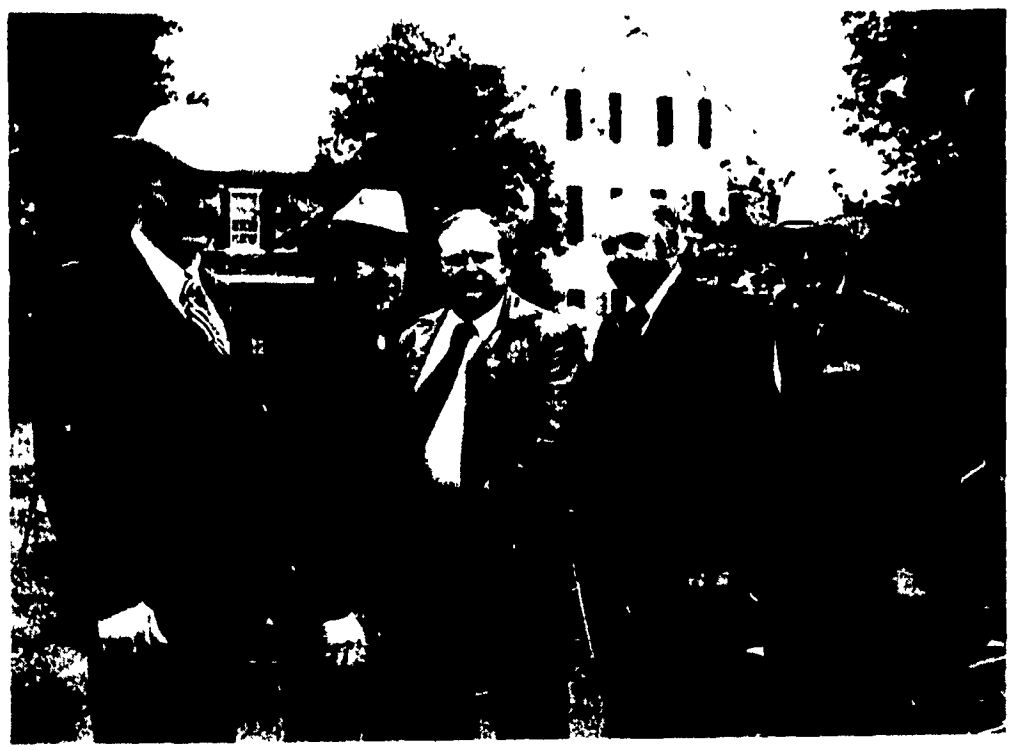

Principal guests at the Simmental Field Day were from left: Don Vaniman, Executive Secretary of the Simmental Association, Dr. Thomas Conrad, president of the Pa. Simmental Association, Gene Folck, Ohio Simmental representative, Ansul Armstrong, president of the New Breeds Industry and Dr. Lowell Wilson, beef specialist at the Pennsylvania State University.

Contestants were asked to judge several Simmental cows according to the weight of the calves they had weaned over a two year period.

Large Crowd Attends Simmental Field Day

[Continued From Page 1]

good qualities in milking and beef production.

In listing the advantages of crossbreeding, Dr. Wilson said that a crossbreeding program can increase fertility by 15 percent, weaning weight by 10 percent, growth by 5 percent and net profit as high as 25 percent. This is however, he qualified if the program is a complimentary one in which the good qualities of both breeds compliment each other.

"A good program," he explained "depends on the plan you follow, a base for selection of animals, good management and using the breed best suited for your interest."

"Although many producers will stay with purebred breeds," he commented "within the next twenty years many producers will also be crossbreeding for vigor and carcass quality."

Others speakers for the afternoon program included Harry Stanbach, president of the Pa. Cattlemen's Association. Stanbach described the bull testing program at Penn State and also encouraged interested cattle producers to join the State Association.

Also present to speak on behalf of the Simmental Breed was Don Vaniman, Executive Secretary of the American Simmental Association, along with Gene Folck of the Ohio Simmental Association and Ansul Armstrong, president of the New Breeds Industry from Manhattan, Kansas.

The Simmental Breed of Cattle is relatively new to this country as the first bull was brought to the United States in 1967. In October of 1968 the American Simmental Association was formed in order to promote the breed of cattle and to organize registration and performance record facilities.

Simmentals themselves are one of the oldest breed of cattle. They originated in the Simme Valley of Switzerland and spread throughout Europe, Russia, South Africa and the Mid East.

They are rapid growing animals usually producing large calves and weaning calves at high weights. They are milk producing animals as well as beef animals and are noted for their docile nature.

As they are introduced to cattlemen across the country the breed has become more and more popular resulting in increased registrations.

