

Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
January 5, 1981

### THINK SAFETY WHEN REMOVING SNOW

Whether your area looks like it now or not, the snow removal season is upon us. If you have traded in your shovel for a snowblower, keep safety always in your mind or you could be one of the 100,000 people injured by a snowblower each year.

Katie Koch-Lavene, assistant extension 4-H youth development specialist, says snow removal equipment manufacturers are constantly improving their machines' safety features, but they are only as good as the operator's safety awareness.

To insure safe operation of your snowblower, she suggests:

- \* Read the operator's manual thoroughly before you try to use the equipment. If you cannot find the manual, get an other copy from the dealer.

- \* Only permit people who have read the manual to operate the machine. If you think someone is too young or careless to use the equipment properly, don't permit them to operate it.

- \* Keep the area cleared of children, pets and debris. Small toys and gravel are picked up by snow throwers and hurled great distances. Larger items can get caught in a snowblower and plug it. Keep kids and pets inside the house. You cannot watch your machine and your children at the same time.

- \* Wear warm clothing and footwear with no-skid soles.

- \* Keep your hands, feet and face away from moving parts. Use a sturdy stick to unclog packed snow. Even a machine that seems stopped or plugged may turn a few times after the spark plug is removed.

- \* Keep the equipment in top repair. Have it serviced or check it yourself at least once a year. Never try to make mechanical adjustments while it is running.

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Misc  
9/10/81

COST, AVAILABILITY ARE CREDIT  
QUESTIONS FACING US IN '81

The cost and availability of credit will probably be major question marks facing consumers in 1981, according to Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Inflation has helped drive credit costs up. In addition, consumers have been saving less money and placing it where it will earn higher return rates than their local savings institutions offer.

Goss says this means that local lenders have less money available for extending credit. Consumers may have to seek credit from a wider variety of sources than they have in the past.

She adds that changes in bankruptcy laws are making it more difficult for lenders to identify poor credit risks. Some persons who have never had problems making credit payments are filing for bankruptcy. Because of this, a good history of credit use and demonstrated ability to manage payments will be important when applying for credit.

As interest rates rise and credit becomes more costly, Goss urges consumers to approach credit cautiously. "Families need to consider what the cost of credit would be relative to what increases there will likely be in the price of goods and services they need," she says.

\* \* \*

JANUARY FOOD SUPPLIES:

LONG ON CITRUS, PORK, BROILERS

Topping the list of plentiful foods for January are pork, broiler-fryers, milk and dairy products and most citrus fruits, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

add one--January Food continued

Pork probably will continue plentiful through the winter with production averaging about five percent above the 1978-80 monthly average. Beef production is termed adequate with production above January, 1980 but below the January average for the past several years.

Although milk output is likely to reach record levels, much of the milk will go into butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk, the USDA predicts.

Citrus fruits are nearly always in good supply in January, but this will be a record year for oranges. Grapefruit, tangerines and tangelos will also be plentiful.

Peanuts and the products made from them will be in very short supply this winter. The 1980 peanut crop was reduced by heat and dry weather to the lowest level in nearly 20 years. Relaxed import quotas may relieve the shortened supply later this winter.

\* \* \*

COMMENTS SOLICITED ON  
VISION CARE REGULATIONS

The Federal Trade Commission is seeking the public's opinions on current restrictions on optometrists and opticians. Specifically, the FTC would like consumer input on rules that prohibit opticians from fitting contact lenses and duplicating lenses from an existing pair.

The commission is also interested in restraints on commercial vision care practices. Among the changes being considered are restrictions on where vision care practices may locate, possibly excluding them from shopping centers and department stores. The FTC may also ban the use of trade names by optometrists. It is considering state laws on over-the-counter sales of ready to wear glasses.

If you have comments or concerns about these issues or others relating to vision care practices, send them to the Federal Trade Commission, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580. The letter should be marked Attention: Eyeglasses II.

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Source: Bob Appleman  
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Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
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### COWS GETTING MORE COMPUTERIZED

Minnesota dairy farmers will be able to "computerize" their cows to record daily milk production, grain consumption and possibly to detect heat and subclinical mastitis.

Some of these programs may be available within the next two or three years, says Bob Appleman, dairy specialist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

On-farm mini computers can be linked to mechanical systems in milking parlors of large dairy operations. Records and data can be collected in the milking parlor, then transmitted to a large centralized computer at a regional Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) center.

"Such systems are being used in some large California herds on a limited basis," Appleman says. The system's \$40,000 cost can be easily justified today in large dairies with at least 500 cows. "Eventually we think a computerized system like this would be profitable for herds in the 150 to 200 cow range," Appleman says.

Appleman is a member of a national DHIA committee that's studying on-farm computers linked to mechanical systems in the milking parlor. Through measuring devices, the computers collect data like daily milk production and grain consumption. The on-farm computer is linked to a central DHIA computer.

add one--cows computerized continued

The national DHIA committee is composed of dairy farmers, university extension dairy specialists and national DHIA people.

"The committee is working closely with about 15 agricultural business companies that are developing the technology for these systems," Appleman says.

Objectives of the committee are to:

--Maintain a national data base for sire proving and cow evaluations.

--Develop a national cooperative DHIA program that's flexible enough for appropriately monitored production data from on-farm computer programs.

--Assist manufacturers to design systems to standardize input and output of on-farm computer programs.

--Assist equipment suppliers and dairy farmers with continuity so that data input is up to date.

--Inform dairy farmers of the latest developments and their practicality.

Appleman says Minnesota farmers are already using computerized devices to read milk weights and each cow's daily grain allotment and refusal. However, these devices are not tied into a central computer at the present time.

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Source: Jerry Hawton  
(612) 373-1166  
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Swine Briefs...

CHOLINE IN SOW RATIONS

Check the vitamin pre-mixes in your sow ration to make sure that choline has been added, advises Jerry Hawton, extension swine nutritionist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

Recent experiments have shown an increase of .5 more pigs weaned per litter when the B-vitamin choline was fed during gestation and lactation. There was also a beneficial effect on conception rate when choline was fed during breeding and gestation.

Adding supplemental choline to the sow ration during breeding and gestation costs about 30 to 50 cents per sow and litter, Hawton says.

Adding two pounds of 50 percent choline chloride per ton of complete feed provides the suggested 800 mg. of choline per head daily if sows eat four pounds of the complete feed per day.

# # #

NO BENEFITS FROM FLAVORED SOW RATIONS

Research studies show there's no economic benefit in gains or feed efficiency from feeding flavored feeds to sows or early-weaned pigs.

The concept with feeding flavored feeds to sows is that the flavor will carry over into the sow's milk. Nursing pigs will then acquire a taste for the flavor so that when they're offered a creep or starter feed with the same flavoring agent they'll eat it better.

However, research trials in Texas, Michigan and Iowa found no economic benefits from the flavored feeds, says Jerry Hawton, swine nutritionist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service. In two out of three of the Michigan trials, young pigs ate the control or non-flavored starter better, regardless of the sow feed.

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Source: Jerry Hawton  
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### ECONOMICS IS KEY TO HIGH-MOISTURE CORN FOR SWINE

Economics and changes in feeding operations are the key variables to consider if you're contemplating feeding high-moisture corn for swine.

High-moisture grains properly ensiled or preserved with an organic acid are suitable swine feeds, says Jerry Hawton, swine nutritionist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

"But don't convert to high-moisture grains expecting to improve feed efficiency or growth performance," he cautions. For the most part, high-moisture corn is nutritionally equal to dry corn if you compare it on an equal dry matter basis.

You can feed high-moisture corn either free-choice or in a complete mixed ration if you manage the system properly. However, power failure or an equipment breakdown can present problems unless you're prepared to handle them.

From a palatability standpoint, hogs are sensitive to mold contamination of feeds. Also, some molds produce a substance with estrogenic activity that can cause pregnant females to abort or absorb their litters. So never feed a high-moisture grain to the breeding herd if you suspect any spoilage or mold contamination.

High-moisture grain ensiled in either sealed or non-sealed storage is subject to spoilage shortly after you take it out of storage if it wasn't previously treated with a preservative. Preferably, this high-moisture grain should be fed several times a day, or at least once daily. Never place more than a two to three day supply in a self-feeder at one time.

To prevent high-moisture grains from spoiling in the feeder, Hawton suggests this guideline: When the temperature is greater than 80 degrees F, feed two or three times daily; from 40 to 80 degrees, feed daily; and when less than 40 degrees, you can feed every other day.

add one--Economics is Key continued

You can feed high-moisture corn free-choice if you assure proper intake of protein supplement relative to grain intake. High-moisture corn can be vary palatable, which can lead to greater corn consumption and an inadequate intake of protein supplement. In other words, pigs may not properly balance their diet.

Slower gains and higher feed requirements per pound of gain usually result from the free-choice feeding system. For this reason, Hawton recommends that high-moisture grain should either be mixed with a pelleted supplement or included in a complete ground and mixed ration. Free-choice feeding of high-moisture grain is not recommended for pigs under 60 pounds.

Storing acid-treated grain permits use of less expensive storage facilities than those used for ensiled grain. In addition, there's little danger of the grain spoiling shortly after removal from storage. But it may cost as much or more to treat the grain with an organic acid than it does to dry it, Hawton says. In addition, the acid from the treated grain may cause your feed handling and storage equipment to corrode.

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Source: Jerry Hawton  
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Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
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#### FAT IN SOW RATION MAY REDUCE BABY PIG MORTALITY

Consider adding some fat to the sow ration shortly before farrowing if you're weaning less than about 70 percent of baby pigs born.

Stored energy in baby pigs depletes rapidly after birth, says Jim Pettigrew, animal scientist researcher at the University of Minnesota. Lack of energy may contribute to piglet mortality.

Since the piglets energy comes from the placenta and colostrum shortly before and after birth, efforts must be directed at the sow. In some situations, piglet survival rate may improve if fat is added to the sow ration for about a week before farrowing.

Fat must be melted down and mixed with dry feed. This extra added fat should equal about 8% of the weight of the feed. However, improvement in baby pig survival is questionable if fat content of the sow ration is already high.

"In cold weather it's hard to melt the fat down. Your feed handling equipment will get sticky," says Jerry Hawton, swine nutritionist with the University's Agricultural Extension Service.

Hawton offers this guideline: If you're weaning 80 percent or more of pigs born, you don't need supplemental fat as much as you do if you're in the 65-70 percent range.

Providing the same amount of energy to the sow as carbohydrate extra grain rather than fat doesn't improve baby pig survival rates. Adjusting the protein supply in the sows' diet alters amount of milk produced and weaning weight of the piglets, but has little or no effect on survival rate of the piglets unless the protein deficiency is severe.

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Source: Dr. Tom Stein  
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Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
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#### FEWER PIGS MEAN LESS PROFIT

The "true" costs of swine reproductive diseases include fewer weaned pigs--or lost opportunities for production.

Many people think only in terms of additional costs due to medication, vaccination, veterinary fees and loss of profit due to mortality, says Tom Stein, veterinarian with the University of Minnesota.

"These costs aren't trivial and you need to look at them closely. But the major variable cost of maintaining a swine breeding herd is feed cost," he says.

