

Ag Production Adequate To 1985, Economist Says

American agriculture up to 1985 will likely have the capacity for a little excess production but not always enough to meet occasional surges of demand for exports, declared Dr. George E. Brandow of The Pennsylvania State University during the annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association recently at College Station, Texas. Dr. Brandow said the current U.S. food situation is a severe instance of abnormal export demand and is being extended by serious drought.

His views for a long-range outlook were based on projections of food production and use in 1985 for two different situations. In the first, long-established trends would dominate the outlook rather than recent exceptions such as world-

wide drought. The second situation would hinge on possible growth of export demand beyond unusual levels. Either situation, he said, could be combined with restrictions on agriculture's capacity to meet demands due to shortages of fertilizer and other supplies or because of severe environmental measures.

If exports should go back to pre-1972 trends, Brandow reported, production could keep up with growth of the total market at prices no higher in relation to other consumer prices than were usual prior to 1972. A small surplus would be likely in the usual case, the study showed, but surges of export demand such as experienced in 1966 and 1972-73 could create temporary shortages.

Expansion of farm output would be speeded up if high

demand and prices created a strong incentive, he pointed out. His figures for that situation showed a 25 million acre increase over the 325 million acres of harvested cropland otherwise to be expected. The figures also showed slightly higher average yields per acre despite the lower productivity of new cropland. Total grain production would be boosted by 12 percent and export availability of grains by two-thirds if high prices prevailed.

The United States probably would be able to provide about as much food aid to poor countries as at the peak of past aid even without the stimulus of high prices, according to the study. Crop prices that remained as favorable to farmers as in 1972-73 might generate four times as much food for aid, a representative projection showed. Even that volume of food could not itself long sustain all the less developed countries, Brandow concuded, because it would be absorbed by three year's population growth in the late 1980's if present birthrates continued.

Increased production of food for aid could be encouraged if the public wanted it, he said, by long-term guarantees of favorable returns to producers and cheap credit for land development. Dr. Brandow emphasized the need to take uncertainty into account in forming food and agricultural policy and argued for flexibility capable of dealing with events as they unfold. He pointed to stabilization of market supplies as a leading problem but warned that the task would be more difficult than formerly thought.

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Farm/City Cochairmen Announced

State Farm-City Council Chairman, Claude Myers, announced the appointment of co-chairmen William Howerter, Kempton RD2, and Leon Kirkhoff, RD2, Bernville as co-chairmen of the Berks County Farm-City Council. In making the announcement, Myers said the co-chairmen will coordinate Farm-City Week activities in the county, which will be observed throughout the state November 22-28, 1974. This year's Farm-City theme is "Know Your Neighbor and Work Together."

One of the major objectives of Farm-City Week, Myers said, is to develop a better understanding between our urban and rural people. These two groups are interdependent. They need to have a better knowledge of each other's role in today's society. And, they have an important role for improving the quality of life in the Commonwealth, Myers said.

The Chairman said that Farm-City Week has been observed in Pennsylvania for over a decade. Annually, it's sponsored by statewide organizations, federal and state agencies, and local groups. Kiwanis International promotes Farm-City Week through the nation. Schools, civic and service organizations, the business community and individuals are urged to participate.

York Couple Win Grange Award

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn W. Sterner of Hanover, York County, have been named the Pennsylvania State Grange's young married couple of the year. They were selected in a competition at the annual Grange conference for young married couples which was held at Edgewater Acres near Huntingdon.

They will serve for the 1974-75 year in Pennsylvania, and will compete for the national title at the annual convention of the National Grange in Columbus, Ohio, in November 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterner succeeded Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Stewart of West Springfield, Erie county, the state Grange's young married couple for 1973-74.

The Sterners, who reside at 39 Centennial Ave. in Hanover, have been married for eight years and have two sons, six-year-old Patrick and two-year-old Jonathan. They are members of Trinity

United Church of Christ in Hanover where Glenn is a deacon.