The Conrads of Beechdale Farm first got interested in the Simmental Breed about two years ago. Mrs. Conrad explained that they especially liked the cows for their docile nature and felt that they were becoming a popular breed.

Since Simmentals are often used in crossbreeding programs, Conrads have bred Hereford, Guernsey, Angus and Charlois cattle with Simmental semen and presently have 90 animals.

Last year at the Allentown Fair, the Conrads showed the Grand Champion Female Cow and have won other awards also.

Presently there are 39 state associations for Simmental Cattle with approximately 30 members in the Pa. Association.

Don Vaniman and Ansul Armstrong discuss the cattle business during the tour of Beechdale Farms.

Farm Population Stabilizing

The U.S. farm population declined only 0.8 percent a year from 1970 to 1973, contrasting sharply with 4.8 percent average annual declines in the 1960's according to a U. S. Department of Agriculture report issued today.

Economic Research Service (ERS) figures now show about 9.5 million people living on farms. Losses of farm population continue in the South and Northeast regions of the country while the West shows an increase. The North Central area showed little change in farm population.

The ERS estimates also reveal that during 1970-73, the net loss to the farm population through people migrating from farms or reclassification of their residence from farm to non-farm averaged 113,000 annually. Although the absolute average loss has been steadily declining as the number of potential migrants diminished, this was a 40-year low.

Copies of "Farm Population Estimates for 1973", ERS-561, are available by phoning (202) 447-7255 or by writing Economic Research Service, DI, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please combine your zip code and address.

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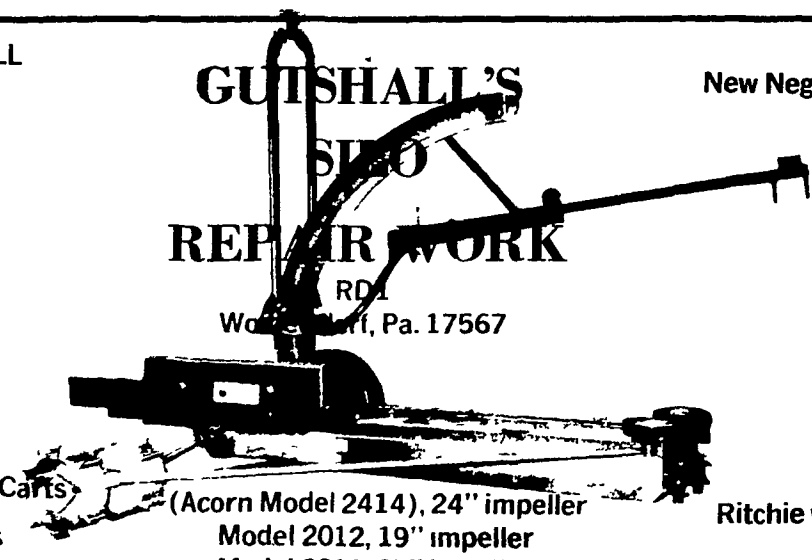

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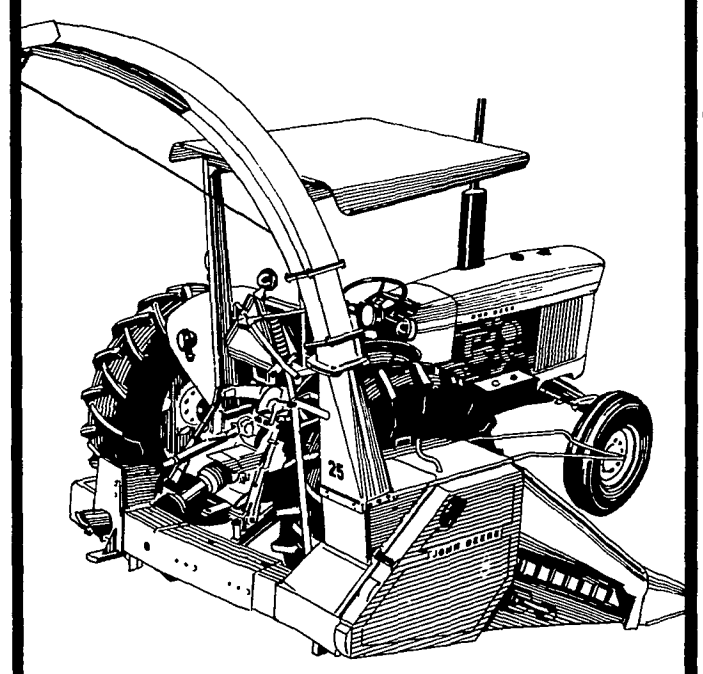

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