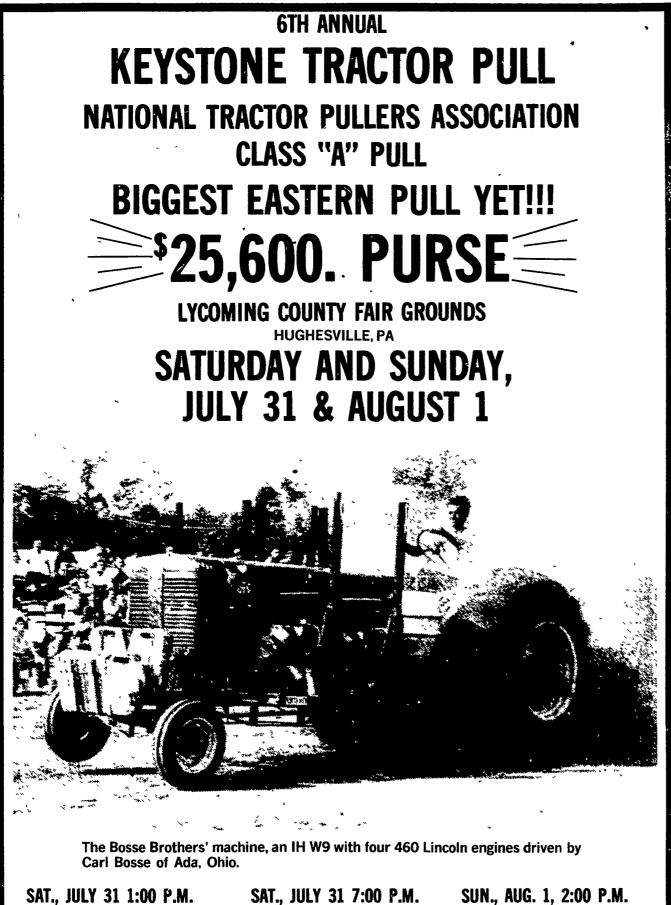


A day at the auction interests both young and old. but for some it gets a little weary at times and chins have to find a comfortable resting place in the palm

of a hand. These people were witnessing a recent horse auction at the New Holland Sales Stables.



World must change eating habits

W. Burton, geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), recently told the World Food Conference here the world can feed itself for the remainder of the century only if it changes its ways.

"I believe the world can feed itself for the remainder of this century if it will remove the constraints it knows how or can learn how to remove," he said. "It cannot feed itself unless it changes its ways."

The constraints Dr. Burton spoke about included not just technical problems in the business of growing crops, but also the constraints imposed by man in producing material aids to agriculture and in the methods practiced in growing the crops.

A geneticist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Dr. Burton said cereal grasses - rice, wheat, maize, barley, rye, oats, sorghum and millet probably always will be man's most important food source. Together these plants supply three-fourths of our energy and more than half our protein.

"The cereal grasses are adapted to a great diversity of soil and water con-ditions," he said. "They

AMES, Iowa - Dr. Glenn range from rice, growing on research rich, fertile soil flooded with water, to pearl millet, producing grain on six inches of infertile soil with only four inches of rainfall.'

> Dr. Burton also pointed out that although cereal grasses feed such a large proportion of the world's people, cereals need improvements to raise their nutritional levels. If that occurred, even those people unable to afford little more than the basic cereal diet could still enjoy the good health associated with adequate nutrition.

> He went on to cite a number of examples where, through careful breeding programs, continuing genetic improvements have resulted in plants with greater nutritional value as well as built-in resistance to insect pests and diseases.

He said the strategy for increasing production is simple. "It depends on people — dedicated people who care," he said. There must be a leader, a team of capable research workers, specialists who make the business of improving agriculture their life's work. And there must be continued interchange between the farmer who applies the new technology to grow more food and the scientist who creates it.

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