

Farm Management Handbook Available From Penn State

A successful farm manager must develop two plans of work—a short-run plan used to evaluate next year's operation and one based on a sufficiently long period of time to permit changes or adjustments in land, labor, capital, and management, according to a new "Farm Management Handbook" published by The Pennsylvania State University College of Agriculture.

"There are a number of ways to improve farm income and not all of them involve increased size nor do they always require the expenditure of capital," says Dr. Virgil E. Crowley, Penn State Extension farm management specialist and one of the publication's authors.

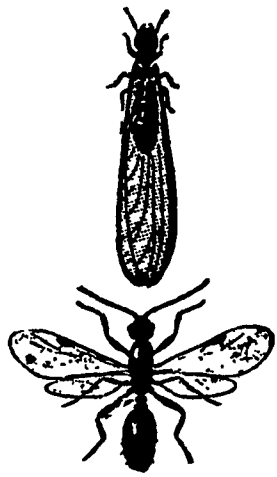
Doing things at the right time often produces more income; reducing costs means more net income; and often a reorganization of the crop and livestock enterprises can increase income significantly, Dr. Crowley points out.

The handbook, developed by five farm management specialists, includes data which will be helpful to farmers and individuals assisting farmers with various management problems and with the development of farm-operating plans.

One section discusses farm management, the role of the farm manager, problems of the decision-making process, and the construction of partial and complete budgets.

Another section is devoted to dairy budgets and related information, and still another area deals with budget information for the major livestock enterprises such as swine and beef. A remaining section includes budget information for fruits, vegetables, and field crops.

The 130-page book may be purchased for \$2.50 plus 6 percent sales tax. Make check or money order payable to The Pennsylvania State University and send with your name and address to FARM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK, Box 6000, University Park, Pa. 16802.



Which Bug is the Termite?

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Poultry Firm Names Wealand

Richard E. Wealand, 108 S. Market St. Ephrata has been named eviscerating foreman in the fresh processing division of Victor F. Weaver, Inc., New Holland.

Wealand, who joined Weaver in 1966 as a production employee, has currently been serving as a group leader in the eviscerating department.

Under his new responsibilities he will assist in supervising the activities of the eviscerating department which processes an average of 70,000 broilers daily.

PSU Researcher Develops Instant Moisture Reader

The grass on the other side of the fence may BE greener if a new device to read internal moisture finds its way into your neighbor's garden shed before you get wise to it.

Called the Relative Humidity Indicator, it was invented by a Penn State engineer for use with concrete that is setting, but its feasibility for farm and garden is being explored.

"Moisture," says Roger Carrier, the inventor, "is essential for concrete during its formative stages; that is, for about a month after pouring."

To keep the wetness in, a sealer is commonly used. But if it is unevenly applied, moisture leaks develop. The concrete dries out and later, flakes and cracks develop.

Carrier's device, an inexpensive throw-away plastic disc, permits virtually instantaneous reading of moisture content.

Like litmus paper, its three indicators turn color in response to moisture. An insufficiency is indicated when two of the three turn blue.

"A grass seed company," says Carrier, "is currently exploring the possibility of marketing our device for home-garden use. Placed on the ground it would tell the gardener whether the seed he has planted—or is about to plant—is endangered by soil that is too dry."

Dry ground kills seeds before they can germinate.

A slightly more sophisticated adaptation of the Relative Humidity Indicator may be

developed to improve wheat farming.

"Before drilling wheat, it is advisable to know the precise moisture conditions at the level where the seed will lie: a few inches deep. Suitably redesigned, the Relative Humidity Indicator could furnish this information so the farmer can take corrective

