

# New ideas for measuring up in metrics given

**UNIVERSITY PARK** - Ideas to help people understand and accept the metric system were offered recently by Mark D Shaw, associate professor of agricultural engineering at The Pennsylvania State University. Mr. Shaw made his suggestions in the Summer issue of "Science in Agriculture," the quarterly magazine of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

He said U.S. industry is converting rapidly to the metric system of measurements. This way, the U.S. will be on the same measurement system as all other industrialized countries of the world, he noted.

"All units are consistent and simply related, and are based on multiples of 10 - making it much easier to

work with than the present measurement system. For example, a cubic meter contains 1000 liters, and liter of water weighs 1 kilogram," Mr. Shaw stated.

"Remember, you can multiply by 10 simply by moving the decimal point one place to the right, or divide by 1000 by moving the decimal point three places to the left," he continued.

Mr. Shaw claimed the metric system will provide a good opportunity to make changes in various standard measurements. A double bed mattress, for example, is 54 by 75 inches. Most people would be happier if it was a little wider and a bit longer. Accordingly, the standard metric size will be 1.5 meters by 2 meters or about 59 inches by 79 inches.

He said it will not be difficult to switch to metric

after people get used to the idea. A few new units will have to be learned. As an illustration, trousers will be sized 84 and 81 centimeters (waist and inseam) rather than 33 waist and 32 inseam in inches. For some time, both sets of units will be used so people can become familiar with the new size designations.

"The best way to learn the metric system is to use it," he declared. "Get a Celsius thermometer. After a short while you'll know what kind of coat to wear when the temperature is 15° Celsius. Get a metric measuring tape and use it. If the opening in

your screen door measures 66 centimeters by 95 centimeters, you obviously need a piece of screening a little larger than this to replace the old one."

And he observed that road signs are beginning to carry both mile and kilometer markings, weather reports use both Fahrenheit and Celsius temperatures, and many food items are marked in both ounces and grams. Some measuring cups carry milliliter graduations to measure metric quantities. Use a conventional cup and tablespoon measurement if this is the way your recipe is written.

Some metric units are already familiar to most people such as 15 ampere fuses, kilowatt-hours, and seconds. Olympic athletes compete in 100-meter races, and dive from 3-meter boards. Engines will be rated in cubic centimeters or liters, as with motorcycles and foreign cars. Photographers will continue to use 35 millimeter cameras with 50 millimeter lenses.

"Schools are teaching metric units so the younger generation should have no special problems with the metric system," he observed.

"The rest of us will gradually become familiar with the units we use regularly. For instance, we will begin to think in terms of 20 square meters of carpet for a room instead of 24 square yards."

Copies of the Summer issue of "Science in Agriculture," with several illustrations of metric units, are available free from the Mailing Room, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, Pa. 16802, or from County agents of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service.

## WHAT'S NEW

### CENTRIFUGAL PUMP

A new line of thermoplastic self-priming centrifugal pumps - especially suited for a number of agricultural uses - has been introduced by Oberdorfer Pumps.

Called the Centrif, the new pump line is available with gas or electric motor drives or pump only for direct-coupled or pulley drive. The basic pump, with rugged polyester housing, is corrosion resistant to water, brine solutions, acids and most organic solvents according to the manufacturer. Expensive pump liners or stainless steel construction are not required.

Among the several agricultural applications for the Centrif pump line are general water supply; emergency stand-by; pumping from underground tanks; washing down barns and equipment; sprinkling or irrigation; pumping cesspools or sump locations; dewatering of cellars, ditches and ponds; and refueling or transfer to and from tanks and trucks.

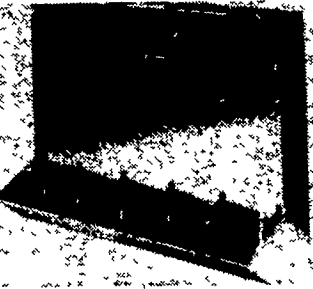
The Centrif, with a built-in check valve for rapid self-priming, has discharge capacity up to 160 gallons per minute at up to 118 head feet, according to Oberdorfer Pumps. There is a choice of ceramic or carbon mechanical face type seals. Fasteners are stainless steel. A rubber volute liner is available for handling abrasive slurries.

Further information on Centrif pumps may be obtained by contacting Oberdorfer Pumps, 6210 Thompson Road, Syracuse, N.Y. 13221.

### MOWER-CONDITIONER

Sperry New Holland's new nine Model 488 Haybine mower-conditioner adds the smoother drive of equal-angle PTO to the nearly non-stop, plug-free mowing of earlier models.

