USDA sees shortage of home economics professionals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Jobs for college graduates trained in home economics will be more plentiful than qualified applicants throughout the 1980's, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official

"More home economics graduates will be needed to achieve progress in family and individual stability, security and quality of life," said Anson R. Bertrand, USDA director of science and education. "We foresee an annual shortage of about 7,000 individuals with home economics or home economicsrelated degrees.

"This shortage also will affect the growth of household-oriented businesses and industries," he

Bertrand based his forecast on a study prepared by USDA's Science and Education Administration. He said the study projects the most critical need for graduates with doctoral degrees.

Educational backgrounds especially needed at the doctoral level are in design, manufacturing and processing; college teaching and administration; scientific and professional specialties; service specialties; and administration and management.

Bertrand said the study, the second in a series, was made in response to the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, which directs USDA to assess the need for research, extension, teaching and professional development in the food and agricultural sciences.

The first study, issued in July 1980, reported on the need for graduates in agriculture, natural resources and veterinary medicine.

Information on the supply of higher education graduates came mainly from surveys made by the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. Some data were acquired from the education department's office of consumer and home economics education and from the Association of Administrators of Home Economics.

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Statistics on occupational employment demand came from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, from a USDA-funded study by Clemson University and from USDA data.

In preparing the study, the Science and Education Administration enlisted the aid of consultants from the Association of

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Administrators of Home Economics, the National Council of Administrators of Home Economics and the American Home Economics Association.

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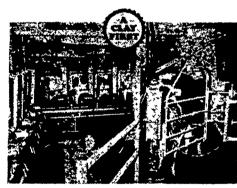
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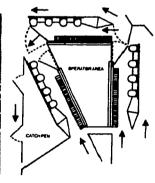
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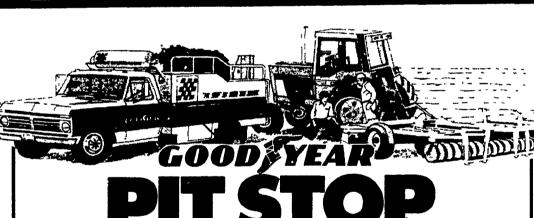
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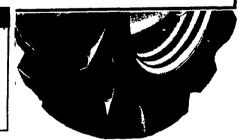
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