

Farm Loan Funds Available

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz announced recently that Farmers Home Administration (FHA) has been authorized to make additional farm operating loans totaling \$170 million during the remainder of this fiscal year.

The loan funds were made available to meet the demand for farm operating loans as the result of the unusual emergency loan situation this year, and are

in addition to the record-high \$350 million already allocated for the program.

Officials estimate that this additional sum will serve some 19,000 family farmers with operating loans. The total figure for farm operating loans during fiscal 1973 will be \$520 million, nearly 50 percent above a year ago and the highest ever earmarked for this program.

In allocating operating loan funds to the states, the Secretary said, Farmers Home Administration is giving primary consideration to areas previously designated for emergency loans, or where there have been farm losses from natural causes.

Mental Slowdown By Older People Might Not Be True

The general belief that intellectual performance declines with age may be a myth, according to a Pennsylvania State University researcher.

Dr. Paul B. Baltes said that there is very strong evidence to suggest that when the aged perform poorly on standardized intelligence tests it is because they "belong to another generation," and not necessarily because of their age.

A research team demonstrated that, up through their seventies, people can be trained to improve their response speed to intelligence test questions and that this training carries over to performance on such tests, particularly of the speed type.

"When decrements do occur among the elderly, they are found primarily in the period a few years before death," Dr. Baltes notes, "or in those cases where an acute physical illness develops. They are not typical, however, for the average old person."

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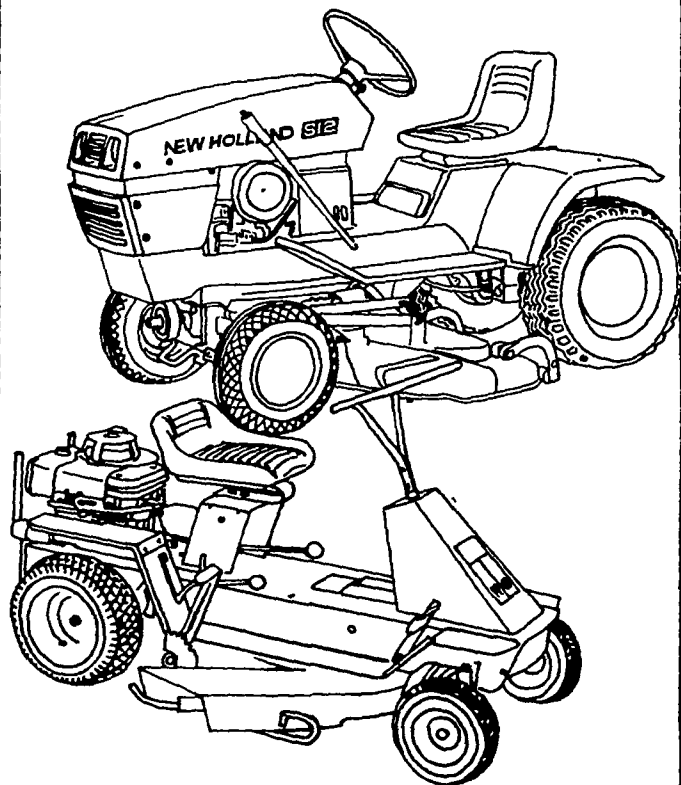
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