Feed costs can be grouped into four areas:

- Replacement gilts after selection into the breeding herd
- Boars
- Sows and gilts in gestation and lactation
- Pre-weaned pigs or creep feed

Most of these feed costs and all other variable expenses are present regardless of productivity level. "You need to cover these expenses whether you have five or 20 pigs per sow per year," Stein emphasizes. "This is the key factor that determines gross return and lets you make a little money from producing pigs," he adds.

Research on seasonal infertility at the University of Minnesota shows that average losses in net return for a 250 sow herd are \$10,200 per year. The same study showed that crated sows netted \$16,400 more per year than grouped sows.

For parvovirus infection, an acute outbreak with gilts results in a \$3,100 net loss per year. A chronic outbreak results in a \$1600 loss in net return. Figures for all of the above examples are averages for a 250 sow herd and do not include costs of medication, vaccination, veterinary fees and profit loss due to mortality.

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Source: Dr. Al Leman  
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Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
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### SWINE PNEUMONIA COSTLY

Pneumonia in confined swine units is more costly than most people realize, says Al Leman, swine veterinarian at the University of Minnesota.

Leman says almost all swine herds have some pneumonia. There's seldom a single cause of pneumonia. It's usually a complex interaction of viruses, Mycoplasma, bacteria, parasites and adverse environmental conditions.

Environmental factors that contribute to pneumonia include pit gasses, widely fluctuating temperatures, restricted airflow during winter confinement, mixing of various aged and sized pigs, failure to sanitize between groups of pigs, and large pens with high pen density.

Death losses from pneumonia are usually highest in late winter and early spring. In addition, death losses are most common about three to five weeks after pigs arrive in the finishing building. Many pigs that die from pneumonia don't show prolonged periods of sickness or unthriftiness, Leman says.

He offers these ideas on pneumonia control:

--Consult your veterinarian to get the problem diagnosed by slaughter inspection and examination of dead pigs.

--Keep records on each dead pig that include age, weight, sex, breed, pen location and external lesions.

--Sell complete pens of pigs. Avoid sorting and mixing, Leman stresses.

--Partition large finishing buildings into smaller rooms. In addition,

add one--swine pneumonia continued

partition all new finishing buildings. Don't place grower pigs directly across from the older finisher pigs. Consider alternatives to manure pits under the pigs.

--Use native American breeds as the terminal cross sire. White pigs, especially of recent European origin, may be more susceptible to pneumonia in U.S. confinement facilities.

--Spend more time in finishing buildings. Identify, hospitalize and treat pigs that begin "falling away" from penmates.

--Eradicate parasites in the finishing pigs and buildings.

--Establish a rigorous maintenance program for fans, thermostats, and feeders. Pneumonia is related to pig comfort.

--Consider using a 16% protein finishing ration in herds with severe pneumonia.

--Buy all boars from one farm.

--If you can improve feed efficiency, pneumonia will be reduced. The reverse also seems to be true, Leman says. As the incidence and severity of pneumonia is reduced, feed efficiency improves.

--Establish farm goals for nursery and finishing mortality rates.

--Consider separate facilities for rearing gilts. By producing pneumonia-free gilts, you can expect a reduction in the pneumonia level of their pigs.

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1980 YEARBOOK  
FEATURES ENERGY  
COST CUTTING TIPS

Cutting Energy Costs, a national priority as well as an individual goal for most U.S. families, is the theme of the 1980 U.S. Department of Agriculture Yearbook now available from the Superintendent of Documents or from members of Congress.

The 408-page book looks at energy cost-cutting measures for farmers, homemakers, foresters, communities and the food industry.

Among the 66 contributors to the volume are four University of Minnesota College of Home Economics faculty members, M. Janice Hogan, Dorothy Goss, Wanda W. Olson and Becky L. Yust. The chapter that the four wrote is "A Family Checklist to Conserve Energy." In it they state, "The decade of the Eighties marks the beginning of an era of critical adjustments for many families. Increases in consumer prices and energy shortages are forcing families to make changes."

Citing research done recently on family energy use patterns in Minnesota, the authors conclude, "Surveys indicate that almost everyone favors energy conservation, but not nearly as many practice (it). For example in one study over 50 percent of families polled turn down their thermostats during the day, but only 15 percent turn them down to 60 degrees at night. Seventy-six percent of the people say they are willing to carpool but 69 percent report driving alone in their cars to work."

The authors also discuss direct versus indirect use of energy. They explain that indirect energy is that used for producing the goods and services we buy. This accounts for more than half the energy the average family consumes and an even higher percentage for upper income families.

add one--1980 yearbook continued

This means that the higher the family income, the greater the potential for reducing indirect energy consumption.

They stress that family decisions about their lifestyle and purchases can play an important role in reducing the demand for energy. "Easy care fabrics, convenience foods and throwaway goods such as paper towels, plastic cups and disposable diapers have diminished the amount of household labor required; yet they require other energy for production. Families may make different choices in housing, vacations, gifts, food and clothing when they evaluate the energy costs of various options," they state.

The 1980 Yearbook may be purchased for \$9.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Congressional members also receive a limited number of copies for free distribution to their constituents. If supplies are not yet depleted, you may request one from your area's representative or from Senator Dave Durenberger, 353 Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 or Senator Rudy Boschwitz, 2207 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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Source: Leonard Hertz  
(612) 373-1103

BERRY GROWERS SCHOOL  
SET MARCH 15-16

The annual Minnesota Berry Growers School for strawberry and raspberry growers will be held in Roseville and on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota on March 15 and 16. Speakers will include a well known Wisconsin commercial berry grower as well as extension specialists and university faculty members from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Purdue.

The school will begin with an evening program on March 15 at the Roseville Holiday Inn featuring Jerome Fechter, outstanding Wisconsin grower, discussing new ideas for berry culture on pick-your-own berry farms.

On March 16, the full day sessions will be held at the Earle Brown Continuing Education Center on the University's St. Paul campus. Topics to be covered by researchers and faculty members include growing techniques for improved berry yield, weed control, mowing and mulching strawberries, berry varieties, using and preserving berries, pest control and operating pick-your-own farms.

To register or obtain further information, contact Leonard B. Hertz, Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108, phone (612) 373-1103.

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Source: Wendy Andberg  
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Writer: Deedee Nagy  
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HOME REMODELERS' COURSE  
SET MARCH 9-10 IN ST. PAUL

A two-day course for remodeling contractors, material suppliers, lenders, architects and other interested individuals will be held March 9-10 on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

Sponsored by the Twin Cities Remodelers' Council and the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service and Office of Special Programs, the course is intended to increase remodelers' profits through better marketing, design and estimating skills as well as improved management and communication techniques.

The course title is Rough Start to Smooth Finish: Management Survival. Topics will include the home remodeling market outlook, profitable design options, estimating, sales techniques, time management, legal aspects and communication.

Fee for the course is \$125 for the first registrant from a firm and \$100 for each additional company employee. In addition, a 10 percent surcharge will be added to each registrant's fee to help make up for recent budget cuts within the Agricultural Extension Service. The fee includes three meals, several breaks and a proceedings book.

To register, contact the Office of Special Programs, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108, telephone (612) 373-0725.

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Source: Ervin Oelke  
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Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
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#### WILD RICE GROWERS' TO MEET JAN. 22-24

Growing, processing and marketing Minnesota's wild rice crop will be discussed at the 12th annual convention of the Wild Rice Growers' Association Jan. 22-24 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, St. Paul.

Workshops for wild rice growers will be conducted by University of Minnesota specialists. There will also be recipe demonstrations for wild rice and a session on wild rice supply and marketing.

St. Paul Mayor George Latimer will proclaim Jan. 23 "Wild Rice Day" in St. Paul.

Featured speaker for the Jan. 23 banquet is Hiram Drache, author and historian, who will speak on "Agriculture in Transition."

For more information contact Ervin Oelke, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108. Tel. (612) 373-1181.

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Source: Jeff Reneau  
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### DON'T FEED EXCESSIVE IODINE IN DAIRY RATIONS

Don't feed excess iodine in dairy cattle rations, advises Jeff Reneau, dairy specialist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

Iodine, and particularly EDDI, should not be added to feeds in amounts greater than the minimum nutritional requirement of 10 milligrams per day for the adult dairy cow. "This is a very small amount," Reneau emphasizes.

On a total ration basis, it amounts to .5 parts per million (ppm) or .00005 percent iodine. A daily dose is only 1/326 of a teaspoon of potassium iodone. Growing young stock need only about one-half that amount.

Recent research evidence suggests that excessive iodine in the diet is detrimental rather than beneficial to cow health, reproductive efficiency and milk production.

Present levels of iodine in milk have not yet resulted in human health problems, Reneau says. "That's because the cow is a pretty good filter. Only 7-10 percent of the cow's dietary iodine is secreted in the milk."

However, the medical profession and human nutritionists are concerned over the gradual increase of iodine in the human diet, Reneau says. Recent surveys of the average Americans diet show that over 50 percent of the dietary iodine in adults and young children and 80 percent of that in infant diets comes from milk and dairy products.

"Removing excess iodine from dairy cattle feeds would solve the problem of excess iodine in milk quickly," Reneau says. "Farmers need to check supplement labels carefully for iodine content," he advises. "Be careful NOT to add excessive iodine levels by combining protein, mineral and trace mineral salt supplements that all have iodine in them."

add one--don't feed excessive iodine

Feed manufacturers need to remove iodine "medicated" supplements from the market, Reneau adds.

The following table is a practical guide to iodine concentration in the dairy ration. It gives the iodine concentrations that will meet the National Research Council's minimum nutritional requirements. The table is constructed so that any ONE of the ration items listed supplying the ONLY source of iodine equals 10 milligrams per day, which is the suggested feeding level.

	% of diet	Iodine %	Iodine mg/kg	Daily intake mg
Total daily dry matter	100	.00005	.5	10
Concentrate ration	30 to 50	.0001	1.0	10
Protein supplement	10 to 15	.0004 to .0005	4 to 5	10
Mineral supplement	.3 to .5	.007 to .01	70 -100	10
Salt, iodized	.3 to .5	.007 to .01	70 -100	10

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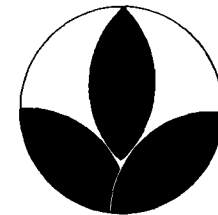
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AMID MUCH SOCIAL CHANGE,  
HOUSEWORK TIME CHANGES LITTLE

OUTLOOK '81

It's a new world out there, right? More women have entered the work force. The concept of family now encompasses more groupings than the traditional one -- father, mother, Johnny and Susie. Married couples are choosing to have fewer children and many opt to stay childfree.



But the more some things change, the more others remain the same. Research recently reported at the 1981 Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C., indicates that household work may be one of these constants.

Karen P. Goebel, assistant professor of family and consumer economics at the University of Wisconsin, reported on family time use studies done in the 1920s compared to more recent studies. Nearly 60 years ago, women who were not employed outside the home spent an average of 52 hours a week on housework, and this total has changed little despite labor saving appliances, convenience foods and easy care fabrics.

She pointed out that although total hours devoted to housework have changed little, time spent on individual tasks has shifted. "Managerial, shopping and family care time have increased while meal preparation and clean-up and clothing care have decreased," she said.

Homemakers who are also employed outside the home spend less time on household tasks. A New York study has shown that for each additional hour that a homemaker was employed each week outside the home, she spent about four minutes less in household work.

