

## One-ox plow revolutionizes Third World farming

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A revolutionary new one-ox plow, developed by researchers sponsored by Heifer Project International, an international supplier of livestock and the training to raise these animals to low-income families around the world, is now enabling farmers in Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia, in Southeast Asia) to cultivate their land more efficiently at half the ox power. The announcement of the new development was made by Dr. Robert Pelant, Asia Director, at the organization's Little Rock headquarters.

Dr. Gordon Hatcher, a veterinarian for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and former Program Director for Heifer, helped to design the new plow and harness for use in Kampuchea by modifying similar one-ox systems in use in Ethiopia and the Philippines. The significance of this development is that now low-income farmers will be able to plow with the use of only one ox or water buffalo instead of the normal two animals used traditionally by Third World farmers.

The problem with the two-oxen

harness in Kampuchea was two-fold. First, a large portion of Kampuchea's draft oxen and buffalo stock were wiped out by epidemic diseases causing a crucial shortage in the country's only source of power for plowing. Without these animals for power, a farmer can only produce one-fourth as much food as he could previously.

However, in 1981, Heifer Project and the AFSC began a cooperative program to inoculate the remaining herds and halt the epidemic diseases. Through this effort, the draft animal population has begun a slow increase, but there are still far fewer animals available than needed for plowing.

Secondly, the traditional plow and harness used in this area calls for two water buffalo or oxen pulling side-by-side. But even in better times, the cost of maintaining two oxen is prohibitive to poor farmers. Dr. Hatcher's answer to this problem was the one-ox (or buffalo) plow, which he adapted from similar systems in Ethiopia and the Philippines but using the resources available to Kampuchea farmers.

This new design has been found

to be more efficient as it uses the draft animal's powerful shoulder muscles rather than the neck muscles pulled into use by the traditional yoke plow. With the use of the new harness, an animal's pulling power is almost doubled, enabling a smaller number of animals to serve a larger number of small farm families in producing food for themselves and their country.

Kampuchea's recovery from past years of turmoil has been a slow process, hindered in the past

by its inability to feed its own people. By increasing the draft animal population, which makes food production possible and helps small farmers make the most efficient use of their animals with simple, human-scale technology, Heifer Project International, the American Friends Service Committee and Dr. Hatcher are creating a working partnership to enable Kampuchea to rebuild itself from within.

Heifer Project International is an interfaith, nonprofit

organization dedicated to wiping out world hunger by providing the means for low-income farmers in the U.S. and around the world to feed themselves and their communities. For over 40 years, Heifer has been providing livestock and the training to raise, breed and market the offspring of these animals and their produce.

Headquartered in Little Rock with six branch offices across the country, Heifer Project is currently operating projects in 34 countries and in 11 U.S. states.

## Hlubik is new Penn State dairy extension professor

UNIVERSITY PARK — Joseph G. Hlubik will "focus on dairy farm management problems" in his new role as assistant professor of dairy science extension at The Pennsylvania State University.

Hlubik's appointment, effective April 15, was announced by W. Wayne Hinsh, associate director and associate dean of Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service.

As a dairy extension specialist, Hlubik will be involved in programs that integrate production management and economics. "Dairy farmers are required to be good herd, crop and

financial managers," he says. "I hope to help in pulling these areas together and providing tools to use in analysis and decision making."

Hlubik received his bachelor's degree in animal science from Cook College, Rutgers University, in 1976. He earned his master's in 1979 and his doctorate in 1984 in dairy science from Michigan State University.

From 1981 until his Penn State appointment, Hlubik was a specialist in dairy management at Michigan State. Between 1979 and 1981, he worked on dairy nutrition with Michigan's extension service.



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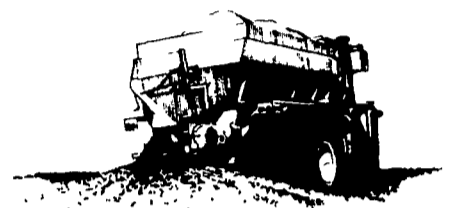
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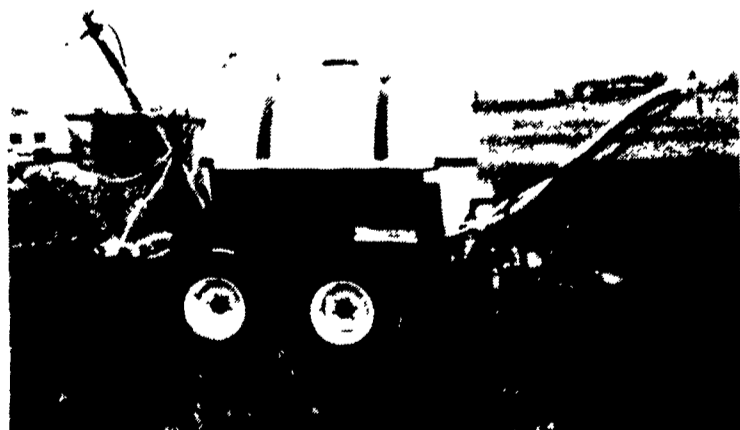
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