

ASCS to Elect Committee

Fred G. Seldomridge, Chairman of the Lancaster County ASC Committee has announced that the county Convention to elect the county ASC Committee will be held on Monday, December 17 at 10:00 a m in the Farm and Home Center.

Delegates to the convention to elect the committee will be the ASC Community Committeemen that were elected by mail ballot December 6. They will elect one member to the county committee for a term of three years, and also elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman from the new member and two members serving unexpired terms.

The County Convention is open to the public and any interested persons may attend. Both County and Community Committees are comprised of farmers in the county. The County Committee is charged with the administration of farm programs delegated to ASCS by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Record Crop for Wheat Farmers

Wheat farmers, who recently have seen the highest prices in history, harvested a bread-grain crop worth a record \$6.5 billion this year, the Agriculture Department said Monday.

The massive upturn in crop value, more than double from 1972, also has meant higher bread prices for consumers.

The entire crop, a record of more than 1.7 billion bushels, was computed at an average farm value of \$3.82 per bushel, the Crop Reporting Board said. The 1972 crop had averaged \$1.76 per bushel and was worth \$2.7 billion.

According to records, the 1973 wheat harvest was worth more than double the old high value of \$3.1 billion in 1947.

The price spiral, which actually began 18 months ago when the Soviet Union bought huge

quantities of U.S. wheat, began rising sharply five months ago, from \$2.47 per bushel in July to a peak of \$4.62 in September.

Meantime, demand for wheat during the past 18 months has pushed up sharply the cost of bread to American consumers.

By this fall a one-pound loaf costs an average of 29.5 cents in retail stores, up 4.9 cents from July 1972. Of that increase, the higher cost of wheat for flour accounted for three cents, USDA said.

The Kansas crop, traditionally the largest, was valued at more than \$1.38 billion, an average of \$3.60 per bushel for a crop of 384.8 million bushels.

Last year, when the Kansas crop was 314.9 million bushels, wheat was worth \$529 million or \$1.68 per bushel to the state's farmers.

Although the U.S. crop was a record, production did not keep pace with demand from exporters and domestic needs. Department officials say exports in 1973-74 will require 1.15 billion bushels, and reports by exporters indicate even more.

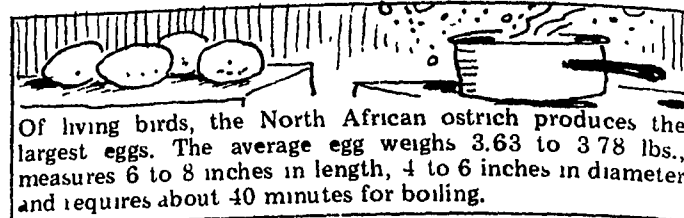
Thus, coupled with domestic needs, the demand outlook means the U.S. wheat reserve will be less than 250 million bushels by the time a new crop is ready next summer. And it could be far less if exports turn out larger than USDA predicts.

The report Monday showed the 1973 wheat crop was about 15 million bushels less than department officials had estimated earlier this fall but still substantially above the old record of 1.62 billion harvested in 1971. Production last year was 1.54 billion.

There were no final production or value figures for 1973 crop corn, soybeans or other fall harvested commodities. Those will be announced in January, the report said.

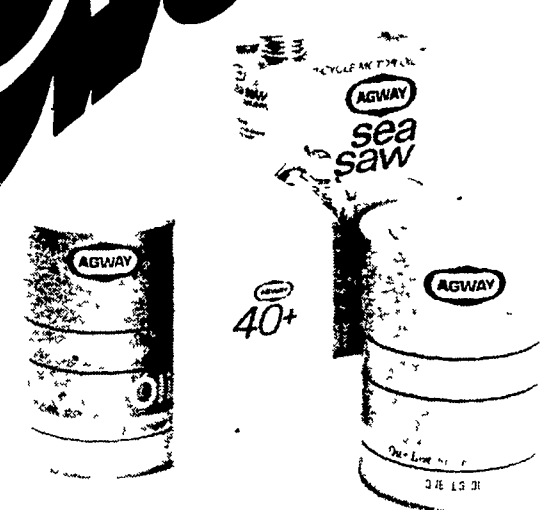
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Of living birds, the North African ostrich produces the largest eggs. The average egg weighs 3.63 to 3.78 lbs., measures 6 to 8 inches in length, 4 to 6 inches in diameter and requires about 40 minutes for boiling.

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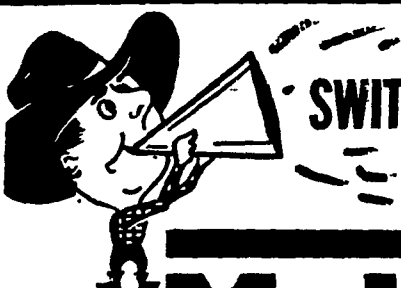
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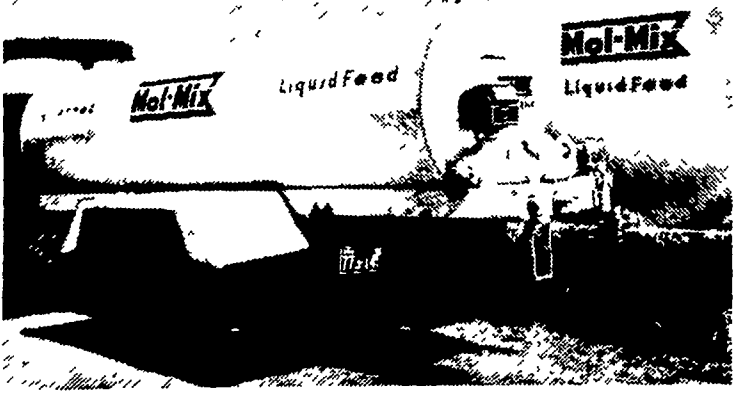
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