

British compare farming

(Continued from Page 102)

"I pay 105 pounds a ton (roughly \$210 at the present rate of exchange) for maize, and 125 pounds a ton (\$250) for soybeans," said one farmer with a flock of 45,000 laying hens. By way of contrast, his counterpart on the Delmarva peninsula pays about \$243 a ton for beans, but only \$75 a ton for shelled corn. To avoid the expense of imported grains, this man grows as much wheat and barley as possible on his 400 acre farm in Gloucestershire. Besides the hens, he also feeds about 128

head of cattle, half of them dairy cows.

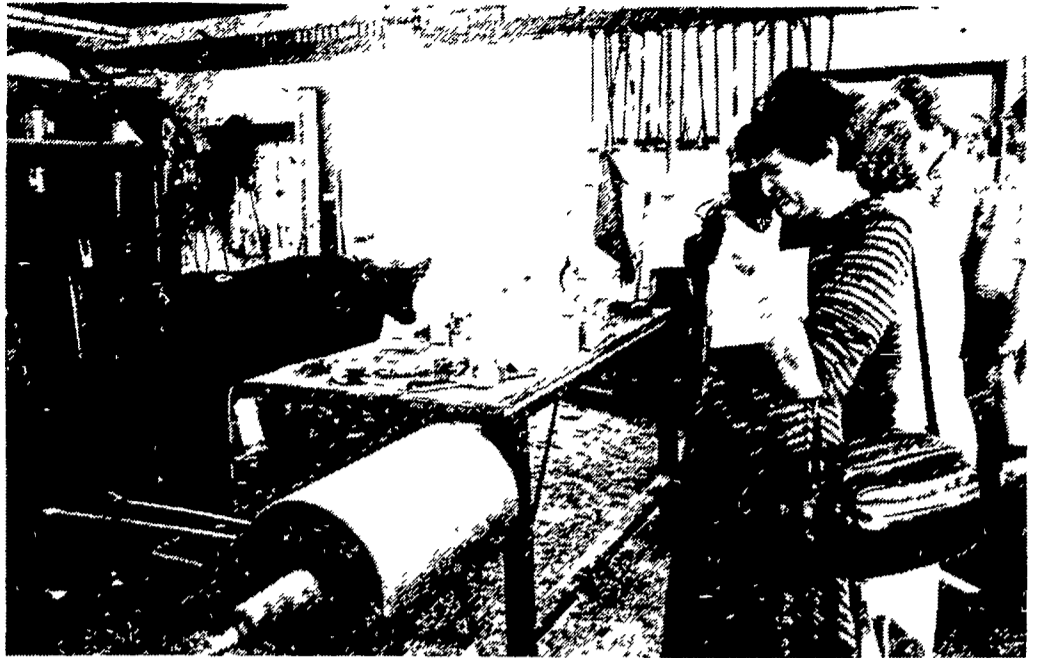
This same farmer was struck by the amount of what he called "scrub" land he had seen on his travels through Delaware and other states. (This was his third trip to the U.S.) "Where I come from every spare inch of land that can be cultivated is either in grass or crops," he explained.

Speaking of land, one thing that American and British farmers have in common is the high price of farmland. "Ten years ago the first bit of land we bought cost 250

pounds (\$500) an acre," reported a farmer from the Cotswolds. "Now it's changed hands at 1300 pounds (\$2600) an acre. And in the last two years the farm next to ours has doubled in worth."

It's mostly farmers bidding for the land who have boosted the price, they agreed. But insurance and pension companies are bidding on it too, as a form of investment.

As in the States, it's become very hard over there to get started in farming because of the tremendous



Checking out reception end of a cattle feedlot - Touring British livestock farmers and wives marvel at efficiencies of Delaware's King Cole Ranch beef production system. Most British beef is pasture fed.



Swine research assistant Ralph Lowe describes University of Delaware's new swine production unit at Georgetown to group of visiting British farmers.

capital outlay involved - unless you come from a farm or marry into one. "I don't know if it's going to last like this," remarked an old Welshman who recently retired, leaving his three sons to take over a profitable sheep operation. "But being as there is such a good trade for livestock now, the farms are going up terrible in price."

British livestock farmers are doing very well indeed these days, thanks in large part to membership in the European Economic Community (EEC). Besides bringing high price supports for agricultural products, this has meant expanded

(Turn to Page 104)

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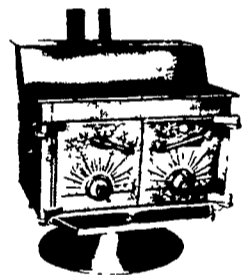
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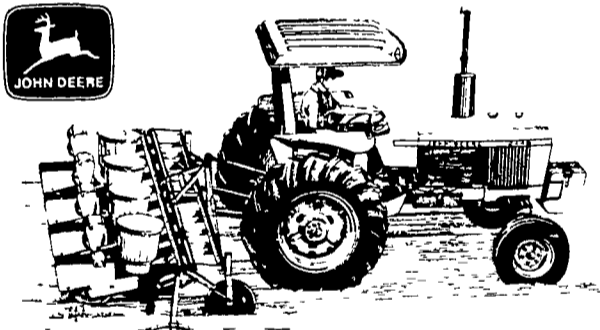
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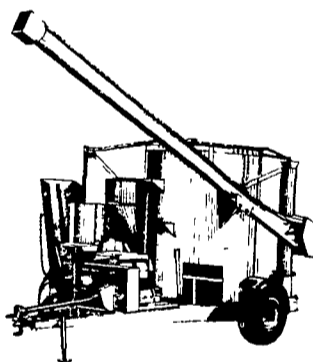
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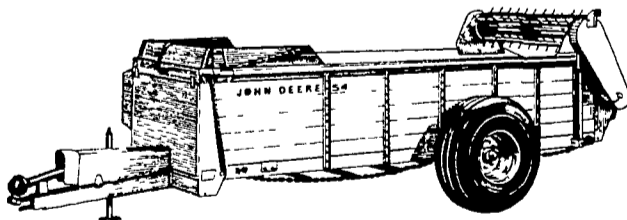
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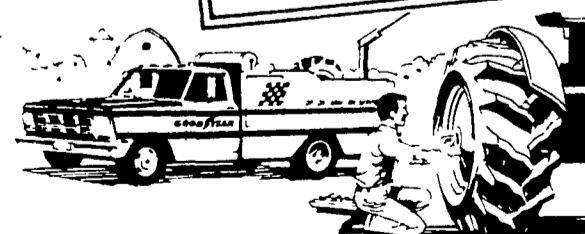
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