(more)

## Add one--Housework Time

Goebel pointed out that a homemaker's employment status seems to have little effect on the amount of time her spouse typically devotes to housework. Children of women employed full-time contributed an average of an hour a day to housework while children of nonemployed mothers contributed about 45 minutes a day.

"It is clear that women continue to provide the largest proportion of household work time," Goebel said. "In two-parent families with young children, the husband's contribution to household work does not appear to have increased significantly."

This heavy time commitment to housework may cause stress for many women who lack time management. Goebel added, "Our affluent society may have actually served to increase household work requirements." If energy shortages and inflation force families to produce even more of their own food, clothing and services at home, this burden will fall disproportionately on the shoulders of women, she predicted.

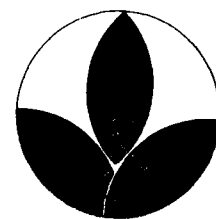
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OUTLOOK '81



GRAYING OF AMERICA CALLS  
ATTENTION TO PENSIONS

America is graying. Its population is growing older at such a rate that many economists fear for the financial state of the Social Security system and hundreds of other pension plans.

Speaking at the recent 1981 Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C., Frankie N. Schwenk, family economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Science and Education Administration, said there are three ways that the country can meet the increased need for retirement funding in the years ahead.

First, the working population may have to accept an increased level of contribution from their paychecks to support the growing numbers of elderly. Currently about seven percent of the income of workers goes to the retired. By the early 2000's Schwenk estimated that this percentage may double.

Some retirement plans may change their funding. Instead of pay-as-you-go plans where contributions by today's workers finance present retirees, some plans may set aside contributions from today's workers for their future needs.

A third option, raising retirement age, is already finding support. Schwenk said that a 1978 amendment to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act makes it unlawful to forcibly retire workers under age 70. He added, "Although it appears that less than 10 percent of the people reaching 65 will keep working, the law makes it possible for individuals to elect to do so."

Starting next year, workers age 70 or older will be permitted to earn any amount and still draw their full Social Security allotment. Also starting in 1982, Social Security benefits will increase by three percent (instead of the current 1 percent) for every year a worker postpones retirement beyond age 65.

add one--graying america continued

With these changes in retirement plans looming, Schwenk emphasized the importance of early retirement planning. In addition, half of the work force is not covered by a private pension plan and these individuals must give particular attention to their futures.

Women, Schwenk stated, are much less likely to have pension plans than are men. This is because they are less often union members, are more likely to work part-time, are more often employed by small firms and are more likely to hold jobs in low paying industries and occupations. Even when women receive pensions, their benefits are typically one-half of men's because of lower earnings and fewer years of participation.

Women's plights are made even worse when inflation erodes any pension benefits they have. Because women usually spend more years in retirement than men, the year by year effect of inflation cuts deeper. As spouses of pension plan participants, the women may be left without benefits if their husbands die before reaching retirement age. Pension plans seldom cover divorced wives, Schwenk added.

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CA

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
January 19, 1981

Source: Clif Halsey (612) 373-1060

Editor: Jack Sperbeck(612) 373-0715

### MINNESOTA FIELDS SUSCEPTIBLE TO WINTER EROSION

Minnesota farmers enjoyed a good fall for fieldwork, but one result is farmland that's "wide open" to wind and water erosion, says Clif Halsey, conservationist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

"Minnesota has lots of room for improvement in erosion control. Sometimes I wonder who speaks for future generations who may have to survive without a lot of the topsoil that we're losing year by year," Halsey says.

"There have been famine situations in poor countries where starving people were forced to eat their seed wheat to survive. I don't mean to imply we're getting close to that stage, but it's frightening to think how depleted our topsoils will be in 50 or 100 years if things don't change," he adds.

"Clean" looking fields with little crop residue on the surface are susceptible to erosion. "You need at least 30 percent of the surface covered with residue for good wind erosion control on loam and silt loam soils," Halsey says. Sandy soils need at least 40 percent cover; and at least 30 percent ground cover is recommended for water erosion control on sloping land.

But only a small percentage of fields have the minimum surface coverage, Halsey says. He's been keeping track of crops, types and time of tillage and surface residue on more than 500 fields in southeastern and south central Minnesota since 1978.

In south central Minnesota 88 percent of the observed fields that were in corn in 1980 were fall plowed. Eight percent had other tillage but no fall plowing. Four percent had no fall tillage. Two percent of the fields

(more)



## Add one--Winter Erosion

had between 15 and 25 percent of the ground still protected from erosion by crop residues; 6 percent of the fields had more than 25 percent ground cover when field work ended.

Of the soybean fields observed in south central Minnesota in 1980, 42 percent were plowed this past fall; 52 percent had other tillage such as a chisel plow, disk or ammonia injector but no fall plowing. Only 5 percent had no fall tillage. Five percent of the fields had between 15 and 25 percent of the surface covered and another 5 percent had more than 25 percent covered by soybean stalks to protect the fields from wind and water erosion.

As much as 30 percent of the residues still on the surface will decay by the time the crops are planted next spring. "There's little opportunity on these fields for true conservation tillage during the spring and summer of 1981," Halsey says.

The conservation tillage situation in southeastern Minnesota is a little better than in the south central area, says Halsey. Fifty-three percent of the corn fields were plowed in the fall of 1980; 20 percent had other types of tillage but no fall plowing. Twenty-seven percent had no fall tillage. Ten percent had 15 to 25 percent of the ground still covered by residue after fall work stopped; 29 percent had more than 25 percent of ground still covered to protect it from water erosion during this winter and next spring.

Southeastern Minnesota, especially those six counties toward the east, grows much less soybeans than south central Minnesota. Twenty-six percent of the soybean fields in the eleven county area were fall plowed; 57 percent had other types of tillage but no fall plowing. Only 17 percent had no fall tillage. Ten percent of the fields had between 15 and 25 percent of the surface covered by residue after field work stopped; 17 percent had more than 25 percent of the ground covered.

"Again, only those fields with much more than 25 percent ground cover this fall could possibly have enough residue on the surface to conserve soil after the crops are planted in 1981," Halsey says.

There were about as many fall plowed fields after corn and soybeans in 1980 as in 1979 in south central Minnesota; many more fields were fall plowed in 1980 than in 1979 in southeastern Minnesota. Most of the fields

(more)

Add two--Winter Erosion

which were not fall plowed but were chiseled or disked still had very little residue on the surface after tillage.

"The rough surfaces of some fields may resist wind erosion for awhile. But by spring, weathering will have greatly reduced their resistance. Minnesota has much room for improvement in adopting true conservation tillage," Halsey says.

CA, IA, 4-FC

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Source: Craig Sheaffer  
(612) 373-1677

Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

### MORE ENERGY FROM FORAGE

Getting more energy from forages is the topic of a Forage Day in St. Paul Feb. 26.

The event is sponsored by the Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council and will be held at the Earle Brown Center on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

Speakers include Allen Rider from Sperry New Holland and Gary Allen, a dairy farmer who was Minnesota's premier Forage Producer in 1980. Specialists from the University's Agricultural Extension Service and Experiment Station will discuss topics such as preserving energy by silage preservation, nitrogen fixation by forage legumes, growth promoting implants and rumensin for cattle on pasture, and maximizing animal performance on pastures.

Additional topics include forage for soil conservation, ways to temporarily store silage, applying manure to forages and row crops, and forage seed production.

Outstanding forage producers for 1981 will receive awards at the noon banquet.

For more information, contact the Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council, 303 Agronomy, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.  
CA, IA

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### HAY PRICES INCREASE

Hay prices remained fairly stable from September to December of last year but moved to higher levels after mid-December.

A telephone survey in mid-January indicated that good alfalfa hay was selling for \$80 to \$100 in most areas of Minnesota, says Paul Hasbargen, economist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service. Quotes over \$100 for quality hay were most common in central Minnesota.

But prices on mixed hay and hay harvested before 1980, were considerably lower--down to \$35-\$40 per ton. So quality hay appears to be commanding the premium it deserves in the current hay market, Hasbargen says.

Straw, like low quality hay, has remained relatively more plentiful this winter and is bringing 75¢ to \$1 per bale in most areas.

Price movements this spring will be very dependent on the weather. If spring pastures are delayed, hay shortages can be expected to develop in areas that were hard hit by drought last year.

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January 19, 1981

MSE  
3/12/81  
Note to home economists: The  
attached list of fast foods and  
their nutritional content is for  
your information. It is not intended  
to be included as part of the news  
article.

'FAST FOODS' ARE  
ALSO 'FAT FOODS'  
USDA STUDY SHOWS

Fast food outlets provide meals for millions of Americans each day, but the nutritional worth of such fare has been controversial.

A recent study by U.S. Department of Agriculture research chemist Hal T. Slover and his colleagues analyzed the nutrients in more than 50 popular fast food menu items from McDonald's, Burger King and Burger Chef restaurants. The high percentage of calories derived from fat in most of the foods was one significant finding, according to Isabel Wolf, extension food and nutrition specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Nearly all of the sandwiches analyzed derived between 40 and 55 percent of their calories from fat. Mrs. Wolf also noted that condiments--mayonnaise, tartar sauce, catsup etc.--added to such specialty sandwiches as the Burger King Whopper or McDonald's Big Mac commonly add 100 or more calories to a sandwich. By contrast, the sauces or dressings added to regular-sized hamburgers and cheeseburgers add fewer than 20 calories.

"These sauces sometimes contribute more calories and cholesterol than the meat or the deep frying," Mrs. Wolf said. "Persons who are worried about calories and fat intake should probably order their fast food entrees 'without' when that is possible."

The USDA researcher also found that french fry servings typically contained about 12 milligrams of cholesterol, indicating that the restaurants used animal fats in their deep fryers. About half of the calories in french fries were from fat.

add one--fast foods

Simple sandwiches usually contributed far fewer calories and milligrams of cholesterol to the diet than did specialty sandwiches. For example, the Burger King hamburger provided 270 calories and 40 milligrams of cholesterol while the Double Beef Whopper from the same fast food restaurant provided 662 calories and 175 milligrams of cholesterol. McDonald's Quarter Pounder with cheese provided 559 calories and 110 milligrams of cholesterol. McDonald's basic hamburger had 250 calories and 33 milligrams of cholesterol.

Desserts, however, did not vary as much in nutrient composition as the sandwiches did. Calorie content ranged from 238 in Burger King's apple pie to 352 in Burger Chef's chocolate shake. Data on the fat content of shakes showed that the main sources of fats were rendered animal fats rather than butterfat or vegetable fat.

Mrs. Wolf said the results of the USDA study are significant because the three fast food chains from which samples were tested provide about one percent of all the food eaten in the United States. Although earlier studies have looked at nutrients in fast foods, this is the most comprehensive research to date.

