

Help Us Serve You

Don't assume we know about your farm organization's meeting. To get your meeting on our Farm Calendar, it's safer to assume we don't know.

Remind us by calling 394-3047 or 626-2191 or by writing to Lancaster Farming, 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543. You'll be helping us to serve you better.

P.S. — If you're not sure you told us already, we don't mind hearing from you again.

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USDA Reviews 1971 Marketing Spreads for U.S. Farm Products

The retail cost of a market basket of U.S. farm foods inched ahead an average of 1.7 per cent in 1971, while the farm value of equivalent products held steady with the 1970 level, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported recently.

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) stated that all the gain in retail cost of the market basket for the second consecutive year was attributed to higher food

marketing charges. The total marketing bill for transporting, processing, and distributing U.S. farm foods was \$71 billion in 1971, up 4 per cent from 1970. Increased labor costs, which account for about half the bill, contributed to much of the recent increase. Marketing charges took about two-thirds of the \$105 billion consumers spent for these foods last year. The remaining third represented the amount that farmers received for food

products.

The marketing spread—the total charges for marketing food from the farm to the consumer widened 2.7 per cent in 1971. A year earlier this margin had expanded 7.4 per cent. Economists point out the 1971 advance was caused by greater spreads for dairy products and foods from crops. The beef margin, which had jumped 9 per cent in 1970 and the pork margin, up 20 per cent that year, actually retreated slightly in 1971, although remaining above the 1969 mark.

The ERS report notes that the farm value, or gross return to farmers, for products equivalent to those in the market basket averaged the same last year as in 1970 but the farmer's share of the food dollar declined. Last year's farm value was 8 per cent ahead of the 1947-49 period. The marketing spread for 1971 was 71 per cent higher than the earlier period.

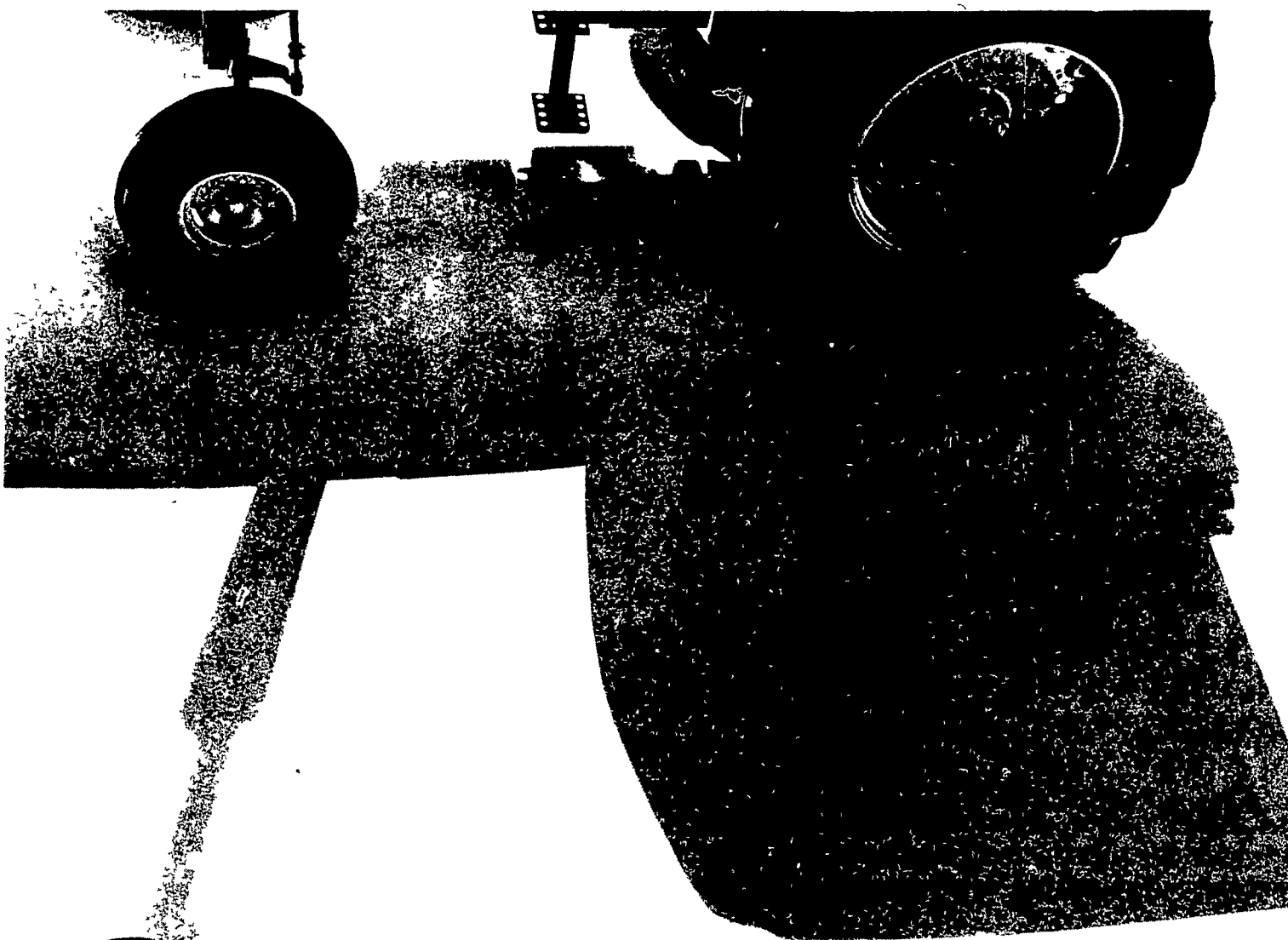
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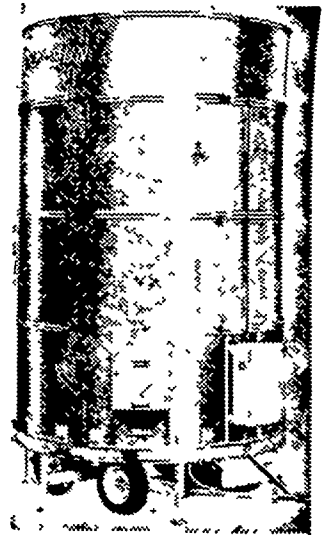
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"For those going on cross-country flights," reports the Standard Oil Company of California, "Alaska State law requires that they carry the following: two weeks' food per person; an axe or hatchet, gun and ammunition, fishing gear; knife, two boxes of waterproof matches, mosquito headnet for each person; signal flares, from October 1 to April 1, snowshoes, sleeping bags and blankets."

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