance, excellent resistance to root and stalk rot, and excellent leaf blight resistance.

Dr. Johnson says these new corn hybrids are typical of crop varieties developed by scientists with the Agricultural Ex-

periment Station at Penn State. During a 55 year period, Experiment Station scientists developed, tested, and released some 112 field, forage, turf, fruit, vegetable, and flower crops.

in educational and advisory services for farmers. They include teachers for vocational agriculture, experiment station scientists and inspectors of seed, feed, grain and milk.

The farmers of the future will need more technical services, such as veterinarians, soil conservation technicians, foresters, dairy herd improvement specialists, and farm record and analysis experts.

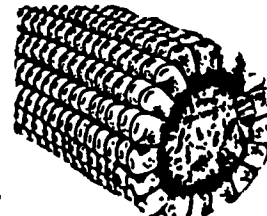
The key to all these jobs will be education. The job opportunities in agriculture are greater than ever before and the educational requirements even greater.

Modern agriculture requires that students receive training in sciences associated with plants, animals and soils. The student seeking a career in agriculture should also study the principles of

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