# # #

CA, 4HE-I, 4HE-2

SEE ATTACHED LIST

TOTAL PERCENT CALORIES AND CHOLESTEROL

<u>Item - Company*</u>	<u>Calories</u>	<u>% From Fat</u>	<u>Milligrams of Cholesterol</u>
Hamburger (BC)	235	39	32
Hamburger (BK)	270	40	40
Hamburger (MD)	250	34	33
Big Shef (BC)	470	47	75
Super Shef (BC)	529	47	93
Double Beef Hamburger (BK)	377	49	91
Quarter Pounder (MD)	420	45	77
Cheeseburger (BC)	285	42	44
Cheeseburger (BK)	327	45	60
Cheesburger (MD)	321	41	50
Double Cheeseburger (BC)	427	54	94
Double Beef Cheeseburger (BK)	478	51	111
Whopper with Cheese (BK)	589	50	122
Double Beef Whopper with Cheese (BK)	785	55	223
Big Mac (MD)	425	41	72
Quarter Pounder with Cheese (MD)	559	49	110
Skipper's Treat (BC)	356	39	58
Whaler (BK)	470	46	92
Whaler with Cheese (BK)	602	50	122
Filet-O-Fish (MD)	447	58	61
Yumbo (BK)	381	43	69
Rancher (Beef) (BC)	716	54	118
Mariner (BC)	663	53	94
Scrambled Eggs (MD)	232	75	366
Hot Cakes (with butter, no syrup)(MD)	314	28	47
English Muffin with Butter (MD)	178	27	12
Egg McMuffin (MD)	332	41	248
Sausage Sandwich (MD)	351	48	54
Apple Pie (BK)	238	43	3
Apple Pie (MD)	287	52	17
Cherry Pie (MD)	261	50	13
Apple Turnover (BC)	269	45	5
Lemon Turnover (BC)	282	46	8
McDonaldland Cookies (MD)	278	29	11
Vanilla Shake (BC)	259	33	34
Vanilla Shake (BK)	271	28	31
Vanilla Shake (MD)	305	24	25
Chocolate Shake (BC)	352	31	37
Chocolate Shake (BK)	298	27	38
Chocolate Shake (MD)	340	21	28
Strawberry Shake (BC)	343	23	36
Strawberry Shake (BK)	277	24	29
Whopper (BK)	483	44	88
Whopper Jr. (BK)	283	42	42
Double Beef Whopper (BK)	662	52	175
Strawberry Shake (MD)	327	24	28
French Fries (BC)	260	47	13
French Fries (BK)	254	47	12
French Fries (MD)	238	49	12
Onion Rings (BK)	140	46	4

\* BC is Burger Chef; BK is Burger King; MD is McDonald's

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L.P. GAS WATER HEATERS  
MAY BE DANGEROUS

Thermostats manufactured by the White-Rodgers Division of Emerson Electric Company and used on liquid propane (L.P.) gas water heaters are being replaced because under certain conditions they may lead to explosion and serious injury.

The replacement involves thermostats which were manufactured by White-Rodgers between 1961 and 1980 and sold to A. O. Smith Corporation and several other water heater manufacturers for installation on more than 600,000 L.P. gas water heaters used primarily by rural homeowners.

Natural gas fueled water heaters are not involved in the recall and no replacement of natural gas thermostats is planned or necessary.

Physical damage to the thermostat's gas control knob could cause the safety valve to stick in the "open" position, allowing L.P. gas to escape. Since L.P. gas is heavier than air, it tends to accumulate near the floor and may explode when exposed to an open flame, electric spark or other ignition source. Since 1968, L.P. gas water heaters with White-Rodgers thermostats have been involved in 23 explosions involving five deaths and 16 serious injuries. In most of these cases the gas knob of the thermostat apparently had been damaged or abused, allowing gas to escape.



add one--L.P. gas water heaters continued

If consumers believe their L.P. gas water heater has been purchased since 1961, they should call the White-Rodgers hotline toll-free, 1-800-325-9589 (or collect from Missouri, Alaska and Hawaii at 314-631-9321) to arrange for replacement with a new modified thermostat free of charge.

The new thermostats will be installed by a qualified service representative working under an arrangement with White-Rodgers. Each of the replacement thermostats will bear a sticker warning consumers against forcing, hitting or damaging the thermostat's gas control knob. Under no circumstances should someone owning an L.P. gas water heater equipped with one of these thermostats attempt to relight the pilot flame if it has gone out. Instead, they should call their gas supplier or plumber immediately.

The program will include L.P. gas water heaters, manufactured by A.O. Smith under such brand names as A. O. Smith, American Standard, Continental, Glascote, Kee, National, Minnegasco, NORGAS and Homart, along with water heaters manufactured by other companies.

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January 19, 1981

BEWARE OF SUPERMARKET PSYCHOLOGY

Is supermarket "selling psychology" causing you to drain your pocketbook?

"You may think you have exhausted all the ways of cutting your food budget, but becoming aware of the sales techniques used to encourage you to buy more can help cut down impulse buying," says \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ County extension agent.  
(agent's name) (county)

Most supermarkets are arranged so people will have to walk around most of the store to reach needed major foods such as meat, fresh fruits, milk, frozen juice, and bread.

A study done by 'Progressive Grocer' indicates that in a 12-aisle supermarket, between 60 percent and 80 percent of the shoppers went into the interior aisles of the market when shopping.

"Walking every aisle once a week is good for business but not always good for your pocketbook," notes \_\_\_\_\_. "You will probably exit with more than what's on your shopping list."  
(agent's name)

High profit items like candy, gum and toys are often placed strategically at checkout counters where they are readily seen by any children you may have in tow.



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January 19, 1981

FTC ASKS COMMENTS  
ON FUNERAL PRICE RULING

With the average cost for a funeral and burial now well over \$2,400, this becomes the third largest single expense facing most families, after housing and an automobile.

The Federal Trade Commission began investigating funeral goods and services early in the 1970s and has recently passed some regulations on the funeral industry. It is currently asking for consumer comment on a proposed rule that would assure funeral purchasers full price information before they decide to buy.

The proposed regulation would require that consumers making funeral arrangements in person be given an itemized general price list of services offered as well as a price list on caskets and burial vaults. This information would also have to be available over the phone.

In addition, funeral directors would be required to tell consumers if embalming is optional if, indeed, it is not a requirement under state or local law. They would not be allowed to claim that a casket is required for cremation or to make misleading statements about the length of time that a casket or vault protects against natural decomposition.

If you have comments on these proposals, you can make them to the FTC through the end of February. Send your comments to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
January 26, 1981

Contact: Vernon W. Ruttan  
(612) 376-3560

PESTICIDE REGULATION HAS  
HIDDEN CONSUMER COSTS

Government regulation of pesticides is effective in protecting human health and the environment, but the costs to consumers are hidden in increased costs of food, natural fibers, ornamental plants, and lumber. Greater costs are likely in the future because of delayed effects of decreases in productivity in the pesticide industry and from agricultural research scientists that result from regulation. These are among the points in a report prepared by a task force of 15 scientists assembled by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST). Heading the task force was Vernon Ruttan, an agricultural economist at the University of Minnesota.

"The rising value that society is placing upon health and environmental quality has led to a demand for more effective social controls over the development and use of pesticides and other new technologies," says Ruttan. "The result has been new laws and regulations."

"Our task force was concerned," says Ruttan, "with what the regulatory environment is doing to pesticide innovation -- to new developments and new products coming along. These are essential for the future. We are laying the foundation for the future right now, and our study indicates that it isn't as bright as it could be. In recent years, the pesticide industry has been assigning less and less of its research and development money to finding and developing new products, and more and more to meeting EPA's requirements for pesticide registration or approval. The number of new pesticides registered annually has decreased."

add one--pesticide regulation

The shift in emphasis in pesticide research and development is a cause for concern, the CAST report concludes. Manufacturers develop pesticides with a broad range of effectiveness for use on major crops such as wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton, but they often can't afford to develop pesticides for minor crops because they might not recover their costs on such limited sales. This trend could defeat the concept of integrated pest management which fosters use of the best combination of available pest control strategies, often using chemicals with a narrow range of pesticidal activity to avoid harm to beneficial organisms.

The task force also looked at another cost of regulating pesticides: the diversion of university and USDA scientists from their regular work into work related to regulation. Society pays for the regulatory activities of the present, and it also loses the benefit of the productive output the scientists would otherwise have made. It usually takes more than ten years from conception to extensive application of new developments that improve agriculture. Despite this expenditure of time, agricultural research and extension are among the best of long-term public investments, they conclude.

Single copies of CAST Report 87 entitled Impact of Government Regulation on the Development of Chemical Pesticides for Agriculture and Forestry are available free from CAST, 250 Memorial Union, Ames, Iowa 50011 (Telephones (515) 294-2036 and (515) 294-2903).

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
January 26, 1981

Source: Edna Jordahl  
(612) 373-0907

CONSUMER BRIEFS. . .

Consumer Folders Now Available: A new series of consumer-oriented extension folders is now available at local county extension offices or through the bulletin room on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The folders were written by Edna K. Jordahl, extension family resource management specialist at the University. They are: "Consumerism: Leader's Guide and How to Conduct a Program" (Extension Folder 509); "Consumerism: Where to Complain and How to Get Results" (Extension Folder 447); "Consumerism: How the Consumer Got Involved and Concerns Today" (Extension Folder 505); "Consumerism: Two Prevalent Con Games -- Bank Swindle and Pigeon Drop" (Extension Folder 507); "Consumerism: Minnesota Laws for Protection and How to be on Guard." (Extension Folder 506); "Consumerism: Advertising, Contracts and Warranties" (Extension Folder 508).

\* \* \*

Cancer Insurance Termed 'Poor Buy': Although Congress has barred the Federal Trade Commission from releasing its lengthy report, the report's conclusion still stands -- cancer insurance is a "very poor" consumer buy. The report found that cancer insurance offered relatively little coverage for a substantially high price, and that the insurance was of little benefit even if the policyholder contracted cancer because most policies did not cover all medical costs.

Add one--consumer briefs

The report also stated that consumers would be better off buying a general health insurance policy because other diseases occur more frequently, pose more serious health risks and were costlier to treat than cancer.

\* \* \*

Median Income Rises: The median family income rose in 1979, the most recent year for which data are available, to \$19,684. This is an increase of 11.6 percent over 1978, but most of this was erased by increases in the Consumer Price Index for the same period. The increase in purchasing power of 0.3 percent was smaller than in the previous years but better than in 1974 and 1975 when the inflation-adjusted median family income declined.

For whites, median family income was \$20,520. It was \$11,650 for blacks and \$14,230 for families of Spanish origin. Despite rising median family income, the number of persons living below the poverty level (set at \$7,412 annually for a four-member, non-farm family of four) rose to 25.2 million or about 11 percent of the population.

\* \* \*

New House Defects: The average newly purchased home has defects that would cost the buyer nearly \$1000 to repair, according to a recent study by the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. One out of five homeowners surveyed reported a serious disagreement with a builder. One out of 15 consulted a lawyer and one out of 25 hired one.

Another study of home buying revealed that in 1979, average settlement costs for a new home were \$5,212. These averaged nearly 10 percent of the purchase price and included primarily broker fees and charges for loan-related services.

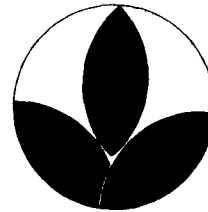
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OUTLOOK '81



### HOME ENERGY USE TRENDS SHOW CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Energy is taking an increasingly big bite out of most household budgets, and some preliminary studies show that consumers are conserving and changing some old habits.

Speaking at the Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C., Carol B. Meeks, housing program leader with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said a shift away from fuel oil for home heating shows consumer concern about heating bills and availability of fuel. Electricity was the most popular type of heating fuel used in new housing units in 1979 although its popularity was greatest in regions with more temperate climate than that of the Midwest.

Heat pumps are also gaining in use. About one-fourth of all new housing units built in 1979 had heat pumps. Meeks added, however, that energy cost savings from such units may be outweighed by maintenance cost.

