

Farm Talk

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the square. And as those farmers get bigger, they buy out other farmers and that reduces the population even more. And then those large farmers go off to the larger metropolitan areas to do their shopping, to buy their farm supplies, and to sell their grain. And that spells trouble for those once-thriving communities. Many of them have already turned into bedroom towns or retirement villages, and others are rapidly heading that way.

getting produced somewhere. There is no shortage of it. But livestock farming has left many of the traditional areas, moving to the south and west and concentrating in states that are not that well suited to grain production. States like Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the more rugged parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas.

The Delmarva peninsula is blessed with the best of both worlds. We have our grain deserts. But if you fly over those deserts you notice little blocks where grain

doesn't grow. These agricultural oases are fully occupied by the area's highly concentrated broiler industry—a livestock industry that requires very little space, but produces an awful lot of income. So in that sense the area has the best of both worlds—the strong corn/soybean combination and the heavy concentration of livestock in the form of broiler chickens. The grain feeds the birds, and the birds generate a high level of agricultural and non-agricultural prosperity.

There is still some livestock enterprise in the area. Dairying is quite important to many farmers and hog production is a thriving enterprise throughout the peninsula. There are a few beef cattle, virtually no sheep, and there are a few poultrymen who

produce eggs. But looking at the area's farm income figures, it becomes quite apparent that broilers, corn and soybeans are our agricultural base. All the rest, including vegetable crops, speciality crops and a variety of livestock enterprises, just add to an already impressive agricultural success story.

But picture the Delmarva peninsula without its broiler industry and you get a feeling of what economist Doving is talking

about when he says that if the proportions of crop farming and animal husbandry had remained as they were in the early 1950s, Illinois's share of the annual national product would be about 300 million dollars greater than it is today. He's not blaming individual farmers, for he feels they must do what's best for them, but he says public officials must take a long look at the situation and formulate policies that favor a more diversified economy

Del. plans cruise

NEWARK, Del. — Looking for a pleasant way to do a good turn for the University of Delaware? How about joining the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, Donald Crossan, and the Ag Alumni Association on a Caribbean cruise this winter?

The trip is open to anyone. Included in the cost is a \$25 tax deductible contribution to the university's agricultural scholarship fund.

The group will fly to Puerto Rico Jan. 28 where they'll board the Italian luxury liner Carla C. The ship features gourmet dining, nightly entertainment, and dancing

Ports of call in Curacao, Venezuela, Grenada, Martinique, and the Virgin Islands will provide ample exposure to tropical agriculture and island culture, with opportunities for shopping, sightseeing, education and entertainment. Travelers will have the option of staying aboard ship, joining group tours of each port, or exploring on their own. Dean Crossan will give informal talks on the agricultural aspects of the areas visited.

The group will return to Delaware Feb. 4. For more information, contact Crossan at (302) 738-4318.

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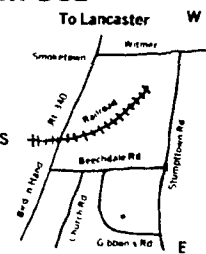
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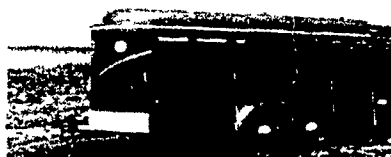
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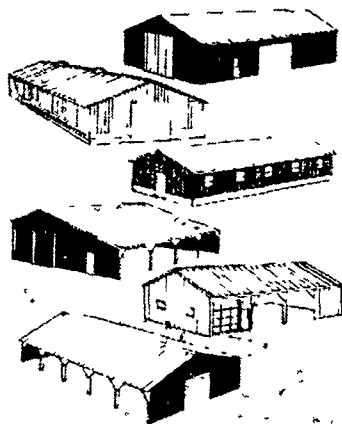
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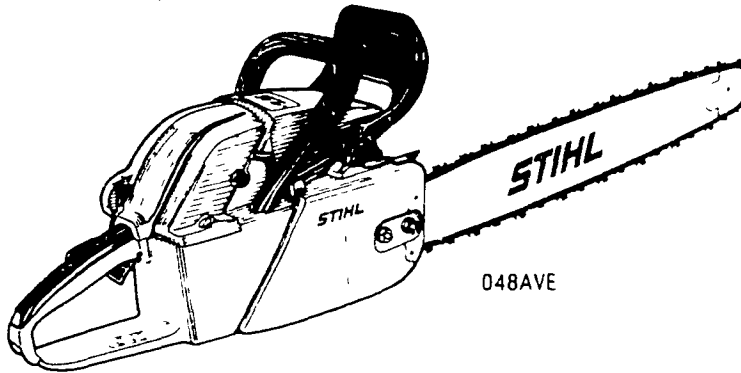
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