

Agriculture and Trade in W. Europe Reviewed

Record grain output and the likelihood of four new members joining the Economic Community (EC) highlighted Western Europe's total farm output increased a sharp seven per cent over 1970 largely because of a record 133-million-ton grain crop. Red meat output also advanced while milk production was constant.

Despite the high level of farm production, Western Europe continued as an important market for U.S. farmers, taking 40 per cent of our record \$7.8 billion farm exports in 1970-71. Top U.S. exports were oilseeds, protein

meals, wheat, tobacco, animal fats and oils, and fruits and vegetables.

Recent changes in the U.S. dollar value may favor some U.S. farm exports, says the report. Also on the financial scene, currency realignments in Western Europe disrupted the

EC's efforts to maintain common prices and created four distinct price zones.

EC membership for the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Norway, negotiated last year, is scheduled to become effective in January 1973, according to the report.

Lyng Comments on Price Controls on Food

Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng said it was "impossible to devise price controls on raw agricultural products without risking chaotic disruptions" in food production.

Testifying before a two-day Price Commission hearing on food prices, Lyng said food prices fluctuate as supplies build up or grow short and that "most of the time, because of our productive capacity, supplies are plentiful and farm prices are, if anything,

too low."

Lyng told the Commission that the productivity of farmers has made "agriculture a major force in combatting inflation." He pointed out that broiler production increased eight-fold in the last 20 years and the price is about half what it was then.

"The price is too low today, and producers are not making a fair return, but they would all agree they don't need anything like the same price they received 20 years ago," Lyng said.

Pointing to the fact that the wholesale prices of many farm foods had dropped compared with the week before the wage price freeze went into effect, Lyng said that retail prices had not necessarily followed suit.

"Retail prices often lag behind wholesale price changes," Lyng said. "Sometimes we think they lag too much so . . . Such lags are difficult for consumers and farmers to understand or accept."

For example, he said, during March "wholesale prices of beef dropped but retail prices continued to rise."



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Poultry Association Plans Annual Tour

The Lancaster County Poultry Association is planning its annual tour of poultry research facilities in the State College area May 23.

The group will leave by bus from the Farm and Home Center promptly at 6:30 a.m.

A tour of the Benner Fish Hatchery near State College is the first stop on the agenda. The hatchery has a population of approximately 650,000 trout, including the newly developed palomino.

The group is scheduled to arrive at the Penn State Poultry Farm at 10:45 a.m. Here, the women will have the option of seeing the Food Science area or Poultry Research facilities. The men will observe Dr. Glenn Bressler's Poultry House Management research area, including the handling of poultry waste and the new research using plastic floors.

At 11:30 a.m. Dr. Robert Gentry will review Poultry Disease research activities and conduct a tour through the laboratory.

At 12:15 the group will leave the Penn State Campus for lunch at Pine Grove Mills. Reservations must be made prior to the day of the tour for the luncheon.



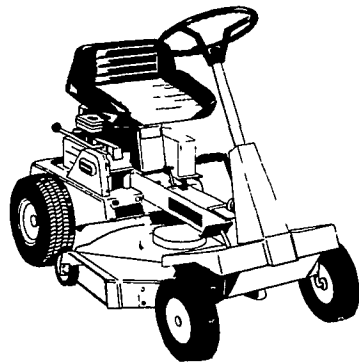
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Additional Grants For Labor Housing

The farm labor housing program received an additional \$2,963,430 in grant funds, Secretary of Agriculture Butz announced.

This means that the program funded by the Administration far exceeds the commitments of any previous year.

Some \$6.7 million in grants is now available, along with \$10 million in loan money, to build housing for migrant farm workers.

This year Farmers Home Administration has made an intensive effort to contact those with an interest in labor housing.

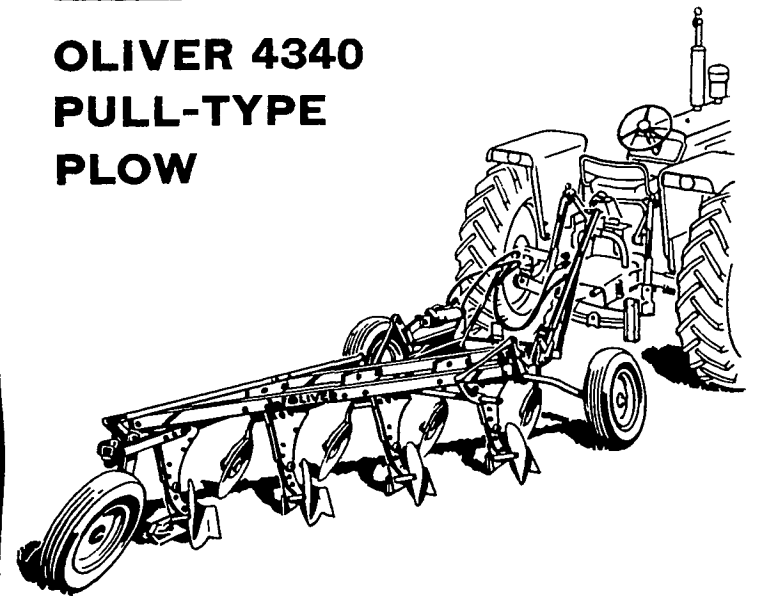
A list of priority projects has been assembled, and the new grants will permit real progress toward meeting the need, Butz said.

It is estimated that in this fiscal year 40 loans and nine grants for \$14.2 million will provide 1,290 living units, a majority of which will be for family living.

Farmers Home Administration has operated a farm labor housing program since 1962. Through June 30, 1971, the agency had made 172 loans for \$17.7 million and 33 grants totalling \$14.5 million. This has provided housing for 4,700 families and 3,456 individual workers.

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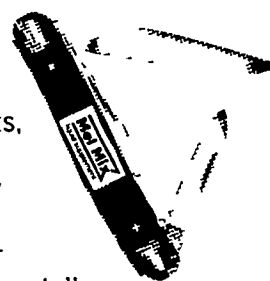
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