

French Farmers Are Battling Over A1 Bulls

The farmers of two neighboring villages in central France are at war over their rival operations for artificial insemination of cows.

One bull has died and several policemen have been injured. The municipal council of Lavoux resigned and farmers armed with shotguns, scythes and pitchforks are preparing for the next battle.

The artificial insemination center at nearby Mignaloux has the blessing of the government under regulations to prevent the proliferation of such centers. The farmers at Lavoux, which has a population of 632, set up a cooperative insemination center of their own and ignored official orders to shut it down.

The county prefect, or governor, sent police to confiscate the Lavoux stock of sperm. The Lavoux farmers responded by marching across the fields to kidnap some of the prize bulls of Mignaloux.

They followed up with a demonstration outside the prefect's office in Poitiers. Several police were hurt breaking up the demonstration.

The prefect last week ordered the seizure of the bulls owned by the Lavoux farmers. Lavoux farmers acted first, burning down a Mignaloux stable and killing one bull.

On Sunday, the voters of Lavoux were called to the polls to elect a new municipal council. All but 16 boycotted the election in protest and the vote was declared void.

The normally peaceful countryside east of Poitiers looked like a battlefield as armed far-

mers equipped with field glasses stood guard over their insemination centers and watched for the enemy's next move.

A meeting of the mayors of other villages in the vicinity was called in Lavoux on Sunday night to discuss possible mediation. The mayor of Mignaloux and his friends were invited but failed to appear.

Pfizer Signs Agreement To Buy Trojan Seed Co.

Pfizer Inc. announced that it has agreed in principle to purchase Trojan Seed Company, a subsidiary of Fuqua Industries, Inc.

R.M. Hendrickson, president of the Pfizer Agricultural Division, said Pfizer will pay Fuqua \$21 million for the stock of Trojan. The proposed acquisition would mark entry by Pfizer into seed corn genetics.

Trojan, which is based in Olivia, Minn., had sales in excess of \$17 million in 1972 with net earnings of about \$1.5 million.

Consummation of the transaction is subject to several conditions, including approval of a formal agreement by the Boards of Directors of Fuqua and Pfizer not later than Sept. 10, 1973.

"We consider seed corn to be one of the most basic of agricultural input industries," Mr. Hendrickson said. "We see many new developments and challenges ahead in this area."

Stay Seated in Boats

Remain seated in your boat as much as possible to avoid being tossed overboard. If you must change seats, do so by keeping low and moving smoothly and slowly—one person at a time, cautions the Cooperative Extension Service Farm and Home Safety Committee of The Pennsylvania State University.



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