

# Production, marketing costs to continue to rise

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rising costs for producing as well as processing and marketing food in 1980 are likely to keep upward pressure on retail food prices to consumers.

At the same time such pressures will put many agricultural producers in a difficult cost/prize squeeze, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Agricultural Outlook, to be released by USDA's Economics, Statistics, and

Cooperatives Service, points out that the rising costs will mean further increases in consumer food prices.

Retail food prices in 1980 should rise 7 to 11 percent. Most of the rises will be caused by increases of about 10 percent for labor and packaging and continued sharp increases for energy used in processing and marketing. Transportation costs also will be significantly higher.

Gross farm income should increase slightly from 1979 record levels. Continued strong demand—especially for exports—is expected to increase cash receipts from crops. Cash receipts for livestock and livestock products will be nearly unchanged, reflecting increases in the value of cattle and milk marketings and steady to lower receipts from hogs, broilers, and turkeys.

Although gross receipts will continue high next year, the rising costs of farm inputs likely will mean a drop in 1980 net farm income from this year's level of \$30 to \$32 billion.

The projected 11-percent upswing in total farm production expenses includes boosts of about 20 to 30 percent for fuel and fertilizer and 10 to 15 percent for operation, repairs, and

machine hire. With a rise of this magnitude, net farm income could decline substantially—perhaps by a fifth.

While factors underlying agricultural income for the first quarter of 1980 are fairly well established, the rest of the year is a question

mark. Farm prices and income during the last half of 1980 will be largely influenced by worldwide crop prospects and harvests.

## Junior leaders association plans future activities

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Carnival Night was discussed by the Junior Leaders at a recent meeting. The problems and successes were reviewed and suggestions for improvements were made. New business included the upcoming Halloween Night. Sue Ladany reported on the progress being made. The Achievement Dinner will be November 9 at 7 p.m.

The Hunderdon County Queen and escort will host the dinner.

The band for the Christ-

mas party was cancelled because of no suitable place to hold the party. Committees to get the party organized were formed. Virginia Lawreck reported on the North Jersey Youth Conference Planning meeting.

The scrap book contest deadline is the end of October. A motion was passed that the judges have authority to extend extra awards for deserving contestants. The next meeting is November 27, 7:30 P.M. at the Extension Center.