Conservation practices are on the upswing. A recent U.S. Department of Energy study showed that homeowners who heat with liquid petroleum gas are the most likely to close off an unused room or to invest in insulation, storm windows and doors.

-more-

add one--home energy continued

Meeks reported that despite changes in our home heating habits, we buy and use household appliances with increasing frequency. Between 1970 and 1979, the number of homes with room air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers, home freezers and color television sets increased by 60 percent or more.

To encourage conservation, the government allows federal personal income tax credits amounting to 15 percent of the first \$2,000 spent on such things as insulation and storm windows and doors. Despite this, only about seven percent of the total number of 1978 tax returns claimed credit for conservation. Meeks said that such a low use of the credit may mean that it is not large enough to serve as an incentive to insulate or make other household improvements. "Many lower income households may not have the capital available to make investments in energy-saving items," Meeks said. "In addition, the long tax form must be completed to claim the deduction."

She predicted that consumers will continue to improve the energy efficiency of their houses and the equipment they purchase. Many will look more at life cycle costs of an appliance than at initial cost.

She added, "Builders and manufacturers will continue to improve energy efficiency of housing units and equipment. Government regulations will push these changes and energy prices will pull them through changing consumer demands."

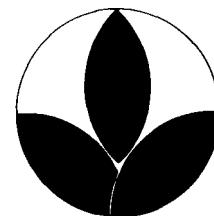
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OUTLOOK '81



HOW ARE WE AT CONSERVING?  
DATA STILL BEING STUDIED

About one-fifth of the energy used in this country is used in our homes, but no one is certain just how we use it. A nationwide survey of more than 4,000 selected homes conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy is beginning to yield results that may show trends in our energy habits.

Wendel Thompson of the U.S. Department of Energy, speaking at the 1981 Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C., said differences between urban and rural households showed up in the survey. Not surprisingly, rural households depend more heavily on fuel oil and liquid petroleum gas than do urban households. This could place a burden on rural residents in the years ahead because the prices for these fuels are expected to rise more rapidly than the prices for natural gas and electricity. About 80 percent of urban energy needs are supplied by natural gas and electricity compared to some 63 percent of rural consumption.

Data for individual households show that rural households use less energy than urban ones. Thompson said, "The (urban-rural) difference roughly represents the average annual electrical use of two frostless refrigerators, not a large amount of energy but small differences accumulated over a large number of households can reach significant size."

add one--conserving continued

He added that the typical household in the South pays more for energy than a household in the West, although they use about the same amount. Households in the Northeast and North Central states pay more for energy than their counterparts in the South and West, and they also use considerable more. Average households in the Northeast and North Central states spent between \$800 and \$900 on energy in 1979 while those in the West spent about \$500 and in the South, about \$700.

Cars and trucks consume a big share of our country's energy, but the data do not yet show changes in our driving habits. They did show, however, that the typical rural vehicle may log as many as ten percent more miles than the typical urban vehicle. Because mileage ratings did not differ much between rural and urban vehicles, rural residents may be spending more to keep their vehicles going than city residents do, according to Thompson.

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February 2, 1981

NOTE TO AGENTS: The release in this packet on the horticulture industries conference is a general one. If the interests in your area are confined to nurseries, vegetable production, turf management or shade tree maintenance, substitute one of these lead paragraphs and headlines for the first two paragraphs in the longer release. The following items are not intended to stand alone.

CONFERENCE BRIEFS:

NURSERY CONFERENCE SET  
MARCH 3-5 IN ST. PAUL

Nursery and garden store operators will meet on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota March 3-5 as part of the 1981 Horticulture Industries Conference. Along with general sessions of interest to many types of horticulture professionals, the sessions for nursery operators will deal with disease and insect control, irrigation, ethics, landscape construction and design.

The Horticulture Industries Conference will begin at 8 a.m. on March 3 with a presentation for all horticulture professionals on business management and the outlook for the 1980's. Later sessions will be divided according to special interests. In addition to the presentations for nursery and landscape service operators there will be sessions on vegetable production and processing, turf management and shade tree maintenance.

VEGETABLE GROWERS, PROCESSORS TO  
MEET MARCH 3-5 IN ST. PAUL

Commercial vegetable growers and processors will meet on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota March 3-5 as part of the 1981 Horticulture Industries Conference. Along with general sessions of interest to many types of horticulture professionals, the sessions for vegetable and fruit growers and processors will deal with cultural practices, varieties, diseases and marketing.

The Horticulture Industries Conference will begin at 8 a.m. on March 3 with a session for all registrants on business management and the outlook for the industry in the 1980's. Later sessions will be divided according to special interests. In addition to the presentations for vegetable and fruit producers and processors, there will be sessions on nursery and landscaping operations, turf management and shade tree maintenance.

TURF MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE  
SET MARCH 3-5 IN ST. PAUL

Turf maintenance personnel, sod producers and park and golf course superintendents will meet on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota March 3-5 as part of the 1981 Horticulture Industries Conference. Along with general sessions of interest to many horticulture professionals, the sessions on turf maintenance and related concerns will deal with budgeting, pesticides, diseases and insects.

The Horticulture Industries Conference will begin at 8 a.m. on March 3 with a presentation for all horticulture professionals on business procedures and the outlook for the 1980s. Later sessions will be divided according to special interests. In addition to the sessions for the turf management group, there will be sessions for nursery and landscape service operators, vegetable and fruit producers and processors and shade tree maintenance personnel.

TREE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL TO  
MEET MARCH 3-5 AT U. OF M.

Shade tree maintenance professionals will meet on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota March 3-5 as part of the 1981 Horticulture Industries Conference. Along with general sessions of interest to many types of horticulture professionals, the sessions for shade tree personnel will deal with pesticide applicator certification, tree replacement considerations, pest control and tree wound treatments.

The Horticulture Industries Conference will begin at 8 a.m. on March 3 with a presentation for all horticulture professionals on business management and the outlook for the 1980s. Later sessions will be divided according to special interests. In addition to the sessions for shade tree maintenance personnel, there will be sessions for nursery and landscape service operators, vegetable and fruit producers and processors and turf management specialists.

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February 2, 1981

HORTICULTURE INDUSTRIES  
CONFERENCE SET MARCH 3-5

The annual Horticulture Industries Conference, a three day educational meeting for professionals in all phases of commercial horticulture, will be held March 3-5 on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

Topics this year will include business practices, research findings, product identification and government regulations. Simultaneous sessions throughout the conference will be geared toward the interests of such persons as garden store operators, vegetable producers and processors, sod producers, turf maintenance personnel, shade tree maintenance personnel, commercial fruit and vegetable growers and park superintendents.

Speakers will be faculty and extension specialists at the University of Minnesota, plant scientists and researchers from industry, nursery operators, city foresters and officials of the U.S. Forest Service and the Minnesota State Department of Agriculture. In addition to lecture and discussion sessions, many commercial and educational exhibits will be on display.

Speaker for the Kermit Olson memorial lecture on the evening of March 3 will be Merle Jensen of the Environmental Research Laboratory at the Tucson International Airport. His topic will be "Alternative Strategies in Agriculture for Tomorrow's Food Today."

All sessions will be held at the Earle Brown Continuing Education Center on the St. Paul campus. The fee is \$35 for three days enrollment, \$30 for two days and \$20 for a single day. Lunches and the one evening dinner are in addition to registration.

To register for the conference, contact the Office of Special Programs, Agricultural Extension Service, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 or telephone (612)-373-0725.

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February 2, 1981

COMMENTS ASKED ON  
CLOTHING CARE LABELS

The Federal Trade Commission is interested in how useful clothing care labels are to you. Under new provisions of an existing rule, ten new categories of products will be covered by the labeling requirement and manufacturers will have to be more specific in some labels.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says the new additions to the list of products requiring labels include draperies, upholstered furniture and slipcovers, carpets, linens, suede and leather apparel and some types of yarn.

Since 1972, clothing and piece good manufacturers have had to include care instructions with their products. New provisions being considered in this year's amendment include the mandatory use of standardized terms to describe recommended cleaning and care procedures.

If you have comments or concerns about current or proposed labeling requirements, sent them to Care Label Amendment, Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

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February 9, 1981

Note to agents: These short  
items are excerpted from the  
most recent issue of National  
Food Review published by the  
Economics and Statistics  
Service of the USDA.

## FOOD BRIEFS . . .

Trends in food spending--Our spending patterns on food during April, May and June of 1980 rose one percent over our spending for the first three months of that year, but rising prices account for this. In fact, real volume of food purchased actually dropped slightly. Restaurants also noted a sharp drop in spending during that period of 1980. The volume of food that we consumed away from home dropped by four percent.

Red meat consumption, which comprises a bulk of food expenditures, remained stable. We ate more pork, however, to offset a decline in beef consumption. Poultry consumption was higher while dairy food use fell.

\* \* \*

Food marketing costs--Food marketing costs, including labor, transportation, packaging and advertising, were the major contributors to higher food prices in early 1980. This was spurred by higher costs for energy, labor, packaging materials and transportation.

Labor is the biggest cost component, accounting for nearly half of all food marketing costs. Packaging represents about 12 percent of food marketing cost while transportation is about 8 percent of the total.

This year, food prices are expected to rise 10 to 15 percent. The farm value of foods will add more to retail price hikes this year than they did in 1980. Food marketing costs, which generally rise in line with overall inflation, are expected to rise 10 to 12 percent.

\* \* \*

Making the grade--U.S. Fancy, U.S. No. 1, U.S. Grade A and USDA Prime are all top grade designations used by the Department of Agriculture to grade different foods. Confusing? Consumers surveyed last year said it was. Only about one-tenth of those surveyed knew specific details of food grading and most of those polled mistakenly thought that grading was mandatory rather than voluntary. More than

-more-

add one--food briefs continued

80 percent of the respondents said that grade designations would be more useful to them as shoppers if the system were simpler and more uniform.

Currently the Food Safety and Quality Service of the USDA is considering alternatives to the present system and most of the options under study would limit grading terms and standardize language so that a consumer could use the grades better to guide buying.

\* \* \*

Food waste--Americans waste vast quantities of food. Depending on how you define waste, some estimates are that as much as 35 percent of the food bought for home use is wasted. Although it is difficult to monitor food waste in the home, the National School Lunch Program has attempted to measure how much of its food goes uneaten. Researchers collected data from 104 schools, half of which had meals prepared on school premises and the other half had lunches delivered to them.

They looked at the plates of fifth, ninth and tenth graders, weighing the uneaten portions. Overall, waste amounted to about 24 percent with more waste for elementary students than for secondary students. Females left more food uneaten in both the elementary and secondary schools, and students at schools where meals were delivered wasted more food than those eating meals prepared at the school.

The researchers found that about one-half of the vegetables served and one-fourth of the fruits were left uneaten. About 15 percent of meats, desserts and bread were wasted. Some 13 percent of the milk was wasted, the lowest for any menu item.

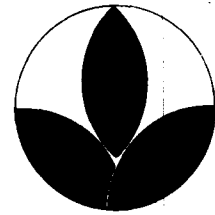
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OUTLOOK '81



PICTURE IS BRIGHTENING  
FOR HOUSING THE ELDERLY

It's form may be changing from high-rise apartments to smaller units, rehabilitated older homes and rent-subsidized apartments, but the situation is improving for elderly persons seeking housing.