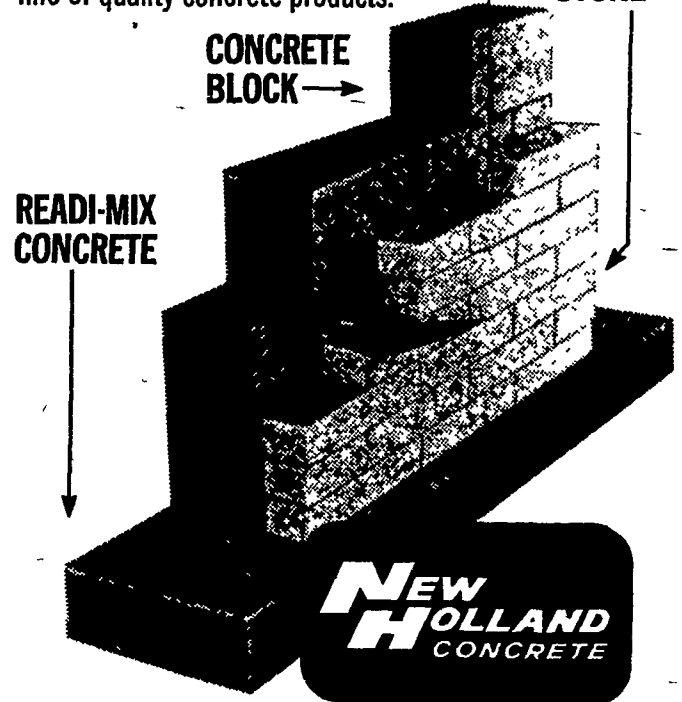
measures if the soil is too dry." Carrier's device, developed under contract with Penn DOT, is patented and is currently being manufactured by a California firm.

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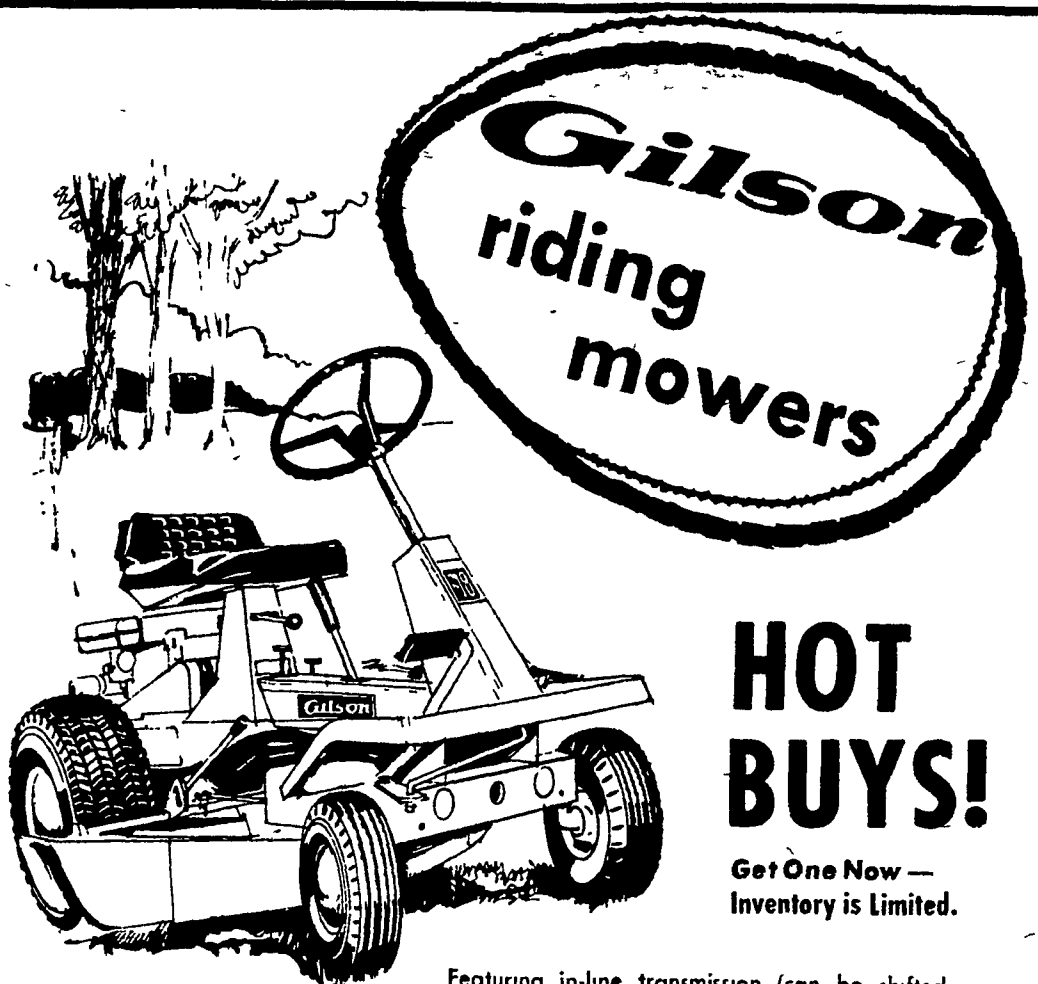
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