



Farm Talk

Jerry Webb

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued some classic yearbooks down through the years, but the just released 1979 edition probably won't be among them. It's not that the latest issue is a bad book, it's just not a classic. In fact, some of its detractors feel it shouldn't even have been written. More on that later.

Traditionally, the yearbooks of agriculture have been rather scholarly works dealing with important agricultural problems, like soil management, weed control, livestock care, and so on.

Many people, farmers and others, have collected these books as reference works. They grace some of the best bookshelves in the best places of learning all across

the country. And over the years, I'm told that other missent copies of the yearbook of agriculture have been relegated to the lowly positions of paperweights and doorstops.

I happen to have on my bookshelf a very early forerunner to the current yearbook. It's an 1890 copy of the report of the Secretary of Agriculture, issued by the Honorable J. M. Rusk, Secretary. It's more than 600 pages, splendidly printed and containing foldouts and full color illustrations, contain a wealth of valuable agricultural information.

It's truly amazing to me how good the quality of printing was in a book that's 90 years old. Illustrations of plant material would rival anything that's done today,

and while the style of writing is somewhat different it is certainly easier to understand than a lot of government reports I see.

Modern yearbooks have strayed considerably from the earlier reports of agricultural progress, many of them serving as collections of the best thinking and research on single subject area. But the Department of Agriculture has had a considerable change in philosophy in the last five years or so and has used its yearbooks of agriculture in a totally different way.

The 1976 issue, for example, titled "The Faces of Rural America" was a picture book. A beautiful collection from throughout the country of agriculture and its people in the bicentennial year. Then there were yearbooks about part-time farming, nutrition, and some other less memorable topics.

The most recent book has really put some Department of Agriculture critics into a fit. The title, "What's to Eat? . . . And Other Questions Kids Ask about Food" suggests its contents. It's all about food from the consumer's point of view and it's aimed at very young readers.

The Department explains its audience emphasis by saying that it was produced as one of the department's commitments honoring the International Year of the Child.

But that's not good enough for some lawmakers and other critics who have been saying for years that the Department of Agriculture

should stick more closely to its agricultural clientele, and leave consumer concerns to some other agency.

Representative Berkley Bedell, for example, a Democrat from Iowa, has written to some of his constituents who have requested copies of the yearbook, stating that he finds it unacceptable and plans to return to the Department of Agriculture all 400 copies provided him by law.

Representative Dawson Mathis, a Democrat from Georgia, is distributing his copies "with reluctance." And other members of Congress have gone so far as to insert statements into the Congressional Record expressing their dismay and displeasure about the book.

Some farm groups are saying that the '79 yearbook substantiates what they've felt for years — that the department has strayed too far away from its traditionally agricultural roots.

Representative James Abdnor, a Republican from South Dakota, in a column distributed in his home state said, "Unfortunately, USDA has opted for a bigger audience of consumers, forgetting that farmers are consumers too."

Senator George McGovern, Democrat from South Dakota, said, "Traditional farmers will find little to be enthusiastic about" in the '79 yearbook.

So after all that, the publication may become a collector's item or it may be a dud. If so, it will be an expensive one.

Even though it's paper-

USDA seeks bids to buy \$30 million of potato products

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture last Friday offered to buy an estimated \$30 million worth of potato products to donate to charitable institutions and domestic feeding programs, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said.

"This is the largest amount of potato products USDA has ever offered to buy at one time," Bergland said. "We're making this offer to reduce the price-depressing impact of a nationwide oversupply of potatoes, which is seriously affecting producers across the country."

Charitable non-profit institutions, which do not routinely receive USDA-donated foods, will get about \$5.2 million worth of potato products, representing over 20 million pounds of

potatoes, Bergland said. School lunch and other domestic feeding programs will receive the balance — about \$24.4 million representing over 91 million pounds.

USDA is seeking to buy about 18 million pounds of dehydrated potatoes; 49 million pounds of frozen french fried potatoes; and 45 million pounds of frozen potato rounds.

USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service is initiating the program under provisions of Section 32, Public Law 74-320.

Specifications for the purchase and additional information are available from: D. A. Theibault, FSQS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone: 202/447-4517.

back and sells for only \$4.50 it costs the government almost \$600,000 to print about a quarter of a million copies for Congressional distribution and for sale through the Government Printing Office.

With the kind of enthusiasm farm state legislators are showing, local congressmen probably will have little trouble finding copies to fill constituent requests.



BONNIE BRAE AUCTION SPRING MOWER & EQUIPMENT SALE

Located on Route 724, Spring City, Pa. 8 miles West of Valley Forge, Pa.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

9:00 A.M.

We will sell hardware, tools, equipment and contents of 2 tractor-trailers full of hardware removed from the recent fire of Hecht Hardware.

11:00 we will sell our riding mowers, tractors and large equipment.

We sell on commission. Good opportunity to sell your surplus or buy your needed equipment.

RICHARD J. MOYER

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LIKE NEW MASON &
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TRUCKS, 8 TONS EAR CORN, ETC.

6 miles W. of Lamar, Pa. 3 Miles W. of Howard,
8 Miles W. of I-80 Exit 25, near Jacksonville.
Auction arrows from I-80 exit 25 & off Rt. 26.
(Centre Co.)

