

Good Farm Records A Must for Census

Comprehensive new information about agriculture in the United States will be gathered in the 1974 Census of Agriculture by the Bureau of Agriculture by the U. S. Department of Commerce's Social and Economic Statistics Administration.

Data will be collected early in 1975 covering farm and ranch operations during 1974, and the Bureau reminds the Nation's farmers to keep records that will help them furnish the information requested on the forms they will receive in the mail next January.

Much of the 1974 data gathered will be similar to that of 1969 and earlier years and will be published for each county. It will include:

Total number of farms, acres in farms, average value of land and buildings per farm, cropland har-

vested, acreage devoted to major crops, and numbers of major kinds of livestock on farms.

Further items will be the number of farm operators by age, days of off-farm work by farm operators, value of all farm products sold, recreation income, number of autos, trucks, tractors, combines, and mower conditioners.

Expenditure questions include purchase of feed, fertilizer, pesticides, lime, gasoline and other farm fuels, machine hire, farm labor, and livestock and poultry purchases.

As in earlier farm censuses, data to be published for States include characteristics of farms grouped in income categories by type; cattle and calves by size of herd; hogs and pigs by number on farms; sheep and lambs by size of flock; and

chickens over 3 months old by size of flock.

Like the 1969 census this will be a mail census. Farmers will be mailed their report forms and asked to fill them out and mail them back. In 1964 and earlier farm censuses, Census enumerators called on all farm operators to obtain the information.

The 1974 report forms will be mailed out the last week of December 1974. The mail method allows farm operators to complete the forms in complete privacy at their convenience, within a reasonable period of time, and to refer to their records as needed.

All information reported by the farm operator is confidential by law and can be seen only by sworn

Census employees who are subject to fine and imprisonment for revealing any such information. Nothing can be published that might disclose information about an individual farm operator.

Supermarket Goddess?

Who is the American homemaker? She's not the affluent, vibrant, supermarket goddess most color ads and TV commercials depict. More realistically, the "average" homemaker is over 35 years old; her husband's income is between \$7,000 and \$10,000 annually; and according to one study, she's apt to be bored, lonely and frustrated, feeling trapped by home and family. She may not be married; there are more than 11 million widowed or divorced American women.

Las Vegas

My friend just got back from three weeks in Las Vegas where he underwent a rather strange operation. He had his wallet removed!

Auction Date Set For Performance Tested Beef Sires

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will hold the first sale of performance tested beef bulls, Friday, March 29, from its Meat Animal Evaluation Center (MAEC) at Pennsylvania State University.

A group of 68 pure-bred bulls ranging in age from six months to a year were started on a carefully monitored feeding program last fall. The auction will put the highest-scoring 75 percent on the block, approximately 50, to be sold to Pennsylvania livestockmen as herd sires.

This program is a departure from the previous progeny testing program which took up to four years before a bull could be evaluated as a potential beef sire. In progeny testing it was necessary to wait at least a year until the bull matured enough for breeding. Then another nine months wait until his calves were born and still another 18 to 24 months went by until the calves were ready for slaughter and an evaluation of their carcasses.

With live bull testing an evaluation of the potential young sire can be determined before his second birthday. The MAEC carefully weighs and records the gain every 28 days for a period of 140 days and at the conclusion of the test will measure the loin-eye area and fat thickness with an ultrasonic device.

Performance testing is based on a study-proven concept that a feeder calf will have the same weight-gaining characteristics and other physical attributes as its sire.

Breeders who enrolled their bull calves at the MAEC have been paying for feed and normal veterinary service on a pro rata basis. The proceeds from the sale of each bull after deducting normal auction and advertising costs will go to the breeder. Those animals not consigned to the sale will be returned to their original owners.

The original group of bulls included 25 Charolais, 24 Black Angus, seven Simmental, six Polled Hereford, three Chianina and one each of Horned Hereford, Red Angus and Shorthorn.

Previously beef sires were always sold privately, one at a time, from breeder to breeder. This will be the first public auction of beef sires ever held in Pennsylvania. Further information regarding the sale can be obtained from the Bureau of Animal Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg or any of the state breed associations.



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