

Special Census Details Farm Service Firms

Firms whose main business is providing agricultural services grossed \$1.1 billion from farmers in 1969, a special Census Bureau survey shows.

These firms provided such services as veterinary care for farm animals, cotton ginning, feed grinding, harvesting, contract labor, and spraying.

In addition, the firms earned another \$1 billion from non-farmers for such services as veterinary care and lawn and tree care.

In total, there were 32,565 establishments in 1969—with a payroll of \$593 million—whose main function was to provide agricultural service.

They employed 110,000 paid workers who put in 150 days or more and another 313,000 workers who put in less than 150 days.

They also had 31,000 unpaid workers who put in 150 days or more and 6,000 who put in less.

Most of the firms were small, and four out of five were individually owned. Although the average gross income was \$64,000, one out of three of the establishments earned less than \$10,000. Nearly half of the receipts were earned by the 12 percent of the establishments that were operated by corporations.

California had the greatest

gross receipts from agricultural services, followed by Texas and Florida. These three States accounted for nearly a third of total gross receipts for agricultural services in the U.S. in 1969.

Of the types of firms averaging over \$200 million, only custom cattle feeding was farm-related. The rest were hospitals for pets and small animals and firms providing shrub and tree services or lawn and garden services.

Other leading farm-related agricultural services—with receipts of \$100,000—included veterinary care, poultry hatcheries, and fruit sorting, packing, and grading. Less important farm-related

agricultural services included cotton ginning, vegetable sorting, packing, and grading, artificial breeding, and farm labor contractors providing crew labor.

The Census survey showed an additional \$87 million in gross receipts from firms that performed agricultural services but did not consider them their most important function. Agricultural services accounted for only a tenth of their total receipts.

Agriculture services are often provided by firms with other business activities. Often the service is included with a product and priced as a unit, for instance feed grinding and fertilizer application. Therefore, firms whose

Silver Spurs Elect Officers

The Silver Spurs 4-H Horse and Pony Club held its monthly meeting March 2 at the home of Roxanne and Roberta Steins. The meeting was called to order by the president, Randy Glick.

4-H enrollment cards and handbooks were given out for the new year. Roll and dues were taken by junior treasurer Jim Glick. Secretary Rick Rehm read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read. There were 32 members and four leaders present.

All the new members were accepted. New officers were elected. They are as follows: Randy Glick, president; Lori May, vice-president; Jim Glick, secretary; senior treasurer, Roberta Stein; junior treasurer, Cherri Gochnauer, and club reporters, Judy Anderson and Leslie Winpenny.

Chosen as County council representatives were Lori May, Dana Norquist and Kathy Kauffman.

Dana Gottlob, Sue Baker and Wylie Baker will give demonstrations at the next meeting which will be held at Bakers' on April 6. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Club Reporters,
Cherri Gochnauer
Patti Nauman

major activity is providing agricultural services render only a part of the total services to farmers.

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