

FHA Honors Farm Family of the Year

The Verl M. Buxton family of Cache county, Utah, were honored recently in Washington, D. C., as the national Farmers Home Administration (FHA) Farm Family of the Year, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz announced.

Mr. Buxton, his wife, Helen, and three of their five children—Dale, 13, Mark, 17, and Carol, 20—toured the nation's capitol as winners of the year-long competition conducted by the Farmers Home Administration, the rural credit service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Beginning with hundreds of farm families all across the country, competition was narrowed to 38 state winners, then to five national finalists, and finally to the dairy family from Utah.

The Buxtons early displayed the characteristics that would bring them success as farmers. Starting practically from zero, Verl went to school to learn carpentry. He got a job in construction and after his day's work, he built a house of his own. He borrowed a little and built a little, borrowed and built, borrowed and built, and when he finished, he had enough equity in his house to trade for a farm in Cache County.

He was able to get 70 acres, but the land was considered wor-

thless by established farmers in the area. The Buxtons took the land, and through shrewd money management, good farming practices, and diligent work, they increased their net worth from \$24,000 in 1954 to more than \$269,000 in 1972.

Since Farmers Home Administration is not competitive with private lenders, its purpose is to help farmers who cannot qualify for commercial credit. The aim of the program is not to find the biggest or richest farmer, but to identify the family which has done the most with its resources. Family life and the contribution of family members to community life are carefully considered in judging.

A panel of seven nationally prominent judges made the national selection. The judges were: Millard F. Dailey, chairman, Federal Farm Credit Board; Russell E. Hibbard, president, National Association of County Agricultural Agents; Russell Pierson, president, National Association of Farm Broadcasters; Pat DuBois, chairman, Agricultural-Rural America Committee, Independent Bankers Association of America; Claudette N. Simoneaux, past president, National Association of Vocational Home Economics

Teachers; Thomas R. Smith, chairman, Agricultural and Community Bankers Division, American Bankers Association, and Alan T. Busby, a retired professor of Animal Husbandry, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Md.

State winning farm families receive a plaque, and the national winner an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

In building up their farm, the Buxtons had one guiding role: Before you get bigger, get better. The judges decided they had done both.

U.S. Plane Firms Demonstrate Wares At Paris Air Show

Seventy-seven manufacturers from 23 states and the District of Columbia displayed their products in the United States pavilion in Paris at the 30th Paris Air Show.

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.) was President Nixon's personal representative at the show. In requesting the Senator to attend, the President said, "Indeed, our foreign sales of aircraft have been by far the most dynamic element in our export expansion in recent years. While our overall trade balance slid by \$12 billion between 1965 and 1972, our trade balance in aircraft sales grew by \$2 billion."

The U. S. exhibit was dedicated to the theme, "Man in Flight: From Kitty Hawk to the Planets." It commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight and celebrated modern America's aerospace achievements.

Turkey Sales Reach Half Billion Dollars

Marketing changes which helped make turkey an everyday food rather than just a holiday treat aided in increasing farmers' cash receipts from turkeys to \$537 million in 1972 from \$59 million in 1935, according to a study issued last week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Increased use of turkey in processed items, expanded marketing of turkey parts and a shift to producing smaller turkeys helped raise per capita consumption from 1.7 pounds in 1935 to 9.1 pounds in 1972, the Economic Research Service report noted.

In 1972 over 35 percent of all marketed turkey meat was used in items like turkey rolls and TV dinners. By 1980, the study said, turkeys going into such further processed items could account for 45 percent of the slaughter.

The turkey industry has become more coordinated. Estimates for 1970 show 42 percent of the turkeys were produced under contract as opposed to some 30 percent in 1960. Probably another 12 percent of the 1970 birds were grown under owner-integrated facilities and 18 percent were sold under marketing contracts. The

Southern areas have depended heavily on contract growing for their expansion.

Since the early 1960's the South Atlantic and South Central regions have increased their share of total production, with the West North Central region declining slightly and the Western and East North Central regions decreasing further.

A copy of "The Turkey Industry: Structure, Practices, and Costs," MRR 1000, is available free on postcard (please include your zipcode) or telephone (447-7255) request from the Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Care for Trees When Changing Landscape Grade

Slight increases in ground levels do not harm most trees, says J. Robert Nuss, Extension ornamental horticulturist at The Pennsylvania State University.

If only about 4 inches of fill is required, a tree well is not usually necessary. When the situation is reversed and the soil is to be lowered, retaining walls built around desirable trees will save them.

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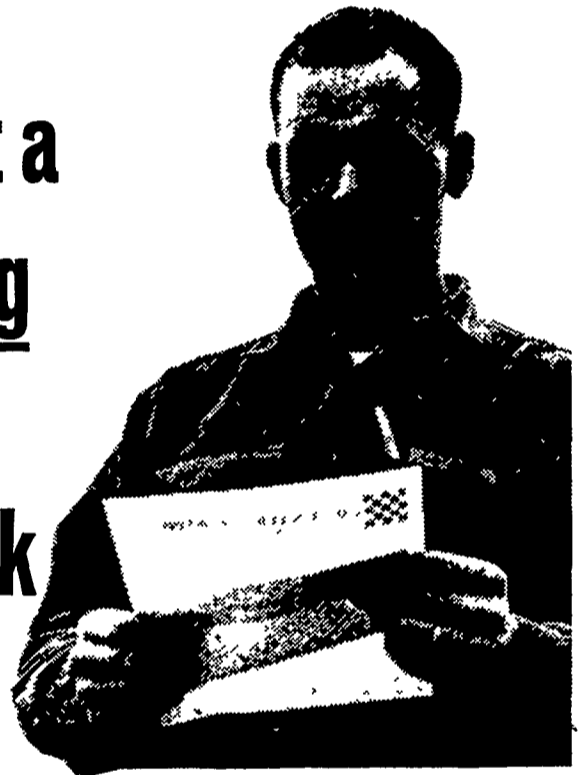
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