The Sterners have been active in the Grange since 1966. Glenn is now serving as overseer of Gideon Grange at Hanover and of the York-Adams County Pomona Grange. He also has served as master, assistant steward and gatekeeper of Gideon Grange, and gatekeeper and steward of the Pomona Grange.

His wife, Peggy Ann, is the lecturer (program chairman) and past gatekeeper of the Gideon Grange.

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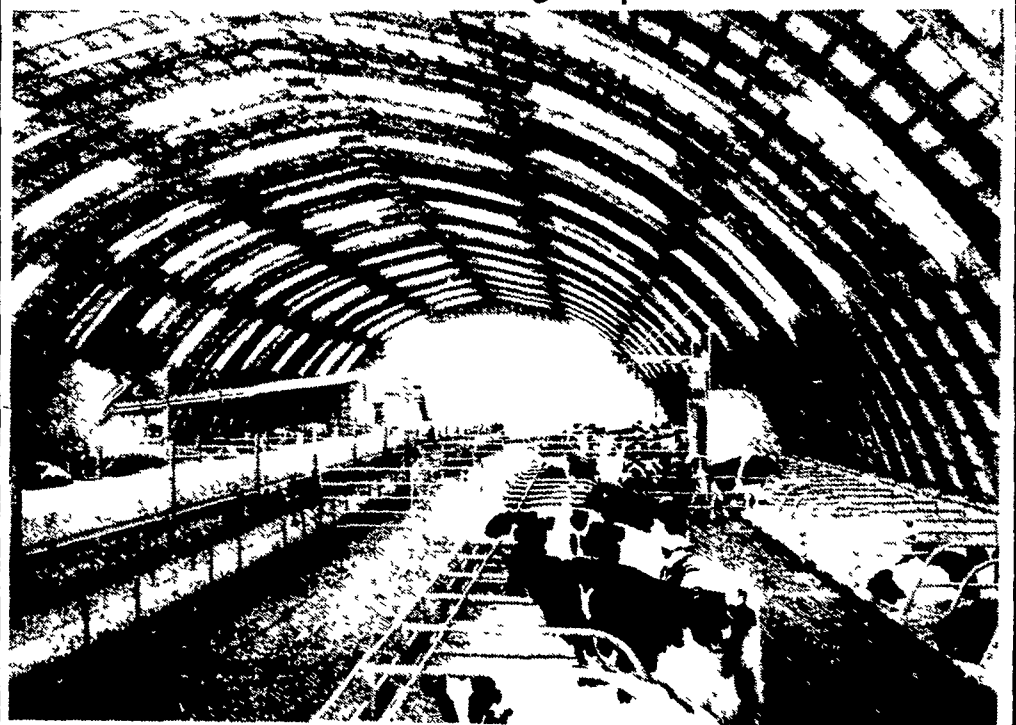
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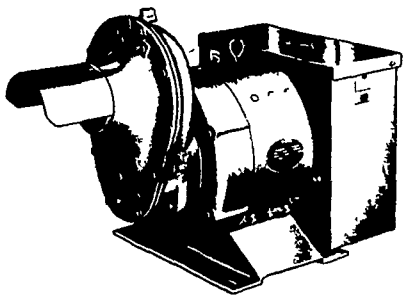
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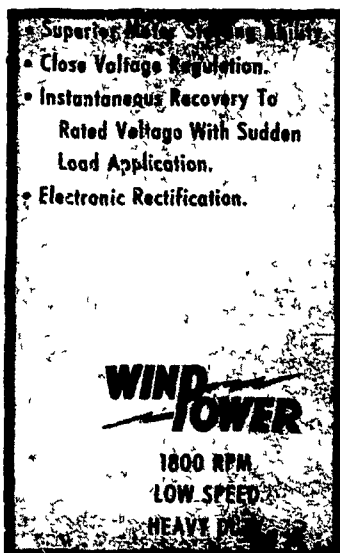
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