WED. EVE., APRIL 30

at 6 P.M. Sharp

IH 856 D w/t/e Tractor w/T.A. 540 & 1000 RPM's, AM-FM Radio, 18.4 38" Dual Wheels, a real beaut, Weights & Duals to be offered with or separate; MF 65 G R.C. Tractor w/3 P.H. & NI 504 Hyd. Dump Front Loader, offered 3 ways; 1971 MF 300 self-propelled Gas Combine w/Cab, quick tach 10' Grain & 2 row Corn Head, only used approx. 300 acres, real nice; Oliver 5-16" Semi Plows; IH 3 pt. 3-14 plows; Brady 3 pt. 10 or 12 tooth Chisel Plow; King 10' 6" offset transport disc, used only 150 acres; Oliver 19' wing transport disc; Oliver 16 hoe drill; JD 494 4 row planter; wagons; 3 pt. PTO Post Hole Digger, like new; JD 38' A.P. Elevator; 1979 GMC High Sierra 15 4 wheel drive Pickup, Auto., loaded, only 3200 miles, a beaut; 60 Ford F600 10' Dump Truck; Scotch Highland 1 1/2 yr. old w/long horns; 12" Radial Arm & Table Saws; Mortar Mixer; 48" 4 blade Power Trowel; Acetylene Set; 36" Wood Lathe; Like new Port. Air Compressor; Warren-Knight Transit, 360° swing & head flips 360°, like new. Many other like new. Carpenter & Mason Tools.

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COMPLETE DISPERSAL FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 9

7:00 P.M. Sharp

At Waverly, New York, 3 miles from Exit 60 at Jct. of Rts. 17 and 220. Take Chemung Street one block to East Pine Street, go North to W. Pine, then left on West Hill Road. Follow signs.

85 HOLSTEIN HEIFERS & HEREFORDS 85

24 bred Holstein Heifers, 10 are Registered, 2 identified Grades. Records on Dams. Some close, others due in Summer. All bred to Jersey bull. Typey good quality heifers.

26 young Hereford Cows (all 2nd calf heifers), many with calves at side. 26 yearlings, 5 service bulls, Calves. Quality thrifty cattle.

Holsteins pregnancy checked and interstate charts on all.

MACHINERY

6 TRACTORS— IHC 966 w/canopy, WFE, 3 pt. just 1005 hours (looks like new); Farmall 826 Demo. 3 pt. WFE 2900 hours, Both hydro diesels; MF 165 Diesel, 896 hours; JD 435 Diesel WFE, power steering, 3 pt. with front loader; JD 2010 Ind. Tractor w/backhoe and front loader; JD 440 2 cylinder Diesel loader; NH 489 9' haybine; NH Super 717 chopper w/ 2 row and pickup heads; NH Flail chopper; NH 28 Whirl-A-Feed blower; NH 3 pt. sickle mower Gehl unloading box wagon; IH 51 unloading box and NH wagon; IH 510 plow w/4-16" bottoms; IH 56 fiberglass 4 row planter; fiberglass crop sprayer; IH 530 manure spreader; Pittsburgh 12' transport disc; Farmhand #810 grinder-mixer; Gehl Mix-All grinder; IH 15 transport harrow; Little Giant 36' hay and grain elevator; Cherokee 3 pt. snowblower; bale elevator, post hole auger, 2 new 18.4x38 tires and wheels; Briggs 5 h.p. gas engine; Patz 80' conveyor; galv. 12 hole hog hopper feeder; head chute; cable and western saddle. Lots of miscellaneous and small tools.

HORSE

Quarter horse mare and her 3 half Morgan stallion colts.

NOTE: This is an exceptional line of machinery and tractors with few hours and most of the machinery used very little and lots of it.

Terms: Cash or approved check.

Lunch

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at 1:30 P.M.

At the Belleville Livestock Market

Complete milking herd of Francis LITton including 55 cows, several registered and a registered holstein bull. Over 1/2 the herd recently fresh or springing and making a lot of milk. A good number are 2nd lactation cows.

Mark Glick - Auctioneer

BELLEVILLE LIVESTOCK MKT., MGRS.

LOCAL LANCASTER COUNTY HERD DISPERSAL

Located at Shady Lane Dairy Sales, 1/4 mile West of Quarryville, Pa. off Oak Bottom Rd.

THURS. NIGHT, MAY 1

8:00 Sharp

**75 HEAD HI GRADE &
REGISTERED DAIRY COWS**

This herd consists of 40 head of Holstein cows in all stages of lactation with several due now till fall. A good mostly all home raised herd never pushed and many yrs. of artificial breeding. Special mention of a Registered cow from the herd Sired by Wind Run Telstar, Tim Dam Bootmaker Rise with over 14,000, first calf a real show prospect. Also 35 head of fresh & springing cows from dispersal sale.

Pregnancy examined, TB & blood tested, health charts sale night.

**SHADY LANE DAIRY SALES
R.D. #4, Box 463
Quarryville, Pa. 17566**

David L. Fite
717-786-1725

Glenn D. Fite
717-786-2750

Terms: Cash & good check sale night, no credit, bank approved financing only.

On May 16 our first all heifer sale of 300 head of Holsteins with heifers of all ages.