

# Census Shows Farm Worker Numbers Up

For the second year in a row, the number of paid farm workers has gone up—reaching 2.8 million in 1972.

The reason? Overall high production last year, plus stepped-up farm exports and higher farm prices. This, reports the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), created the need for more labor in '72 and encouraged farmers to stabilize their work force for '73.

From the annual Census survey of the hired farm working force - those 14 years of age or older who did some farm work for wages during the year - ERS found:

Most workers were young, with a median age of 23. . . most were white - 85 percent. . . 3 out of 4 were male. . . and nearly 3 out of 4 were nonfarm residents.

They averaged 88 days of farm wagework a year at \$13.20 a day, totaling \$1,160 for the year.

Fewer than a fourth of the hired farm working force was engaged chiefly in farm work for a living. Of those who were, 367,000, were year-round workers and were the most fully employed and the highest paid, averaging 306 days of farm wagework for which they earned \$4,358.

More than half were not in the labor force most of the year. These were primarily housewives and students.

Some 184,000 persons - about 7 percent of the total hired farm working force - were domestic migratory workers. The increase over 1971's 172,000 persons marked the first rise in nearly 10 years.

Regionally, 41 percent of the hired farm working force lived in the South, 8 percent in the Northeast, 26 percent in the North Central States, and 25 percent in the West.

Of the 2.8 million paid farm workers, nearly 1.6 million did farm wagework only, about 32,000 more than in 1971.

ERS compared averages for 1967-69 and 1970-72 and found:

The total number of persons

doing farm work for wages had gone down more than 8 percent.

There were nearly 7 percent fewer workers putting in 250 or more days of farm work for wages; 5 percent fewer in the 75- to 249-day bracket; and nearly 11 percent fewer workers putting in less than 75 days.

Total man-days of farm wagework declined by nearly 8 percent.

## USDA To Help Answer Freeze Policy Problems

Special provisions for quickly bringing agricultural problems resulting from the price freeze to the attention of the Cost of Living Council Freeze Group were announced last week last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Department has established an office under Dr. Don Paarlberg to receive inquiries from farmers, merchants, consumers and any others who may have agricultural questions. Dr. Paarlberg is a member of the newly formed Freeze Policy Group of the Cost of Living Council. The Group meets daily to solve problems and answer questions resulting from the freeze.

Letters of inquiry on agricultural problems may be addressed to Dr. Paarlberg, Office of the Secretary, USDA, Washington, D. C. 20250. Telephone calls to this office may be directed to (202) 447-7043.

Questions or problems con-

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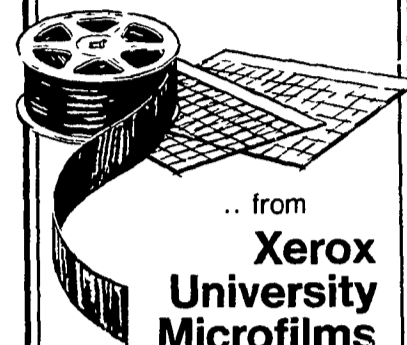
In children, declares the Vision Conservation Institute, visual defects often express themselves as lack of coordination, faulty timing, hesitations and various forms of awkwardness.

cerning the freeze may also be submitted to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) district offices. A new command center within the Freeze Group at the Cost of Living Council headquarters has 10 direct telephone lines to the 58 IRS district offices, and these lines will be open 14 hours a day, six days a week, to assure quick response.

A special action desk is also being established in the Department of Justice stabilization staff to ensure quick enforcement of provisions.

At one time, gamblers wore red contact lenses to enable them to see marking on cards that were invisible to the naked eye. Today, the Vision Conservation Institute says, red contact lenses are helping improve the color vision of some color blind persons.

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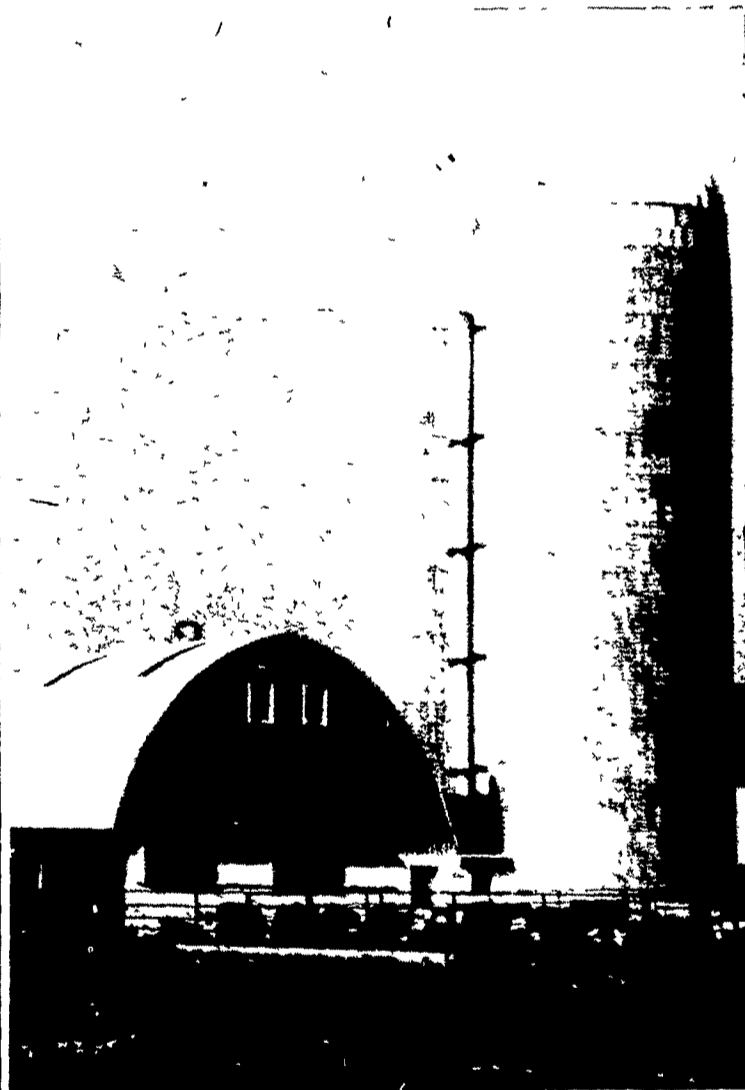
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