

Soviet Leader Criticizes State Model Farms

Things are going so badly down on the farm in Azerbaijan that the head of the Communist party there says he is astounded.

And it takes a lot to astound party General Secretary Geidar A. Aliev, who runs what is generally acknowledged to be one of the most corrupt corners of the Soviet Union.

The reformist party boss said there have been no improvements since 1971, when he replaced all the senior officials in the Caucasian republic's ministry of land improvement and irrigation.

"We now have to admit that there have been almost no changes for the better,"

Aliev said in a speech reported by the local newspaper Bakinskii Rabochii.

Aliev said the minister, Tofik M. Bagirov, has been removed from his post and a "severe reprimand" has been entered in his Communist party card.

"The minister comrade Bagirov, instead of taking steps to remove shortcomings and defects, only looked after his own well-being through dishonesty and deceit," Aliev said.

The party leader particularly criticized state model farms that train local farmers.

"What is absurd is that they show far poorer per-

formances that the collective farms they are supposed to teach," he said.

Aliev gave these examples:

—The state cotton institute is outperformed three or four times by some collective farms. —The research institute of animal husbandry gets a yield of 59 eggs per hen, compared to an average of 107 throughout the republic.

"It is a disgrace," Aliev said. "Instead of doing their jobs, some scientists engage in scheming, intriguing and writing complaints to various administrations."

"And some farm managers," he said, "with obvious connivance have inflated their reports with eyewash and deceit."

Aliev said the republics 907 collective farms and 465 state farms are top-heavy with management and some ought to be merged.

Aliev attacked wastage of good land. For example, he said bad planning sited an automobile service station on fertile farmland while thousands of acres of barren land nearby went unused.

"Elsewhere, some land is unnecessarily spoiled by oil exploitation, the republics No. 1 industry, and soil is carelessly lost to erosion."

Aliev said veterinary services are "primitive," the supply of fertilizers haphazard and crop rotation ignored by all but 148 farms.

Eastern Limousin Assoc. Organized

An enthusiastic group of Limousin breeders representing eight states was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. John D. Moore at their farm in Newville, Pennsylvania on Sunday, April 21.

Bob Sollenberger, representing the Professional Cattle Service, gave a demonstration of an ultrasonic scanner, and Dr. Lowell Wilson from Penn State University explained the operation of the machine and answered questions about performance testing. Bryant Harris, Marfa, Texas, President of the North American Limousin Foundation; Bob Vantrese, Executive Vice President of the NALF office in Denver; and Ken Holloway of American Cattle Service in Frederick, Oklahoma also participated in the program.

Determination and enthusiasm were present, both in the presentation of the film "7000 Years New" and the thoughts expressed by each of the speakers. "The breed enthusiasm is unbelievable," Vantrese remarked. "Limousin people have open eyes, ears and minds and we're all working for efficiency for profit." He then explained the importance of keeping good beef performance records.

Organizing Directors elected were John D. Moore, Newville, Pa.; Paul D.

John Briggs, Cameron, W. Va.; Bob DeLorenzo, Burkirk, N.Y.; and Frank Phelps, Belle Center, Ohio. Tentative plans for a sale in November are being made by the newly formed Association.

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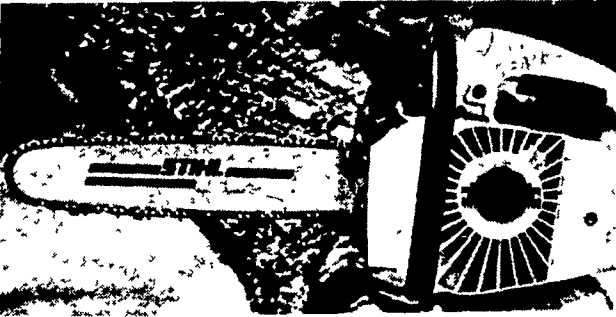
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From May until October is the most critical erosion period according to Karl Hellerick, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. During this time 80 percent of the high intense-short duration storms occur. Unprotected building construction sites and farmland are both eroded during these downpours. Soil sediments carry the lime and fertilizer off the land and top soil is lost.

Mr. Hellerick suggests that you look at the land and see the difference conservation does for earthmoving and farming operations. Often adjoining properties show this dramatic difference. If your land needs to be reworked to close the gullies or the runoff from your operation is muddy than you need to add conservation practice to your way of doing business.

Strip cropping, no till, minimum tillage, grassed waterway, diversions, terraces, grass seedlings and mulching are some of the practices that can help you save money concludes Mr. Hellerick.

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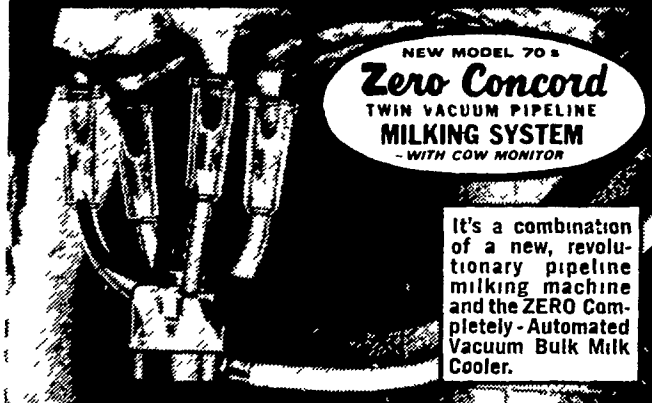
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