This is the opinion of Morton Leeds, special assistant for elderly housing with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Speaking at the recent Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C., Leeds says we have added between 1.7 and 2.2 million new housing units to the existing supply in the last several years.

Subsidies for rent have decreased the need for new public housing units. These are being completed at a slower rate than they were during the 1970s, but elderly persons are being rehoused at a rate that exceeds the goal rate set ten years ago by the White House Conference on Aging.

Leeds says home ownership, with its burdensome home maintenance responsibilities, is gradually declining among older persons. He predicts, however, that many older persons will stay in their homes if help is available to them for rehabilitating, weatherizing and doing routine maintenance. This form of government help "would be cheaper and wiser in the long run than rehousing 23 million older persons," he adds.

He also credits congregate meal and housing programs for improving the housing outlook and giving older persons new alternatives to public housing. He adds, "We need to see whether shared housing, under local sponsorship, cannot provide better use as well as better socialization and income assistance for those who choose to live in their older homes."

Some financial relief may also become possible through federal "reverse annuity" mortgage programs that help homeowners who are property rich, but income poor.

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February 9, 1981

Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914  
Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

DON'T OVERLOOK TAX  
CREDIT FOR CONSERVATION

As you gather records to do your tax return this year, don't overlook the credit you may have coming for energy conservation or solar application in your home. Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says that the tax credit is a direct reduction of taxes, available whether you itemize your tax return or use the standard deduction.

Both renters and owners of dwellings are eligible for the credit if they have paid for qualifying items. Credits fall into two categories--energy conservation costs credit and renewable energy source costs credit.

The tax credit for energy conservation costs is 15 percent of the first \$2,000 spent on energy saving items, up to a maximum credit of \$300. Qualifying items include insulation, storm windows and doors, caulking or weatherstripping, a furnace replacement burner that uses less fuel, a thermostat with an automatic setback, flue and pilot light modifications and a meter that shows the cost of energy used.

Renewable energy source cost credits are allowed for 40 percent of the first \$10,000 that is spent for solar, wind-powered or geothermal items installed in a new or existing home. The maximum credit is \$4,000. Eligible items include solar energy equipment for heating, cooling or providing hot water, wind energy equipment such as windmills and geothermal equipment.

Items that don't qualify for a deduction include carpeting, draperies, wood paneling, wood or peat fueled residential equipment, siding, heat pumps and replacement fluorescent lighting.

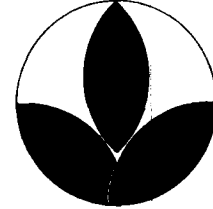
To claim an energy credit, you will need Form 5695, Energy Credits, to attach to your return. Further information is available at all local Internal Revenue Service offices.

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OUTLOOK '81



### TRANSPORTATION WOES PLAGUE THE ELDERLY

Like good health, access to transportation is something we take for granted until it's no longer there. Unfortunately, for increasing numbers of elderly Americans, transportation is likely to become prohibitively expensive or unavailable in the years ahead.

Speaking at the 1981 Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C. recently, Peggy Poling Kimsey, assistant professor of family studies from the University of Kentucky, said, "Older consumers have felt the severity of the energy crisis to a greater extent than younger consumers, especially in the areas of transportation needs and resources."

The elderly are a large percentage of the poor. Although the poor represent 17 percent of all households, they only drive nine percent of the cars and use five percent of the nation's gasoline.

Kimsey said there are four reasons that so many elderly find transportation difficult. They may not drive or they may not be able to afford a car. Often they live in areas where public transportation is scarce. If they do drive, they face a continual threat of losing their license or their insurance. Physically, they may not be able to use public transportation even if it is available in their area.

What does this mean to the elderly person who may be homebound or dependent on friends and neighbors to get around? Kimsey said that her research shows that elderly persons living outside of central cities with limited access to transportation scored lowest on a "life satisfaction" survey. Nearly half of all households headed by an elderly person do not own an automobile, she said.

-more-

add one--transportation woes continued

Not surprisingly, transportation problems for the elderly are compounded in rural areas where distances are great and the car is often the only way to get around. Kimsey said this puts a burden on community planners, government officials and social service workers. They need to plan and organize car pooling, van systems for the handicapped and other transportation networks for those who can't, or can't afford to transport themselves. Kimsey said this may involve rallying volunteers with cars and setting up programs that can provide door-to-door service both for regular daily tasks--shopping, church, doctor's appointments--and for emergencies.

She added, "In the future the elderly will be better educated, more affluent, more mobile and able to enjoy a wider variety of lifestyles than the elderly of today. Yet they will continue to experience problems with . . . transportation. The cost of transportation will remain one of the major barriers . . . for the older person."

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**JUICE ORANGES HARD HIT,  
BUT NAVELS ARE ABUNDANT**

A recent cold snap hit the orange groves of Florida hard, making higher prices for juice a certainty in the weeks ahead. But California's crop of navel oranges is the biggest ever, so fruit for snacks and lunch boxes is abundant and economical.

According to Sunkist Grower's Consumer Services Department, the abundance of navel oranges means that individual pieces of fruit are smaller this year than in some years, but small fruit is a better consumer value. Navel oranges from California and Arizona are expected to remain lower priced than last year throughout the winter citrus season.

Small navel oranges have thinner skin and thus offer more edible portion per fruit. Even a small orange provides more than half the recommended daily allowance for vitamin C.

Growers in the West are also harvesting lemons in near record numbers. Consumers can expect to find high quality lemons in a range of sizes.

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BEEKEEPERS COURSE  
SET FOR MARCH

Beekeepers, both hobbyists and those involved for profit, can update their knowledge and skills at the Beekeepers' Management Short Course set March 20-21 on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

Speakers for the course will include University extension specialists and researchers, experienced beekeepers and a representative of the apiary section of the state Department of Agriculture. They will discuss the basics of beginning a beekeeping operation, diseases, management during the late winter and early spring, extracting and selling honey and preparation for winter.

The course will begin at 8:15 a.m. on March 20, concluding that day with an evening film, demonstration and question and answer session. The second day will include speakers during the morning and an afternoon question and answer session.

All sessions will be held in Hodson Hall. Pre-registration and payment of the \$18 fee is recommended. Contact the Office of Special Programs, Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 or phone (612) 373-0725.

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The Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota offers its programs and facilities to all persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

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February 17, 1981

Source: Gary Heichel  
(612) 373-1503

Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

TIMING IMPORTANT WHEN PLOWING

FORAGE LEGUMES FOR GREEN MANURE

The best time to plow down forage legumes as a green manure crop is in late summer--until early September.

Legumes plowed under at this time can add significant amounts of nitrogen to the soil, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists stationed at the University of Minnesota.

Researchers Gary Heichel, Donald Barnes and Carroll Vance have analyzed results of the first two years of a long-term study designed to pinpoint nitrogen fixation by forage legumes.

Alfalfa fixed the most nitrogen, followed by red clover and birdsfoot trefoil. Alfalfa fixed 172 pounds of nitrogen per acre in both the seedling and first harvest year. Red clover fixed 133 pounds during the seeding year and 74 pounds in the first production year. Figures for birdsfoot trefoil were 103 pounds in the seeding year and 52 pounds the first production year.

Based on the preliminary results, they say that management of forage legumes for maximum nitrogen return to the soil may differ from management recommended for greatest forage production.

"It's important to note that only part of the nitrogen fixed by legumes can be returned to the soil for use by a succeeding crop," Heichel says. This is because a portion of the symbiotically fixed

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Add one--Timing important

nitrogen is removed from the land when the legume is harvested for forage, with the rest remaining in unharvested crown and roots.

The nitrogen available for incorporation into the soil depends on time of year when it's incorporated (or plowed under), and the proportion of the plant that's nitrogen-rich herbage compared with relatively nitrogen-poor crown and roots.

Plowing the crop under late in the season (in October) may result in a soil nitrogen deficit since the soil nitrogen removed in the harvested crop early in the season is not completely replaced by symbiotically fixed nitrogen late in the season.

But in the trial, removing one harvest followed by plowing the lush regrowth on Aug. 30 resulted in a net increase of 48 lbs. of nitrogen per acre. "We think this figure may be unusually low due to excessive rainfall," Heichel stated. There was 14 inches of rain from mid-June until the second harvest in mid to late July of that year.

Lack of aeration in the water-logged soils apparently inhibited nitrogen fixation. Under more favorable conditions, net nitrogen increase in the soil may be substantially higher.

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February 17, 1981

Source: Paul Hasbargen  
(612) 373-1145

Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

### BEEF FARMERS ARE LOSING MONEY

Some cattle feedlot operators are losing \$100 per head, and the situation may not get much better until the April to June marketing period.

Cattle feeders won't find relief until some negative price factors are corrected, says Paul Hasbargen, economist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service. "Right now cattle that were expected to bring \$70 per hundred are bringing \$60," he says.

Hasbargen says prices may remain low in spring unless drought areas get rain. If these areas remain dry, short pastures and higher grain prices will keep nonfed slaughter levels high and prices will remain depressed.

Hasbargen lists these reasons for the lower than expected prices:

--Beef supplies have been higher than expected. Farmers are carrying cattle to heavier weights to avoid selling on a declining market. Feedlot gains were higher than expected due to good weather conditions. In addition, slaughter rates of beef cows were higher due to high interest rates and short forage supplies. And slaughter rates for nonfed steers and heifers were also up because large feedlot losses and high grain prices have decreased the demand for feedlot replacements.

--Pork and poultry supplies have been running higher than expected. "This is especially true with pork. Hog producers changed their minds or gave false numbers to USDA surveyors," Hasbargen says. Hog marketings have changed very little from a year ago--and they were expected to be seven to nine percent lower.

-more-

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Add one--Beef Farmers

--High inflation rates and high unemployment have not helped demand for beef; nor has the release of another negative report on the relationship of cholesterol levels in food with that in the blood.

--Marketing margins have been high. "This usually happens in a declining market when retailers are hesitant to mark beef prices down as wholesale prices decline," Hasbargen says. "But once the supplies of heavier weight cattle are used up and feedlot operators are in a stronger bargaining position, choice steer prices can recover \$4 per hundred with no change in retail price."

For finished cattle Hasbargen suggests a planning price of \$73 to \$74 per hundred for the second and third marketing quarters of 1981. Feeder cattle prices will follow the pattern set by slaughter cattle, but will be even more sensitive to changes in corn prices. "If a spring crop scare sets grain prices into orbit, feeder cattle will not show their usual pasture 'bulge,'" he adds.

Hasbargen says the longer term prospects for the beef industry are not bright. "I see tough times for the economy during the next several years. Both fuel and grain prices could be moving higher. Real incomes may be moving down until corrective measures now being initiated change the direction of the economy.

"This is not a bright picture for beef, whose fortunes tend to rise and fall with consumer incomes. Producers in all sectors of the industry will need to carefully evaluate their production and marketing practices," he concludes.

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February 23, 1981

Contact: Hamilton McCubbin  
(612) 373-1578

A NEW APPROACH TO CARING  
FOR CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN

Sara is a golden-haired five-year-old from Minneapolis whose days are busy with school and play and the ordinary business of childhood. But her life is also structured by medical regimen, physical therapy, and regular trips to Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul. Sara has cerebral palsy, and she and her family are part of an Experiment Station study that's developing a new approach to help care for chronically ill children.

