

Food Needs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Global demands for food, fiber and forest products will grow dramatically by the end of this century, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Orville G. Bentley has told congressional staffs.

Bentley presented a report called "Needs Assessment for the Food and Agricultural Sciences," which examines the 20-30-year needs for food, fiber and forest products, and the supporting roles played by research, extension and higher education.

Bentley said the increased demand will require an increasing emphasis on farm profits, food safety and an improvement in the ability to protect America's soil and water resources. "We also must look at the need to adapt agriculture to satisfy the ever-changing needs of consumers," Bentley noted.

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block had called for the "needs assessment study" to comply with provisions of the 1981

Farm Bill. The assessment was done by the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences, representing the federal, state and private sectors.

Bentley cited recent changes in the agricultural picture that can help create the new technological base farmers will need to meet the challenges ahead, including:

— Biotechnology now provides scientists with the capability to understand and fundamentally alter the processes of living cells.

— Farmers are shifting from animal to plant production. In 1966, cash received for crops was 42 percent of the total receipts by farmers. By 1980, this had increased to 50 percent.

— Advances in computer technology is speeding up the analysis and transfer of information on the "information age."

Bentley said the needs assessment shows that animal agriculture is facing a severe cost/price squeeze.

He said increased production per animal can be achieved through improvements in (1) forage production and utilization; (2) reproduction and genetics; and (3) physiology and nutrition.

Modern agriculture depends heavily on chemicals. The challenge, said Bentley, is to develop chemicals more highly targeted to their beneficial use and cause fewer environmental hazards.

Tobacco auctions open in Md.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The Maryland Department of Agriculture's "Tobacco Market Newline" service began reporting on the 1984 Maryland tobacco auctions on Wednesday, according to Bradley H. Powers, Chief of Marketing Services for MDA.

"The service will consist of a short, taped, telephone report on pounds sold, prices paid, and average price per pound with daily comparisons against last year's sales at the time", Powers said.

The report will be on line by 10 A.M. each weekday during the tobacco market season, which continues to April 26, and can be accessed by calling (301) 841-5763.

The 1983 Maryland tobacco crop being sold this year is estimated to be between 27 and 29 million pounds. Quality of the leaf is reported to vary considerably as the tobacco was produced under the most severe growing conditions experienced here in some 50 years due to drought.

In 1983, some 38 million pounds of tobacco from the 1982 crop were sold (a modern day high production) returning to farmers almost \$58 million at an average of \$1.51 per pound. In 1982, some 33.2 million pounds of tobacco from the 1981 crop were sold returning to farmers slightly over \$58 million at an average of \$1.75 per pound.

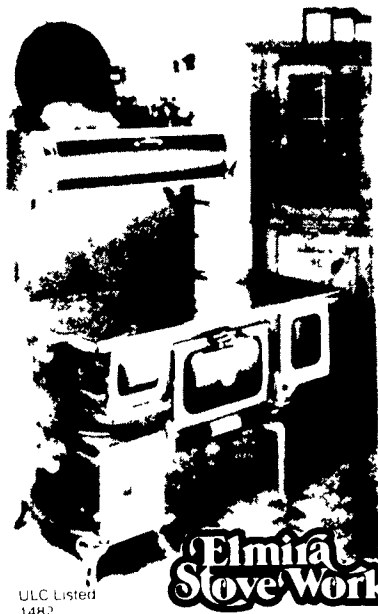
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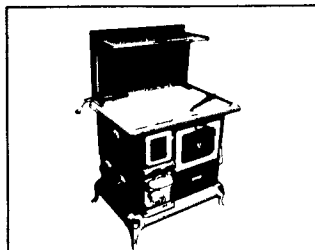
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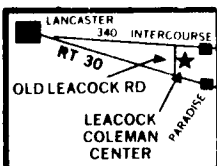
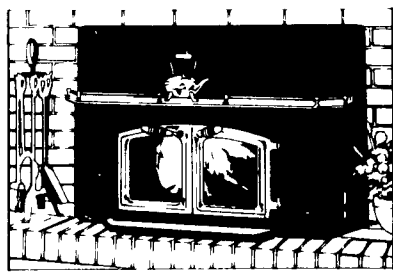


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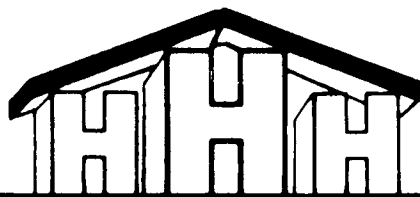
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