

Livestock Feed Relationships Seen Little Changed from 70-71

A cutback in hog production may hold the number of grain-consuming animal units in the October 1971 — September 1972 feeding year to about 118.3 million, nearly the same as in the preceding year, according to a report issued recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Packaging News

One new trend in food packaging, explains Harold Neigh, Extension consumer economist at Penn State University, is more ready-to-serve foods. Researchers are now working on grapefruit halves already segmented in a disposable bowl. It's being developed in an effort to get fresh grapefruit to people in institutions who would not normally eat grapefruit because of time costs in preparation. But it will probably be available in retail stores, too.

The current situation and outlook for livestock-feed relationships are discussed in this report by USDA's Economic Research Service. Also included are statistical indexes showing relationships between livestock numbers and feed and livestock production and feed. These indexes are given on a State and national basis by kinds of on-farm livestock and their corresponding livestock products.

During the 1970-71 feeding year, the number of grain-consuming animal units rose 3 per cent over the year before. Hogs and turkeys registered the largest percentage gains, followed by beef cattle other than those on feed, and hens and pullets.

Broiler feeding margins caused a reversal in the normal 2 to 3 per cent yearly expansion rate in broiler units which prevailed

during the 1960's, broiler units dropped 1 per cent during 1970. However, broiler placements during the current feeding year are well ahead of the 1970 level, so the uptrend may resume.

Livestock production units based on concentrates during the 1970-71 feeding year rose 3 per cent to a record high of 126.4 million—with hogs, cattle on feed, and broilers chalking up the highest percentage gains. Prospects are for another 2 per cent hike during the 1971-72 feeding year.

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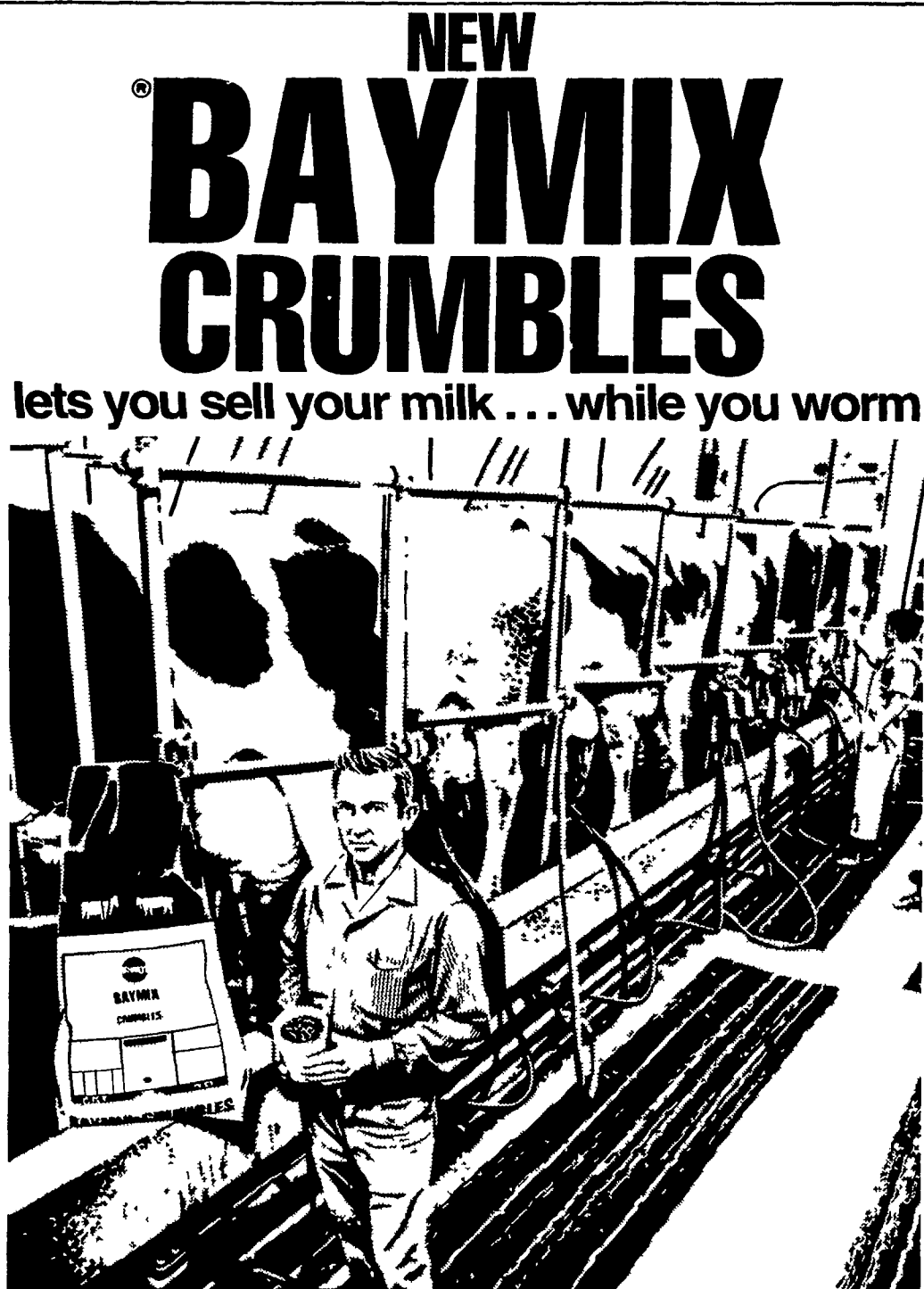
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