

Chinese water researchers meet with SCS staff in Harrisburg

HARRISBURG — Two engineers from China's Ministry of Water Conservancy have arrived here to begin a four-week trip across the United States to study U.S. applications of remote sensing in crop forecasting and agricultural hydrology. They met with Soil Conservation Service personnel here last week.

Quentin M. West, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of International Cooperation and Development, said the engineers are the first of 11 exchange teams the Chinese will send to the United States this year under the agreement of cooperation in science and technology signed by the two nations in 1979. The United States will send 12 scientific exchange teams to China in 1981, West said.

Eleven teams visited China in 1980 and three in 1979.

West said that the scientific exchanges between the United States and the People's Republic of China would benefit both countries.

"The Chinese have had many centuries of experience in dealing with soil conservation, land use and related agricultural activities," he said. "We can learn from each other."

The Chinese team is spending its first week here in discussions with USDA's Soil Conservation Service. West said the Chinese are interested in technical aspects of activities in which SCS is involved with regard to hydrology, watersheds and riverbed technology and the AgRISTARS project.

AgRISTARS is the acronym for a joint research program for agriculture and resource inventory surveys through aerospace sensing. Cooperating agencies include USDA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior and the Agency for International Development.

The Chinese will meet with Soil

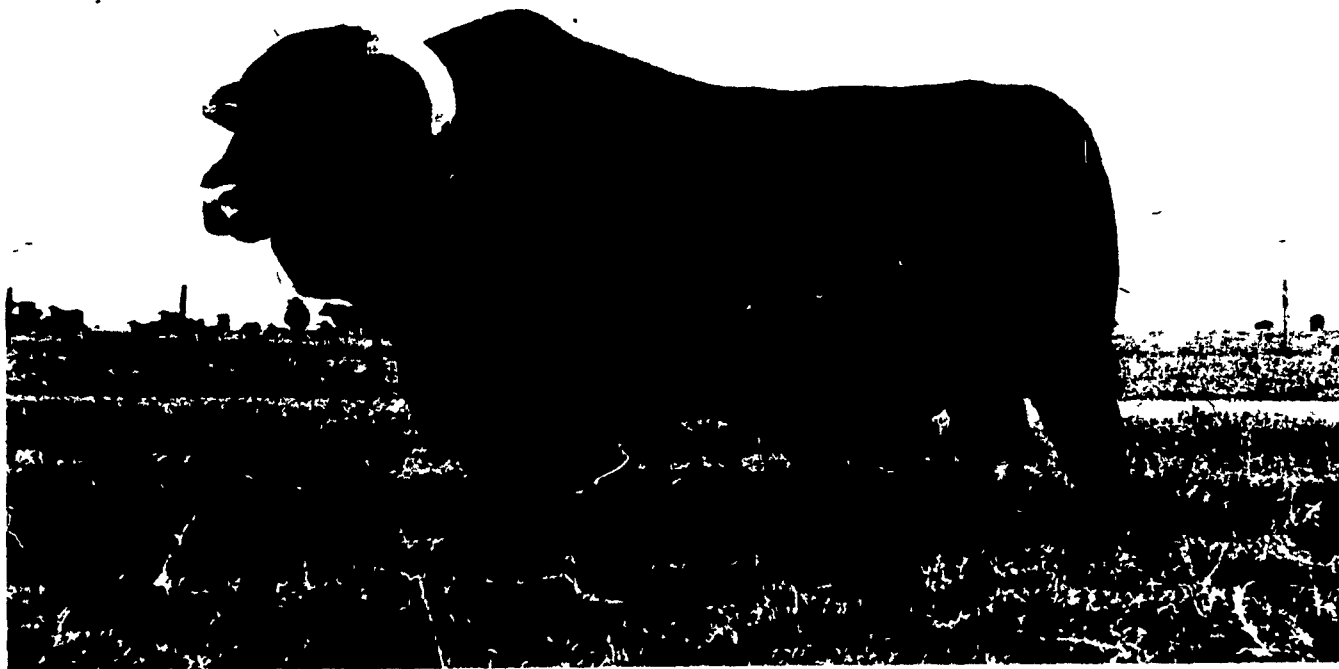
Conservation Service personnel in Indianapolis, Ind., June 14-21; Jackson, Miss., June 21-28; Temple, Texas, June 28-July 5; Phoenix, Ariz., July 5-12; and Davis/Berkeley, Calif., July 12-18. They will also have an opportunity to study hydrology at Pennsylvania State University and the land application remote sensing

(LARS) activities at Purdue University.

The Chinese team consists of Chen Deji, chief engineer, Survey and Exploration Department, Yangtze Valley Planning Office in Wuhan; and Yang Jicheng, deputy chief of remote sensing, Application Center, Ministry of Water Conservancy, Beijing, China.

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