Most research on childhood diseases focuses on the pathology of the diseases. This study, however, takes a family perspective. It focuses on the relationship between family stress and its effect on handicapped children, and seeks a way to use that information to improve the quality, cost, and efficiency of care.

The goal is to develop simple, reliable tests for families like the Sara's to use at home as a self-monitoring tool, and for the medical team to use in the clinic.

Family social scientist at the University of Minnesota Hamilton McCubbin explains that the three-year project was begun with the "hunch" that unmanageable family stress adversely affects a child with chronic illness. The study involved 200 families of children with cystic fibrosis. Now it is being expanded to test 180 families with cerebral palsy children, and 100 myelomeningocele (also known as spina bifida) families. Cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, and spina bifida are all incurable children's diseases that require extensive home treatment.

This itself causes stress on the family. McCubbin has been investigating the family and its coping mechanisms under many different conditions. Not all stress, McCubbin points out, is bad; "We all need stress", challenges. Stress can be very positive. But we are trying to figure out the critical level. Then we need to figure out what families actually do to protect themselves from too much stress, and when they exceed that level, how do they recover?

add one--a new approach continued

"This is a major shift from traditional studies. Most studies of families of handicapped children emphasize why families fail. They talk about pathologies, hardship, divorce. Yet we know the majority of families succeed, and we want to turn our attention to why they succeed."

McCubbin and his associates developed tests to profile a family. One test determines the amount and kind of stresses and changes a family is experiencing; another measures the family's coping abilities, and a third measures their assets, for example, their decisionmaking skills and ability to manage tension.

They identified certain important coping strategies. Families that cope well have strong family integration; they maintain social support and self-esteem and they understand the medical situation they face.

Families are at risk when they have too many things hitting them at once, when they are not using the coping strategies, and when they don't have the necessary assets, such as economic resources or decisionmaking skills, he explains.

The tests were coupled with weekly mailed-in diaries containing home measurements of the cystic fibrosis child's health as measured by changes in pulmonary functioning and changes in height and weight. These diaries, along with information gathered on clinic visits, showed a correlation. "The home care needed by a chronically ill child is time consuming and demanding and frequently necessitates shared family responsibilities. Under stress, the family routine is out of balance and home therapy procedures must be compromised," McCubbin says.

Establishing this link is important for health care quality and cost. The University of Minnesota hospital is the only cystic fibrosis center for a five-state area. Gillette Children's Hospital is a regional center for cerebral palsy and spina bifida. Many families in the study are from rural areas and must travel for care. There is a question of cost, and how to best provide quality treatment from a distance. Clinical care is crucial for chronically ill children. If the clinic has a tool to monitor long-term care over great distances, it will be possible to decrease the number of visits for patients who are doing well and identify those who need extra care.

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February 23, 1981

CONSUMER INTEREST COUNCIL SETS  
APRIL CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS

Well known consumer spokesperson Betty Furnes will be among the speakers at the American Council on Consumer Interests conference set April 8-11 at the Sheraton-Ritz Hotel in Minneapolis.

Other speakers will include researchers and college professors with specialties in consumer economics, advertising, consumer education and protection and public policy. George Latimer and Donald Fraser, mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis respectively, will speak on revitalizing the consumer spirit in urban neighborhoods.

All sessions of the conference are open to non-members of the American Council on Consumer Interests and fees are scaled according to the number of sessions attended. For registration information, contact Jean Kinsey, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, 317 Classroom Office Building, 1994 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 or phone (612) 373-3800.

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February 23, 1981

Contact: Isabel Wolf <sup>MBC</sup>  
(612) 376-3401 <sup>9A2 IP</sup>

HOW FRESH IS "FRESH"? FOOD DATING CODES  
CAN OVER-SIMPLIFY COMPLEX ISSUE

Consumers are looking for a simple solution to a complex problem when they clamor for open dating on food packages, according to extension food and nutrition specialist Isabel D. Wolf at the University of Minnesota. "Actual shelf life of a food varies with the age and type of ingredients used, the process, the package, and the environmental conditions during distribution and storage," she said.

"Consumer food storage and handling habits also have a bearing on shelf life, as does the consumer's taste preferences, and his or her own judgment on how fresh is 'fresh,'" said Mrs. Wolf, quoting from a newly released Scientific Status Summary produced by the Institute of Food Technologists Expert Panel on Food Safety and Nutrition.

Surveys have shown that consumers want open dating on food packages. Many food packages already show the date they were processed, in code, to help supermarket personnel rotate the stock efficiently. Shoppers, however, have been urging that these codes be expressed so that consumers can use them to determine a product's freshness.

Foods vary in their perishability and the conditions to which they are exposed during the long trek from the farm to the market, Mrs. Wolf stated. The food processor can control conditions only until the packages are shipped from the plant or warehouse. After that, the responsibility shifts to the wholesaler, retailer and finally to the consumer who takes the food home.



Add one--How Fresh--

According to Mrs. Wolf, temperature, humidity and mechanical abuse encountered during this transport and storage will affect the actual length of time the product remains "fresh" and nutritious so a single date as a freshness guide can be misleading.

A number of states require dating information, depending on whether the food is "Perishable," "Semi-perishable," or "Shelf-Stable."

States then limit the length of time perishable and semi-perishable items may remain on shelves or in coolers. These regulations assume certain standards that may not be met, however.

The temperature in a cooler or the time the food is left outside the cooler will determine whether the product retains its quality for the stated number of days. Even shelf-stable foods such as canned goods, dried foods, and breakfast cereals can lose their seemingly imperishable quality if exposed to high temperatures and humidity, especially if their protective packaging is damaged. In such cases, dates become meaningless, Mrs. Wolf said.

There are basically three types of dating systems. These include a "pack date," which tells when a food was packed and leaves it up to the consumer to decide how long after that date the food is still of high quality.

Many states now require a "Sell By" date, on certain foods, also called the "Pull" date. After this date, the store manager must remove the package from his regular retail shelves.

"Use-by" dates are also common, but these may mistakenly convey the idea that the product is guaranteed high quality until that date regardless of any storage abuse, or that it suddenly becomes unpalatable or even dangerous after that date. This could lead to waste if the food is thrown out on that assumption, Mrs. Wolf said.

Add two--How Fresh--

"Like so many other aspects of food and nutrition, safety and high quality is an obligation to be shared among producers, processors, distributors and consumers. Use of open dating will not alter that shared obligation," Mrs. Wolf added.

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February 23, 1981

Contact: Isabel Wolf  
(612) 376-3401

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#### WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT OPEN DATING

- Check the Label. When purchasing a food, check the label if it is open dated. If the package is past-date, notify the store. Do not replace the product on the shelf for someone else to purchase.
- Do Not Sort for Freshest Product. Sorting for the freshest product defeats the whole purpose of open dating and "first in-first out" stock rotation. If the product is within date, unless it has been severely abused it should retain acceptable quality through normal home storage.
- Check Storage Requirements. Notify store management if a freezer cabinet is stocked with foods above the frost line or if a frozen package seems to be soft. Notify them also if a stocking clerk leaves refrigerated or frozen foods out on the dolly too long. Learn how to store foods properly at home; Check the label to see if specific conditions are mentioned.
- Buy Only What You Need for a Reasonable Time. Check your own shelves and rotate the stock. If you buy a large quantity of frozen or refrigerated foods at one time, set your freezer or refrigerator at a lower temperature to increase shelf life. It is best to keep the refrigerator between 36°F and 45°F and the freezer below 0°F. Of course, a balance should be sought between food shelf life and energy cost. Lowering the temperature of a refrigerator to 40°F from 45°F could increase the energy cost by 30 percent, while it could increase the shelf life of the foods from 20 percent to 65 percent. This trade-off of shelf life vs. energy cost must be weighed by each individual.

Add one--Open Dating

● Learn What the Open Date Means. Remember that the product does not automatically drop in quality when it reaches the date of the package. Also, lower eating quality does not necessarily mean reduced safety, and past-date foods can save money for those who are willing to pay the price in lower quality.

CA, 4HE I & II

# # #

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Department of Information  
And Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
February 23, 1978

### RESIDUES FROM STATE'S LUMBERING HAVE ENERGY VALUE

Saw mills, paper mills and other wood product manufacturers in Minnesota make up one of the state's largest basic resource industries. Like most industries, forest product producers depend heavily on natural gas, coal and fuel oil for energy--energy that is becoming costly and scarce.

Two researchers in the forest products department of the University of Minnesota's College of Forestry think that some of the industry's energy woes could be partially solved by burning the bark, shavings and other residues that now are wasted.

Steven Sinclair and David O'Brien, assistant professor and research assistant respectively, at the University report that only about 25 percent of a typical hardwood harvest ends up as a finished product such as lumber. This means that about 75 percent of it becomes logging and milling residue with little or no value.

Manufacturers here are just beginning to tap the true energy potential of their waste and residue, Sinclair and O'Brien report in a recently published bulletin of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Their partial survey of forest products industries showed that of some 850,000 tons of residue produced each year, about 34 percent is used to generate energy, 37 percent is used in other ways and 29 percent goes unused.

Wood residues still rank far behind natural gas, coal and fuel oil in the amounts used to power forest product industries. The researchers estimate, however, that even the current limited use of residues save the state 440,000 barrels of fuel oil each year and at \$30/barrel, that's a \$13.2 million annual savings. Even in the short term, such residues could supply nearly double the energy that they now do, Sinclair and O'Brien state.

add one--residues

They admit that residues are unlikely to cut the demand for fuel oil much, but "wood residues do have the potential to dramatically reduce fossil fuel dependence of some specific industries or small communities. Residues appear to be most appropriate for industrial or institutional energy generation. High transportation costs encourage their use close to the site of production."

They found 40 sites where wood residues are being used for energy. Of these, 34 manufacturers use the wood waste that they produce on site. Itasca, Washington and Beltrami counties produce the most wood residues.

Among the companies or facilities using wood wastes for energy are these:

\* Andersen Corporation in Bayport has used waste from its millwork for more than 75 years. Wood energy heats its buildings.

\* Advance Machine in Spring Park converted to wood in 1979, planning on using diseased elm chips. It now gets most of its chips from other sources for building heat.

\* The Grand Marais school system began burning wood in 1978. It now uses sawdust from a local lumber company for heat and water heating from September through April.

\* Woodcraft Industries of St. Cloud uses some 1,500 tons of wood residue annually, supplying heat and generating steam to operate kilns.

\* Northern States Power generates electricity with a wood and coal mixture at its peaking facility in Red Wing. The company is considering establishing a wood and coal burning plant in the Twin Cities which would use municipal wood waste from metropolitan counties.

# # #

II-P, For, IA, CA

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February 23, 1981

Contact: Don Rasmusson  
(612) 373-1678

MSC  
9-27p

### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IS TOPIC OF HAYES LECTURE

What's ahead in agricultural research from the private sector will be the topic of the eighth annual H.K. Hayes Memorial Lecture.

The lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Student Center on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

The lecture will be presented by Ralph W.F. Hardy, director of life sciences for E. I. DuPont De Nemours and Company.

Hardy is known for his expertise in research programs to develop new agricultural products. He has written several books and research publications on plant physiology, many of them on nitrogen fixation.

H. K. Hayes was a distinguished researcher, teacher and author in the field of plant breeding. Standard plant breeding procedures of today such as hybrids, pedigree selection and breeding for disease resistance were subjects of his early research.

