

Fiber Shortages and Prices

Jeans to jersey, petticoats to woolens. When you go to the store this year in search of clothing and yard goods—you may find fewer items to choose from, or wind up paying higher prices for what you do find. The reasons, explains Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, Extension clothing specialist at The Pennsylvania State University, are: fashion's whim, new marketing outlets and Mother Nature.

Drastic changes in demand and supply have upset the textile industry. The overall use of fibers by United States mills has increased 55 percent since 1960. And the production of man-made fibers has rocketed 245 percent.

But with the soaring demand for man-made fibers, the supply of raw materials is being depleted. There is now fear of a shortage in elements used to produce nylon, polyester, and

acrylics. Manufacturer of some fibers has even been curtailed, according to Mrs. Wilson.

The fashion trend toward man-made fibers was accompanied by a decrease in demand for wool. So sheep producers cut back their herds. Now, with a returning interest in "natural fibers" it will take time to catch up.

When knit fabrics surged ahead in popularity, more looms were made for knits and fewer for woven fabrics. So now with the return to woven materials, there is a shortage of looms and production is delayed.

Another reason for the forecasted increase in textile prices, says the Extension clothing specialist, is the growth in competition for export sales. With devaluation of the dollar, big orders have come in from Japan and England. And,

"Mulligan Stew" Returns To TV

"Mulligan Stew" is a six-part television series designed to help young Americans improve their diets. This 4-H TV series is prepared in an entertaining fashion, yet it is both educational and informational, says Jay W. Irwin, Associate County Agent.

While the series is aimed at 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, younger and older children as well as adults might gain valuable information and enjoy seeing it.

Irwin says the showing in this area will be on WGAL-TV8, Lancaster at 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. starting on Saturday, January 5.

Emphasizing "you are what you eat" the programs are filled with rock music, comedy, adventure and information on good

nutrition. The program's aim is to help youngsters look good, feel good and do good through better nutrition. The six half-hour programs focus on fun learning activities and projects for individual boys and girls or learning groups.

Young actors do one-liner jokes and street interviews with

astronauts and world-famous food authorities and scientists.

This 4-H TV production is part of a special nutrition program in cooperation with the USDA and the Cooperative Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University.

Mulligan Stew learning kits are available from county Extension offices or by writing to 4-H TV, Agric. Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

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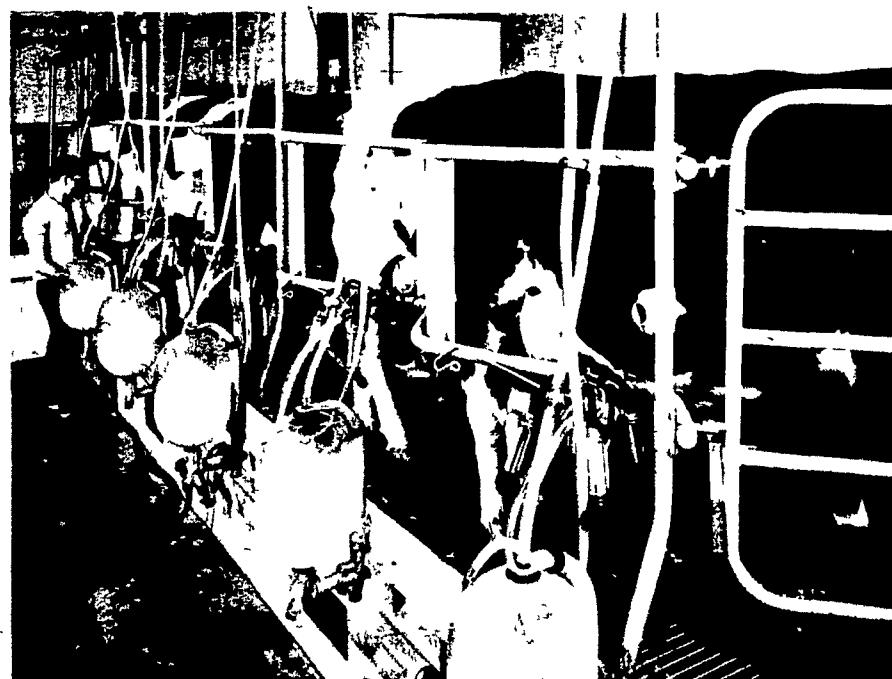
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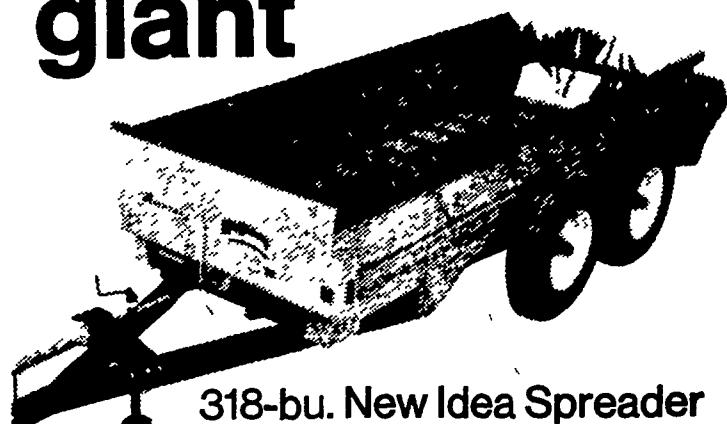
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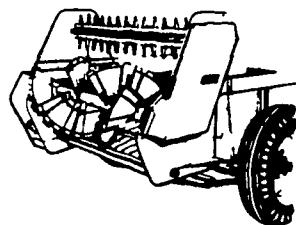


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