

# China looks to U.S. to improve agriculture

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — American agricultural technology is a highly prized commodity to Chinese farmers according to Holstein Association Executive Chairman Robert H. Rumler. In efforts to raise their standards of living, the Chinese seek ways to increase the efficiency of their livestock and they look to the United States for the means to achieve it.

These are the conclusions of the Holstein official who represented the livestock industry on a recent visit to the People's Republic of China for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA visit made to establish contacts between agricultural leaders of the

two countries was headed by U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture Dale Hathaway.

In China, there are about 500,000 head of Peking black and white cattle, descended from imports from Holland, Japan, Germany, Australia and the United Kingdom. But the average amount of milk produced per cow is low, and these are the only real dairy cattle the Chinese have, Rumler said.

Most Chinese cattle are dual-purpose animals outside the urban areas, used for both milk and beef or beef and work, Rumler said. The Chinese also use water buffaloes for milk and work, he added.

Milk is used to make

butter, ice cream and soured-milk product similar to yogurt. In total milk production, China ranks 21st in the world, he said.

Rumler indicated that he didn't expect that China would be importing large quantities of U.S. Holsteins in the near future. "There's a real need for the dairy cow in China," he said, "but they must first have other developments." In the near future, the Chinese plan to concentrate on improving the pork and poultry industry, he said.

Chinese farming, as well as industry, is now labor-intensive, and the Chinese are eager to improve feeding and technology of all their livestock, according to Rumler

"The Chinese were very receptive to ideas and suggestions, and were very much taken with U.S. agricultural technology," he said. "They look to us as being superior as a technological force in agriculture. They are interested in absorbing this education."

The areas of the trip centered around Beijing (Peking) and Gangzhou (Canton) and the surrounding countryside with tours of farms and other agricultural facilities.

Rumler felt the mission was useful. "I felt it was worthwhile because we were able to develop working relationships," he said. "We

succeeded in laying the groundwork. Now the problem is translating the agreements into action. Each step is an area of sensitivity and problems,

and subject to differences." But in general, he said, "I think normalization of relations with the United States will prove to be a tremendous moving force."

## Hallowell announces acreage, livestock survey

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has announced that the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service would take in a nationwide survey in late May and early June to determine figures for 1979 acreage in production and livestock on hand on the nation's farms and ranches.

He noted that this would serve as a followup to the April 1 survey which showed intended plantings and livestock numbers. "The results of this survey should develop estimates which can guide farmers in their future marketings, and inform commodity buyers, traders and policymakers as to agricultural expectations for 1979," he said.

The April 1 survey showed that farmers planned to cut back on feed grain acreage (corn, oats, sorghum and barley) and increase the amount of land going into the production of soybeans, durum wheat and cotton. A cattle count at the start of 1979 showed the fourth consecutive annual drop in the current cattle cycle. Hog numbers are the largest since the early 1970's, and Spring and Summer farrowing intentions indicated continued expansion in the hog industry.

W. C. Evans, Chief Statistician of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting

Service stressed the importance of producer cooperation in developing reliable current indications on acreage and livestock numbers. Representatives of Evans' staff will interview a cross-section of farmers, and will mail questionnaires to other farmers in an attempt to gather data for the estimates.

Evans said that final national and state estimates will be published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Reporting Board. A report on 1979 Spring planted acres will be

available June 28, followed by estimates of yield and production in major crops on July 11. Estimates of hog

and pig numbers will be reported on June 21, with cattle inventory numbers published July 25.

## NCA views

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Electronic marketing and reporting have potential, but other innovations also should be considered. Before electronic technology can be adapted to beef, more accurate trading criteria are needed.

Proposed legislation in the

marketing, pricing and reporting area would inject the "heavy hand of government" into all aspects of the beef business and would hinder, not help, the beef marketing system.

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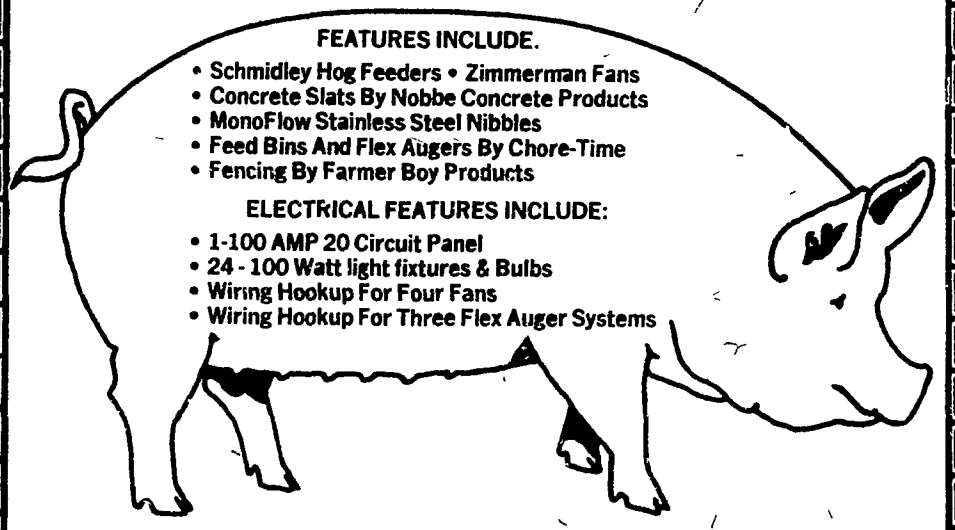
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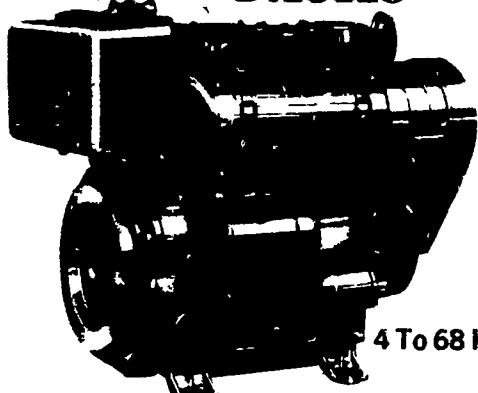


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