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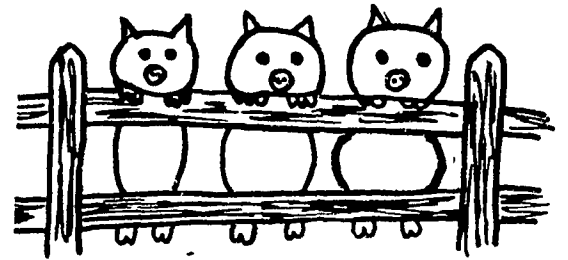
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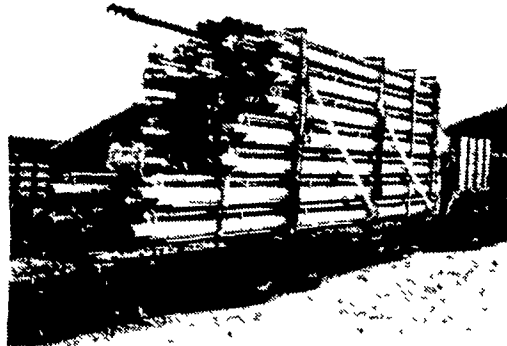
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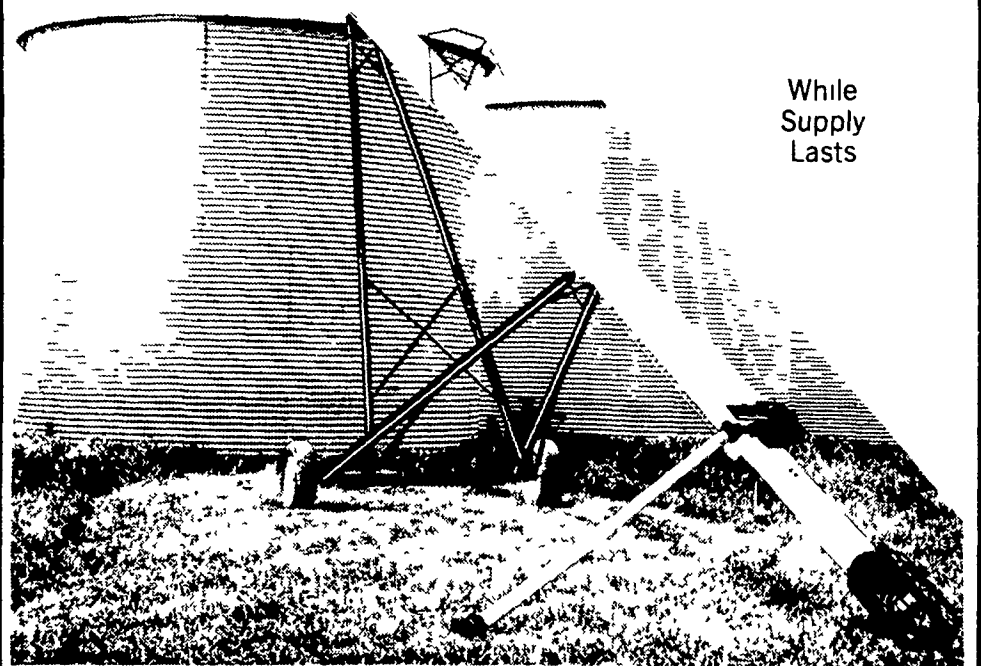
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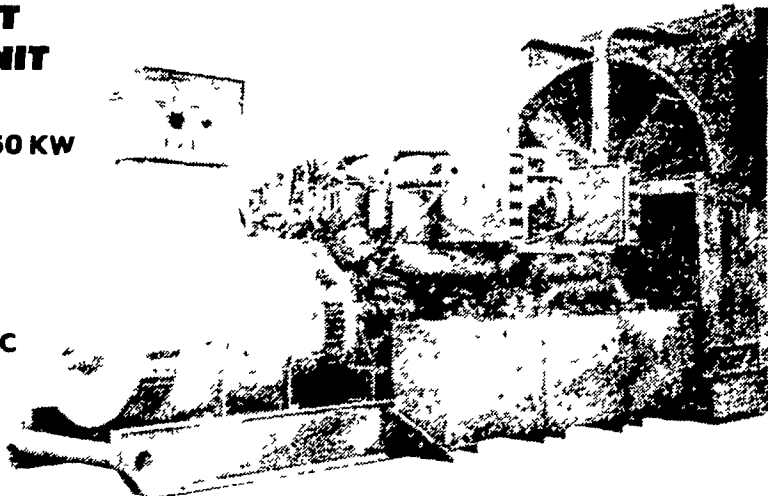
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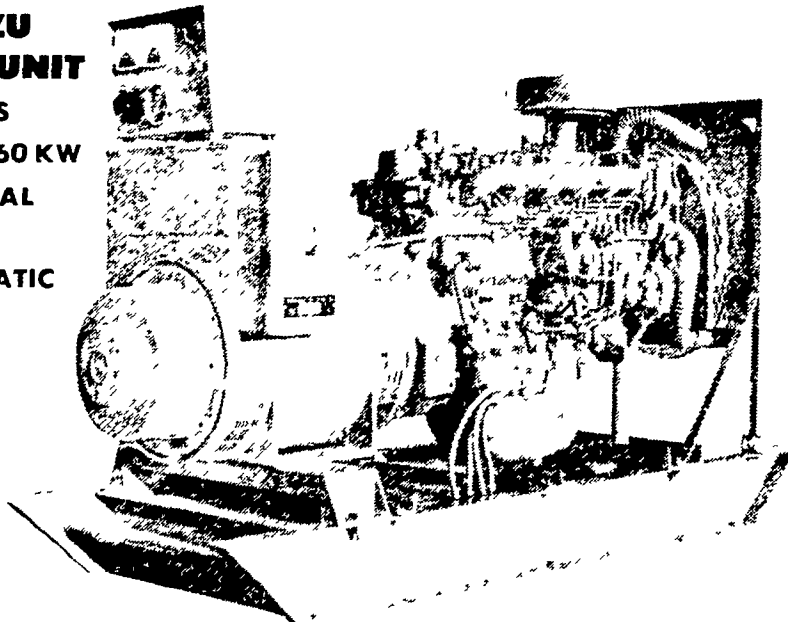
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