Adjustable windrow shields form trash-free, fastwilting windrows for silage making or deposit crops in a wide, quick-drying swath for hay. High-speed, intermeshing Chevron rubber conditioning rolls bruise thick stems for faster curing. Roll aggressiveness keeps the bar area clean to



### FINISHING FEEDER

Star Agri Products has introduced a new line of heavy-duty confinement finishing feeders, according to an announcement by Floyd Carter, marketing manager.

Because they are for use with automatic feed delivery systems, the new line of feeders have limited feed capacity. According to Carter, Models HDS-481 and HDS-482 have all stainless steel construction, and HDC-481 and HDC-482 have stainless bottom and galvanized steel upper panels. Both types are specifically recommended for confinement feeding over slatted floors because of stainless steel construction. Carter explains that severely corrosive fumes that come from manure pits can quickly rust out any feeder made with galvanized steel bottoms.

Models of the new Heavy-Duty Confinement Feeder are available with feed openings on one or both sides to feed one or two pens of finishing hogs. The double side models have twice the feed capacity of the single side models. Both models have full trough partitions and trough incline with Agstar's "Feed Saver Lip" to reduce feed waste. The feeders also come with "Tip Top" feed flow control which lets the operator adjust the feeder from high inside the hopper.

For more information contact Star Agri Products, P.O. Box 115, Goshen, Ind., 46526.

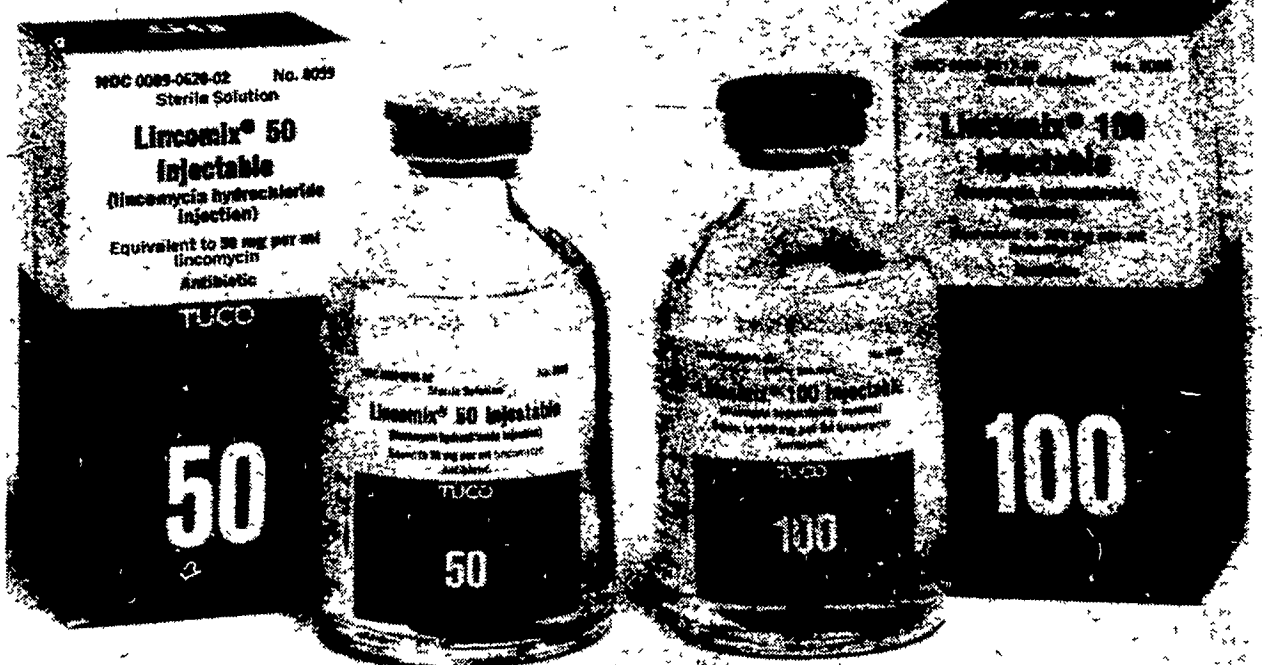
add to the cutting efficiency of the reel-assisted cutterbar.

Optional equipment includes crop dividers, flotation tires, plus stub guards for cutting in wet, soft grass stubble conditions.

For more information contact Ivan Glick, Sperry New Holland, New Holland, Pa. 17557, (717/354-1277).

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