

USDA's Campbell Applauds Exports

Exports, the fastest-growing segment of the American farmer's market, represent one of the greatest opportunities in America's expanding agriculture, Under Secretary of Agriculture J. Phil Campbell told a group of Michigan farmers last week.

Speaking at a public meeting of farm people in the Cass City High School, Campbell noted that the value of farm exports last fiscal year was \$8 billion - ten times as high as in 1938.

"Some \$2 billion of that came from soybeans and soybean meal, a crop most of our farmers had never even heard of in 1938," the Under Secretary noted.

While the domestic market is growing at a rate of only about 1½ percent a year, Mr. Campbell said, export sales are expanding very rapidly and offer American farmers a great opportunity.

Remarkable increases in crop yields and livestock production efficiency have made it possible to increase farm output faster than the population is increasing, on less and less cropland, Campbell noted. Agricultural output per manhour in 1970 was four times that of 1945, he said.

"With modern technology, high price supports are no longer appropriate for most of our major farm commodities," Campbell explained. "They act to price our products out of world markets and to encourage wasteful surpluses."

Utilizing the freedom given them under the Agricultural Act of 1970, Campbell said, the vast majority of eligible U. S. farmers in 1971 took advantage of their opportunity to shift cropping patterns and reduced production costs, thus boosting net profits and putting themselves in a better position to win markets and increase sales.

"When our farm programs were first developed in the mid-1930's," he observed, "most of our farm production was consumed right here in the United States. We didn't have much export market. Our farm exports in 1938 totaled about \$800 million."

"Today, export markets are taking the production from one crop acre out of four."

Farm policy-makers, he said, must gear their thinking to an agriculture which is highly dependent on world markets.

Brucellosis-Free Status Awarded to Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has achieved certified brucellosis-free status, it was announced today by Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale.

A cooperative state-federal program has been in effect for years to eradicate the dreaded cattle disease that causes cows to abort, and thus has plagued livestock producers and dairy farmers with financial losses.

Elimination of the disease in Pennsylvania also means a public health hazard has been alleviated. Bovine Brucellosis is one of the sources of human undulant fever.

A certificate of the Commonwealth's Brucellosis-Free status will be presented to Secretary McHale at a later date.

Dr. Homer S. Forney, acting director of the department's Bureau of Animal Industry said Pennsylvania was declared a modified brucellosis-free state in 1958. In the past several years, several foci of the disease existed within the Commonwealth, including several herds in Washington County. The disease

was finally officially eliminated Sept. 5, paving the way for full brucellosis-free status.

Forney said during the past fiscal year 18,210 herds, comprising 359,980 cattle, were blood tested.

In addition to individual herd testing and area plan herd testing, Pennsylvania has used two additional programs to find infected herds, Forney explained.

One is the Brucellosis Milk Ring Test (BRT) for screening dairy herds four times each year. When infection is indicated, the entire herd is blood tested until infected animals have been eliminated. Only Brucellosis Milk Ring suspect herds need be blood tested in this program.

The second program is the Market Cattle Testing (MCT) plan, whereby cattle going through markets are identified with a specially designed backtag. The cattle are then blood sampled at slaughter and the backtag is used to identify the blood sample and locate the herd origin. Market cattle suspect

herds are also blood tested to determine whether the disease is or is not present.

The cattle industry is urged to remain alert for this disease of cattle. Complacency in the past has proven very costly in regaining the free status for this and other eradication programs.

Chester Extension Offers Sewing Courses

The Chester County Extension Service will offer sewing courses in Basic Skills, Menswear, and Drapery making beginning the week of October 9 according to Carol Rothermel, assistant Extension home economist. Anyone interested in the courses should register by September 29 by calling or writing the Cooperative Extension Service, 402 North Wing, Courthouse, West Chester - 696-3500. There is a small charge for each course.

The Bais Skills course will be offered on Tuesdays at the Cochranville United Methodist Church and on Thursdays in Bucktown at the St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church. This series of six meetings is for those persons who have had little or no experience in sewing.

A men's knit jacket is made in the Menswear course using new easy techniques rather than the conventional tailoring techniques. This course will meet for five weeks in the United Presbyterian Church of Paoli.

The Drapery course will meet in Downingtown at the Central Presbyterian Church. The course will consist of a series of five meetings concerned with fabric selection, how to measure, and construction techniques. A variety of top-of-the window treatments will also be included.

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