

NAILE Guernsey Winner



Pictured here is Carmel, the senior yearling that was named reserve junior champion at the NAILE Open Guernsey Show last week in Louisville. Carmel was shown by Keystone Guernsey Farm, Wilmer and Roger Campbell, of Halifax, Dauphin County. The Campbells milk 65 registered Guernseys.

Farm consolidation promotes efficiency

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The historical trend toward fewer, but larger American farms also makes good business sense, say agricultural economists at The University of Maryland.

Consolidating farm operations is an easy way to drive down cost-per-acre and improve individual productivity of Maryland farms, Dr. John W. Wysong says.

income, retaining ownership of their land, and letting another operator work their land," Wysong says.

"Productivity per worker increases substantially when farms consolidate," Wysong says. "Increasing the acreage of an operation drives down the costs of labor-per-acre."

With access to more land, a farmer can operate on a larger scale and use more efficient equipment. Theoretically, he should be able to do more in less time, Wysong says. That, and the ability to purchase supplies in quantity, increases the production-per-worker and decreases the cost-per-worker, he says.

Wysong says labor efficiency is merely a matter of the smallest number of laborers working the largest amount of land. An owner may do this by buying or renting more land than he currently farms, or by merging his land into the farm operation of another owner.

Small farms can be successful in certain types of operations. In Maryland, tobacco and vegetables are produced profitably on small amounts of land, says Dr. Billy Lessley. But he adds, wheat and corn return lower profit-per-unit making larger plots necessary.

For many producers, the idea that some farms may not be large enough to be profitable is an unpopular one.

Wysong believes Maryland farmers must improve management for higher yields or let someone else farm their land if they hope to make a profit on crops such as corn and wheat.

"We're not necessarily talking about combining land under one owner. It's just that some farmers may be better off adding off-farm

"The trend in Maryland and across the country is toward higher output-per-acre," Wysong says. "Basically, this means increasing output of land already being farmed."

With little other land available for agricultural use, farmers must improve their production to meet the growing hunger problems in the world, Wysong says.

World population grew by 85 million last year. Continued growth of that kind will bring the total to 6 billion by the year 2000. To meet increasing world demands, agricultural economists say farmers need to produce as much food in the next 30 years as they have produced in the entire history of the world.

Women

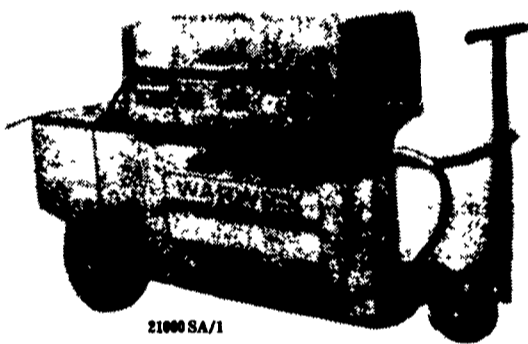
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like a public utility with lots of regulations. She cited the difference between policy and legislation and is concerned that the present policy is to use food as a weapon, which she considers immoral. She believes in food for peace, not food for punishment.

Sister More is a full professor of history at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The National Grange dedicated its annual Rural America Luncheon to women, in celebration of National Women in Agriculture Week, Nov. 11-17.

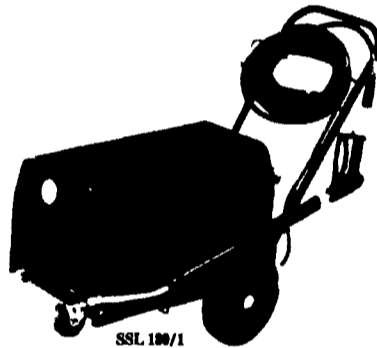
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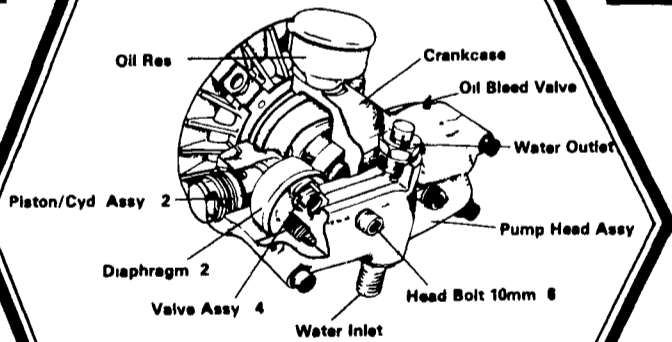
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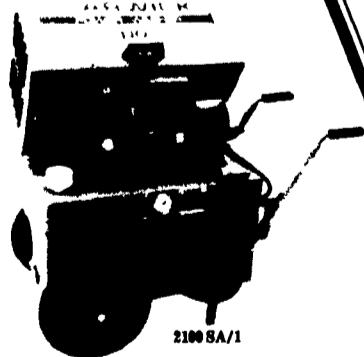
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Del. Grange to formulate policy

GEORGETOWN, Del. — Resolutions to shape Delaware State Grange policy for 1985 will be the focus of the 110th annual State Grange Session, Dec. 4 and 5, in Midland Grange Hall, Georgetown. Delegates from 17 local Granges and three county units will work in committees on agriculture, legislation and taxation, education, safety and health, and women's, youth, and Junior Grange activities.

Representing National Grange will be National Grange Master Edward Andersen and his wife Darlene, of Washington, D.C. Master Andersen will speak to the delegates on Tuesday, Dec. 4 and will be the featured speaker in a Town Forum question/answer program at the annual banquet, Wednesday, Dec. 5, in Cape Henlopen High School, at 6:30 p.m. Bettye Arnold, Sussex County Pomona Grange Lecturer, will be toastmistress.

Andersen will be able to report on National Grange policies and programs for 1985, formed at the recent National Grange Session. The Grange is the first major farm organization to meet after the election. The 1985 farm bill was a major topic of discussion at the Grange Session.

Open sessions at the Grange meeting will be talks by Bill Sammons, Information Director, Delaware Dept. of Agriculture, Tuesday, Dec. 4th, 11:30 a.m.; and John Davis, Director of the Division of Highways, "The Director's Views of Delaware's Highway Problems", at 11:15 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5th.

Tuesday night will be Youth Night with Junior Grange awards presentations, the state 4-H Public Speaking Contest, the state Grange Youth Speaking Contest, and sign-a-Song Contest.