

# Many ag revolutions on horizon

UNIVERSITY PARK — An exciting decade is ahead for U.S. agricultural research, in the opinion of Samuel H. Smith, Dean of the College of Agriculture at

Penn State.

"Many of the great agricultural revolutions are still ahead of us," Smith affirmed in a recent interview. "We are still using only

one percent of the world's 350,000 species of plants and depend on less than 20 of them for our major food and fiber crops," he added. "Breakthroughs" are coming,

he predicted, in biological nitrogen fixation to reduce use of fertilizers. In time, farmers will benefit from enhanced photosynthesis to improve plant efficiency and crop

yields. And genetic research is in progress, he said, to produce rapid development of plants and animals that can withstand diseases and pests:

He maintained that new research is the key to the future for farmers. Although farm income is affected by temporary surpluses of grain and dairy products, no one doubts that world food demands will increase in the years ahead, he pointed out.

He termed agricultural research "an essential investment in the future strength and vitality of the nation's food and fiber production abilities."

Smith said the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State has scientists working in more than 300 active research projects. Over one-third of the "scientist years" in the Experiment Station, 36 percent, are devoted to seeking ways to produce an adequate supply of farm and forest products and to decrease production costs.

Twenty-two percent of the "scientist years" are devoted to protecting forests, crops, and livestock from insects, diseases, and other hazards.

Other research emphasis in the College of Agriculture includes management of natural resources, improving efficiency in marketing, developing new and improved products, and promoting community improvement in areas such as economic development, public services, recreation, and environment.

"We will maintain our emphasis on agricultural production and protection of crops, forests, and animals," the Dean of Agriculture affirmed. "However, any substantial growth of research in these areas will probably have to come from private funding rather than from taxes.

"I see a real potential for increased emphasis in research designed to improve marketing efficiency and to develop new and improved products" he affirmed.



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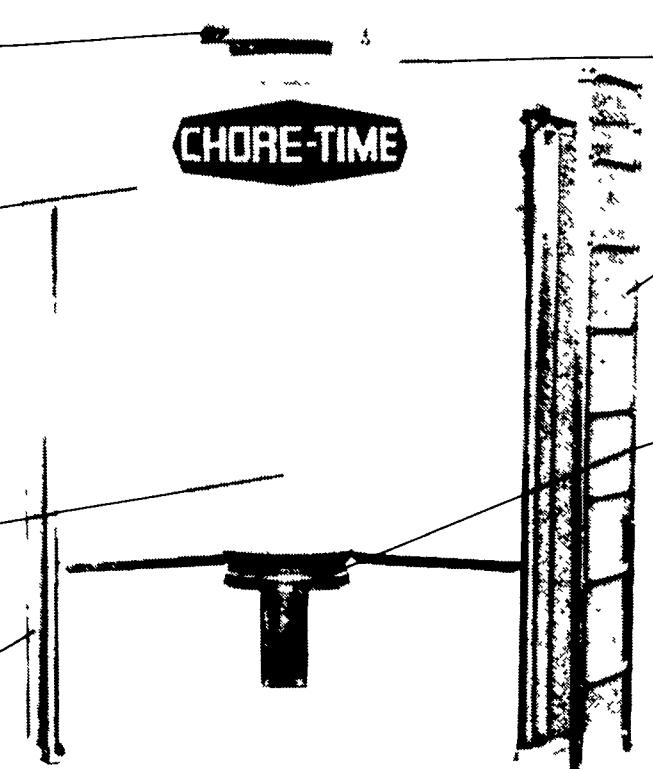
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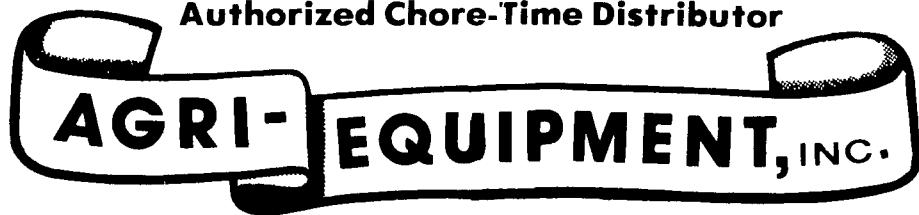
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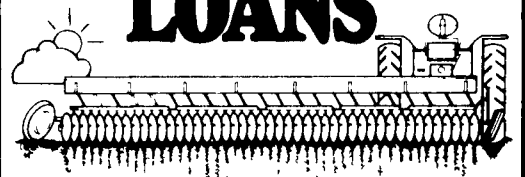
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