

## USDA Expands Rural Development Work

Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and State Cooperative Extension Service devoted 34 percent more time to rural development activities in fiscal year 1972, and

helped local leaders organize more than 150 new rural development committees.

In a report to Congress, the Department stated that USDA and Extension employees

devoted 4,300 man-years to efforts to stimulate progress in rural America from July 1, 1971 to June 30, 1972, compared to 3,200 man-years the previous fiscal year.

The report said 51 new area or multi-county rural development committees were formed, bringing the number of area committees in the nation to 235, and that more than 100 new county committees were formed, pushing the national total to 2,193.

Much of the report is devoted to accomplishments of specific State and local rural development committees.

For instance, government agencies and church groups helped set up a self-help housing program in a Maryland county where housing was poor and rents were high. The program enabled low-income people to occupy modern homes for up to \$10,000 less than they would cost commercially. Cooperation and self-help construction reduced costs.

Another cooperative effort was a three-county area of Missouri in need of a hospital. Local citizens raised more than \$300,000, civic clubs and local governments supported the project. Location of the adequately-financed hospital has been decided.

Alabama county committees actively pursued industrial development. The Extension Service studied the changes for more lumber finishing in one area. This contributed to a half-million dollar expansion of a wood products firm in the study area.

The report, transmitted to Congress by Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, said that rural development must advance on several fronts if it is to succeed.

"This third annual report to the

## Outlook Conference Slated for Feb. 20-22

The 1973 National Agricultural Outlook Conference has been set for Feb. 20 through 22, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Central theme of the Conference will be "The Future Structure of Agricultural Production and Marketing." Such topics as the long-range expansion of demand for agricultural products, input requirements of the food industry, significant trends in organization and control of the food and fiber sector of the economy, impact of environmental developments on agricultural production and marketing, and future developments in the export market will be explored in depth.

The 1973 outlook for U.S. agriculture and the general economy will receive particular attention at the Conference. Sessions on the 1973 outlook for major commodities and rural family living will make up an important part of the Conference as usual. The Conference, sponsored by USDA's Economic Research Service and Extension

Service, will feature presentations and panel discussions by leading authorities in agriculture and business.

## Swine Breeders Urged to Keep Cholera in Mind

An outbreak of hog cholera in several states has prompted Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale to urge the commonwealth's swine breeders to purchase replacement stock from states designated as free of hog cholera.

The secretary noted that feeder swine from states or portions of states where a state-federal quarantine for hog cholera is in effect are not permitted to enter Pennsylvania.

A massive outbreak of the disease has been reported in Kentucky. Outbreaks have also occurred in Ohio and Indiana, with the disease being traced to swine originating from Kentucky sales.

Recurrent outbreaks have also been reported in North Carolina, Texas and South Carolina. Nebraska had two outbreaks traced to a Texas shipment, and a number of swine were diverted from a slaughter lot.

A spokesman for the department's Bureau of Animal Industry said swine in states with areas under the quarantine can move into Pennsylvania only with prior approval from the department and if accompanied by an interstate health certificate signed by the chief livestock sanitary official of the state of origin.

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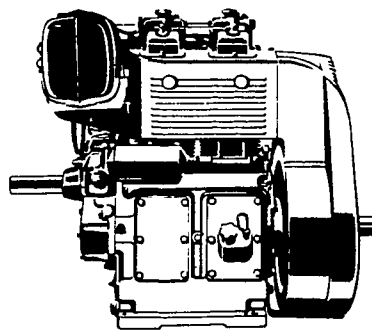
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