

Better ideas

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It should not be surprising, though some folks will likely be too slow to want to swallow such medicine. Advanced technologies are present in Europe in many phases of farm production. In milk testing equipment, for example, the Danes have taken a commanding lead, and their sophisticated machines can be found at prestigious American universities. Europe was also first with animal husbandry and management which are just beginning to get used to. In corn production, 80 bushels per acre is expected, compared to just 40 at that here. The list could go on and on. Earlier this year the Lancaster County Farmers Association hosted a German farmer who was impressed with what he saw here. He noted that American farmers work hard, but that impressed him most of all was that much easier the American farmer can make a living compared to his European counterpart. Economic pressures and competition are greater in Germany, he revealed.

That's just one of the reasons why some European farming methods are considered to be ahead of those in the U.S. We in America have had, and still have, the luxury of wide-open spaces. There's lots of land, and even though it's expensive, "intensive care" hasn't been as mandatory as what it might be in more densely populated developed countries.

Those are the facts. Surrounding those facts are at least one bright and one dark spot. The dark side of it concerns Mr. Yankee's reluctance to face the facts. For example, European farming methods which have been proven to be successful for years, are generally not introduced into this country until after a battalion of American researchers have fine-combed every last detail. Some of that is necessary, but a lot of it boils down to just being stubborn about admitting someone else had a better idea. A lot of time and money are wasted in the meantime.

The bright side is knowing that improved, more efficient technologies are already here. We're oftentimes told that we must be more efficient, but suggestions as to how aren't always offered as readily.

It's refreshing to know that some solutions to our present or future problems are already figured out in other parts of the world.

Forum planned for farm women

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Farm and ranch women from all across the country will be meeting in Kansas City, Mo., for the third National Farm Women's Forum, December 7 to 9. More than 2500 rural women are expected to attend.

This estimated attendance is based on previous National Farm Women's Forums held in 1974 and 1975 in Milwaukee, Wis., which drew a total of more than 3500 women from 30 states.

This year the Forum will be held concurrently with a new National Beef Congress, sponsored by National Livestock Producer. The two conventions will be completely separate, however - the beef congress will be held at one end of the Kansas City Convention Center, and the women's forum at the other end, with trade show exhibits in between.

While the beef congress will appeal mainly to beef producers, the national farm women's forum is designed for women in all types of agriculture.

The forum program will focus on the farm woman as a "Partner in Agriculture", and seminars will deal with topics ranging from homemaking to farm business and product promotion.

Included will be sessions on cooking (featuring new small appliances and home canning and preserving aids), sewing for the professional look, holiday crafts, country decorating, plus gardening and houseplant care.

A special "Natural Fibers and Hides Style Show" will feature fashions of cotton, wool, leather and pignede, with garments provided and modeled by the Delta Cotton Wives (Mississippi), the National Wool Growers Auxiliary, the American

National CowBelles, and the Iowa Porkettes.

A review of farm women's successful projects to promote agriculture and its products will make up an "Ag Boosters" program. Various farm women will speak and describe their experiences of how they've worked for agriculture through farm organizations and through unique individual projects, in a program called "Meet the Challenge - Get Involved".

Farm tax and estate planning, a session with agricultural attorneys and bankers, and a bookkeeping seminar will also be part of the program.

President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter have been invited to speak to a joint opening session of the National Farm Women's Forum-National Beef Congress and are presently considering the invitation.

A new, fun-filled forum program, "Agri-Sports", will be featured the evening of December 7, with farmers and their wives competing in a wide variety of farm-

oriented "Olympic"-type contests, ranging from tractor-triangle races to wheelbarrow races!

There will be a tour leaving from the Lancaster County area to travel to this forum. For further information, contact Mrs. Naomi Spahr, R. 6, Box 615, Litzitz, Pa. 17543, phone 717-626-7213.

Bisque

1/4 cup chopped onion
1/4 teaspoon leaf thyme
1 tablespoon butter or margarine
1 can (10 1/2 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup
1/2 soup can milk
1/2 soup can water
1 cup flaked cooked crab (or 7-ounce can, drained)
1/4 cup chopped cooked broccoli
Lemon wedges

Cook onion and thyme in butter until onion is tender. Add remaining ingredients except lemon wedges. Heat; stir often. Serve with lemon wedges. 3 to 4 servings.

Spiced Oranges

Section 6 oranges, discarding all connecting tissue and seeds. Heat 1/2 cup red wine, 1/4 cup sugar, and dash each with cinnamon and cloves. Pour over oranges. Chill. Serves 4.

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