

# Funds

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 research centers throughout the country, Beattie noted. In his speech later in the evening to the extension association, Beattie said agriculture and farm problems were things people just didn't think about for the past two decades. "A whole generation has grown up with plentiful food," he told the group. "They've never had to worry about going hungry, and they haven't given much thought to agricultural problems. But public attitudes are starting to shift. People are starting to notice us again. They're seeing headlines about food prices, agricultural exports and even cattle rustlers." This new public

awareness, Beattie expects, will have a good effect on agricultural research. He said he hopes some of the money that used to go for space research will go instead into agricultural programs. "We're entering a unique era of awareness for agriculture," he said. "The business of supplying food to our own people and the people of the world is of prime importance. Food exports are very significant in our balance of payments picture, and they can be a powerful diplomatic tool. In the years ahead, the need for food will have a tremendous influence on national behavior."

An interesting sidelight of the new awareness of agriculture, Beattie noted, was the increasing enrollment in the College of

Agriculture. In the 1969-70 school year, he noted, there were 1276 enrollees in the College. This year there are 2540 enrolled, an increase of 99 percent. In the same period, total enrollment at the University has risen by only 14 percent. Just as surprising are the facts that some 65 percent of the College of Agriculture enrollees are from urban areas, and 20 percent of them are women. On the subject of food prices, Beattie said he expects them to rise to World War II levels, when food took an average of 22 percent of the average consumer's disposable income. Even so, he said, "The nation will still have the best, most economical source of food of any country in the world." He noted food prices have been on a continual down-

ward slide as a percentage of disposable income. He said the consumer's share of food costs has gone down steadily from the post World War I period to 15 to 18 months ago when the figure got down to 15.4 per cent of disposable income being spent for food. "Then along came the sale of wheat to Russia and soybeans to Japan wiping out surpluses and forcing prices to take a sharp turn upward," said Beattie. Now, he said, the figure has probably hit about 18.5 per cent of the disposable income. "I don't think we can ever expect this thing to go back down to around the 15 per cent we saw a year-and-a-half ago," said Beattie. "Everything the farmer needs to produce food and fiber has gone up but his income hasn't gone up proportionately."

# FARM TRENDS

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from January 1973. U.S. average milk production per cow during January was 824 pounds compared with 826 pounds in January 1973. During January there were 11.3 million milk cows on farms, down 3 percent from January 1973.

### Potato Stocks Increase

Stocks of potatoes stored in Pennsylvania on February 1, 1974 totaled 1,550,000 cwt., according to the Crop Reporting Service. This is 7 percent more than a year earlier. These stocks represent potatoes held for all uses by Pennsylvania growers, local dealers, and processors.

Total U. S. stocks on February 1, 1974 was 102.4 million cwt., 4 percent less than the 107.2 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Disappearance (sales, home use, shrinkage, etc.) from the 1973 fall production of 252.0 million cwt. to February 1, 1974 was 149.6 million cwt. Comparable disappearance from the 1972 production was 141.7 million cwt.

### U.S. Feed Grain Carryover to Hit 22-Year Low

U.S. feed grain use for 1973-74 may be a little below last season's big volume, but it'll still exceed production and drop carryover to its lowest point in 22 years, according to a summary of the Feed Situation issued last week.

Carryover was 32 million tons at the beginning of this season, while production totaled 205 million tons. But, while use may not equal last year's record 173 million tons, it'll come close. And, exports are seen at 40 million tons, also short of last year's 43 million-ton total. Nonetheless, total disappearance is seen at around 211 million tons - - well above production. And, carryover is now seen at 27 million tons - - the lowest since 1952.

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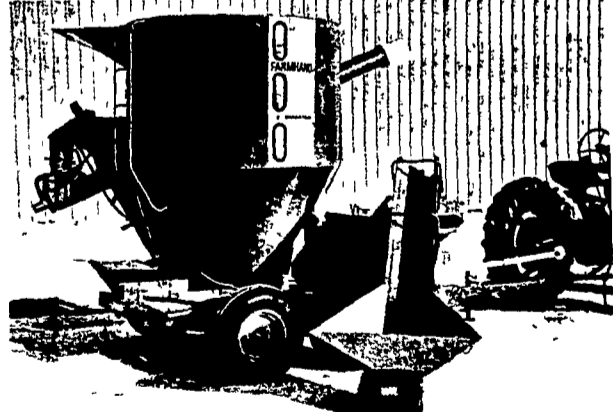
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