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PSU Animal Scientist Optimistic About World Livestock Production

Livestock producers in New Zealand, South Africa, and Australia are optimistic about being able to increase the production of red meat to meet growing world demands. However, each of these countries has problems which must be overcome before increased beef production can be done profitably. These were among the conclusions of Dr. L. L. Wilson, professor of animal science at The Pennsylvania State University, after a 37-day tour of these countries.

Producers and researchers in each of these countries also expressed concern over the relatively low increase in beef prices compared to production costs. Although these countries are investing large amounts of money into researching more economical methods of livestock production, they are also practicing many management procedures which, if used more widely in American beef cattle and sheep production systems, could allow an increased efficiency. One of the most noticeable practices, found in New Zealand especially, is the intensive use of pastures.

Until recently, very few of the countries which Wilson visited were able to place beef cattle into

a feedlot where they receive a high-grain diet until slaughter. This system has been used extensively for many years in the United States, and is one of the reasons American beef has such a good world-wide reputation.

"Producers in these countries, who have previously visited the United States, emphasize that beef produced in the U. S. is the best tasting that they have had anywhere in the world," Dr. Wilson stated.

He also concluded that the slaughtering and processing methods used with meats in the United States should result in the most wholesome product possible.

New Zealand, South Africa, and Australia are looking at Europe, Japan, China, and other countries as the main recipients of their increased production. In addition, the population in these countries is also increasing and they are eating more meat per person. Therefore, even though these three countries are expanding their beef production, this should not significantly increase the amount of beef available for export to the United States.

In the countries, visited, the United States agricultural industry has a reputation of being

efficient and productive. Dr. Wilson also noted that retail prices for livestock products in other countries had increased about the same extent as meat prices in the United States over the past year.

In addition to visiting many farms and packing plants, Wilson also attended the Third World Conference on Animal Production in Melbourne, Australia, and the South African Society of Animal Production Meetings in Salisbury, Rhodesia. The World Conference is held every four years in different parts of the globe to discuss various problems associated with providing food for the growing human population. The main themes for this year's conference were "Intensifying the Use of Pastures in Animal Production," and "Exploring the Usefulness of Other Animals than those Presently Domesticated for Meat Production."

The costs of Dr. Wilson's attendance at these meetings, and costs of visiting large numbers of agricultural operations, came entirely from contributions by private individuals and companies interested in improving animal production methods.

Dr. Wilson was extremely impressed with the helpfulness and friendliness of people involved in agriculture in each of the countries he visited.

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MEMBER F D I C



Merrimaids Meet

The Lampeter-Strasburg Merrimaids held a meeting last week in the Martin Meylin Junior High School.

The president, Sue Groff, gave reminders on upcoming 4-H County events. Sue Witmer gave a County Council report. Kathy Henkel gave a report of Club Congress held at Penn State University June 25 - 28.

Diane Krantz gave a speech on horses.

Kathy Henkel
News Reporter

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The price of almost everything the consumer buys has gone up faster than the cost of food. While food costs have increased 47 percent since 1952, the average worker has enjoyed pay raises of more than 140 percent. During this same period, the cost of medical care has gone up 123 percent and housing now costs 64 percent more.

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