The Hayes graduate student award will be presented to Charlotte V. Eberlein, a graduate student in the University's Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics.

CA, IA, TCO

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
February 23, 1981

#### AG TRANSPORTATION SEMINARS SCHEDULED

Three seminars on agricultural transportation problems in Minnesota will be given March 18, 19 and 20 in Lamberton, Fairmont and Rochester, respectively. Featured speakers include C. Phillip Baumel and Robert J. Tosterud.

Baumel, an extension economist and professor of agricultural economics at Iowa State University, will present "Strategies for Growth--Some Case Studies," which addresses several ways farmers and elevator operators in Iowa have successfully adjusted to transportation problems.

In 1980 Baumel was chairman of the Advisory Panel for the Pioneer Poll on Grain Transportation. In 1979 he was a member of the Rural Task Force established by Congress in 1978 to make recommendations for removing impediments to agricultural transportation. Baumel is nationally known for his research on transportation and grain marketing systems.

Tosterud, currently Acting Director, Office of Transportation, U. S. Department of Agriculture, will present "Transportation Deregulation: What Does it Mean to Agriculture?" He will address the implications of the recent truck and rail deregulation legislation to agriculture. Tosterud was previously the Director of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D.

Green Light for Grain, a film produced by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., will be shown. It presents the grain transportation problems facing our nation.



add one--ag transportation

Other presentations will address Minnesota grain movements and local rail, road and highway problems. A question and answer session will follow the presentations.

The programs are from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with coffee and registration beginning at 9 a.m.

The seminars will be held at the Holiday Inn in Fairmont, the Friedell Building in Rochester, and, tentatively, the Experiment Station at Lamberton.

The seminars are sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Transportation. For more information contact your county extension agent. The public is invited.

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CA, 1A

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
February 23, 1981

STRATEGIES FOR TOMORROW'S  
FOOD TODAY TO BE  
TOPIC OF U. OF M. LECTURE

A leading future thinker in agricultural research and programs will deliver the annual Kermit A. Olson Memorial Lecture on "Alternative Strategies in Agriculture for Tomorrow's Food Today" on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota March 3.

Merle H. Jensen is a horticulturist with the Environmental Research Laboratory at the University of Arizona and is head of the team developing agriculture systems for the Land Pavilion being planned as a permanent addition to Walt Disney World in Florida. He has also been a leader in studying solar energy for agricultural uses, energy alternatives and controlled environment agriculture.

The Lecture, which is open to the public at no charge, will be at 7:30 p.m. March 3 at the Earle Brown Center on the St. Paul campus of the University.

The Kermit A. Olson Memorial Lecture each year brings an outstanding horticulturist or landscape architect to the University for a presentation. The lecture is funded from the estate of Kermit A. Olson, University horticulture graduate who served as a landscape consultant for the Veterans Administration and ran several Twin Cities area seed stores.

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CA, TCO, IA

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University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
February 23, 1981

Contact: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

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#### WAYNE, BRYAN TO BE IN LIVESTOCK HALL OF FAME

Ralph Wayne, St. Paul, and James Bryan, Red Wing, will be inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame March 17, 1981.

Wayne was an extension dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota from 1945 until he retired in 1972. For many years he owned a herd of registered Holsteins and operated a farm in Freeborn County.

Bryan owns and operates Cannondale Farm near Red Wing. The Bryan family has raised purebred Shorthorn cattle since 1919, when James Bryan's father started the herd.

Bryan graduated from the School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota in 1954. He has been on the Goodhue County Fair Board for 26 years. He is a director of the Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council, and a charter member of the Goodhue County chapter.

He is secretary and treasurer of the Minnesota Cattle Improvement Association, and has been a Minnesota voting delegate to the American Shorthorn Association annual meeting many times. He has been president and a director of the Minnesota Shorthorn Association and has served as a director for over 25 years.

Bryan has shown champion shorthorns at state fairs in Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota. He has participated in the Minnesota Bull Test Station for 13 years. In 1979, the Minnesota Purebred Cattleman's Association named him Minnesota Purebred Cattleman of the Year.

add one--wayne, bryan

He was a 4-H member for 10 years, and served as a project leader in the local 4-H club for over 20 years. In 1980 he was named a Partner in 4-H for his leadership efforts.

Wayne received his B.S. degree with distinction from the University of Minnesota in 1929 and an M.S. degree, also from Minnesota, in 1932. He also studied at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College in Denmark.

Wayne was the county agricultural extension agent in Meeker County, Minnesota, from 1932-42. From 1942-45 he was the public relations director for Land O' Lakes Creameries, Inc. in Minneapolis. He was appointed extension dairyman at the University of Minnesota in 1945. That same year, he spent 7 months in Denmark as an agricultural consultant with the Foreign Economics Administration and U.S. State Department on a post war rehabilitation program. He has visited Denmark five times and lectured in Danish on each visit.

In 1932 he was elected a life member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Denmark, which was founded in 1769. He is the only living American member of the society. Other awards include the Superior Service and Special Merit awards from the U.S. Department of Agriculture; premier dairyman award from the Minnesota Light and Power Company; Twin Cities Federal Executive Board Civil Servant of the Year Award; and the Person of the Year Award from the Minnesota Holstein Association (in 1978).

He is active in about 15 community and professional organizations, and has authored or co-authored over 50 University of Minnesota publications.

The ceremonies will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Livestock Industry Day at the Earle Brown Center on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

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CA, 1A, 4-L

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February 23, 1981

CONSUMER INTEREST COUNCIL SETS  
APRIL CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS

Well known consumer spokesperson Betty Furnes will be among the speakers at the American Council on Consumer Interests conference set April 8-11 at the Sheraton-Ritz Hotel in Minneapolis.

Other speakers will include researchers and college professors with specialties in consumer economics, advertising, consumer education and protection and public policy. George Latimer and Donald Fraser, mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis respectively, will speak on revitalizing the consumer spirit in urban neighborhoods.

All sessions of the conference are open to non-members of the American Council on Consumer Interests and fees are scaled according to the number of sessions attended. For registration information, contact Jean Kinsey, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, 317 Classroom Office Building, 1994 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 or phone (612) 373-3800.

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CA, 4HE I & II

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
February 23, 1978

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Saw mills, paper mills and other wood product manufacturers in Minnesota make up one of the state's largest basic resource industries. Like most industries, forest product producers depend heavily on natural gas, coal and fuel oil for energy--energy that is becoming costly and scarce.

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add one--residues

They admit that residues are unlikely to cut the demand for fuel oil much, but "wood residues do have the potential to dramatically reduce fossil fuel dependence of some specific industries or small communities. Residues appear to be most appropriate for industrial or institutional energy generation. High transportation costs encourage their use close to the site of production."

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II-P, For, IA, CA

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
February 23, 1981

Contact: Isabel Wolf  
(612) 376-3401

MCC  
9 A 27p

### WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT OPEN DATING

- Check the Label. When purchasing a food, check the label if it is open dated. If the package is past-date, notify the store. Do not replace the product on the shelf for someone else to purchase.
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CA, 4HE I & II

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Department of Information  
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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
March 2, 1981

Source: Randy Jeppson  
(612) 373-1181

Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

### NOW IS CRITICAL TIME FOR WINTERKILL IN WHEAT

We're moving into the critical time for winterkill on winter wheat, says Randy Jeppson, agronomist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

Jeppson says 130,000 acres of winter wheat were planted in Minnesota last fall, an increase of 70 percent over a year ago. "Much of this was due to the good season we had for winter wheat a year ago. Due to the drought last spring, winter wheat yields compared favorably with spring wheat," Jeppson says.

The key to whether winter wheat will survive depends on variability of the weather. "If the crowns of plants break dormancy and start to grow, they're susceptible to injury if the soil freezes. How cold it gets and length of the cold spell determine extent of winterkill," Jeppson says.

"If we get a freeze that lasts for a week after the crowns have broken dormancy there's apt to be winterkill," he adds. Plants that develop new leaves and then are frozen are apt to be winterkilled.

Wheat on dry, well drained soils and that planted on south slopes is more susceptible. Dry soils warm up faster and plants are more apt to start actively growing.

There are four conditions that are apt to cause injury to winter wheat: extreme cold in the winter without an adequate snow cover, heaving of the soil in spring, broken dormancy and plants standing in water. The latter three all happen in spring.

Add one--Critical Time For Winterkill

"You can tolerate some winterkill since the plants that are left will tiller," Jeppson says. But if you have large areas that are completely killed, or only parts of fields, you have plenty of time in spring to make a decision on replanting.

Minnesota farmers have historically planted less winter than spring wheat since winter wheat is less dependable due to winterkill and yields are usually lower. However, there are some advantages to winter wheat, says Jeppson.

--You can spread your labor out by planting in fall instead of spring.

--Winter wheat is a good cover crop that helps prevent erosion.

--You can get by with fewer herbicides since winter wheat competes well with weeds.

--In a dry spring, winter wheat has an advantage. It starts growing earlier in spring and can take advantage of available moisture earlier in the growing season.

CA, IA

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
Tel. (612) 373-0710  
March 2, 1981

Source: Randy Jeppson  
(612) 373-1181  
Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

### IT'S TOO EARLY TO PLANT WHEAT

Balmy weather has prompted some farmers to ask the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service whether it's too early to plant spring wheat.

The answer is yes -- it is too early. "Even if we have favorable weather in March and April, there's no advantage to planting this early," says Randy Jeppson, extension agronomist at the University.

The wheat plant can tolerate a frost that "burns" the leaves off-- the plant will recover and grow. That's what may happen if you plant wheat in mid-April and then get a frost where temperatures are in the 25 to 32 degree F. range. "But in this case only the leaves are frozen-- the growing point in the soil doesn't freeze," Jeppson says. A moderately light frost will not cause the soil to freeze.

But if you plant wheat in February or March, there's apt to be a cold spell that will freeze the soil again. And seeds that have started to sprout can't tolerate cold winter temperatures.

Many of the people asking about planting now probably have dry soils. In this case, the seed won't germinate due to lack of moisture. But when the frost comes out of the soil, moisture will migrate towards the soil surface. That may bring enough moisture to cause the seeds to sprout and be subjected to a killing frost that freezes the soil.

"The bottom line is that there probably won't be a yield advantage from planting this early even if everything goes right," Jeppson says. "You're running a considerable risk with the weather. And seed blight and other diseases are more of a problem when seed lies in cool, damp soil."

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
March 2, 1981

Note: The transportation seminar originally scheduled for Crookston on March 16 has been cancelled. Instead, the seminar will be held in Moorhead (see the release for details.)  
Contact: Mike Alley 376-3563

#### AG. TRANSPORTATION SEMINARS SET FOR MARCH 16, 17

Two seminars addressing agricultural transportation problems facing Minnesota will be given March 16 and 17 in Moorhead and Fergus Falls, respectively. Featured speakers include C. Phillip Baumel and Gene C. Griffin.

Baumel, an extension economist and professor of agricultural economics at Iowa State University, will present "Strategies for Growth--Some Case Studies," which addresses several ways farmers and elevator operators in Iowa have successfully adjusted to transportation problems.

In 1980 Baumel was chairman of the advisory Panel for the Pioneer Poll on Grain Transportation. In 1979 he served as a member of the Rural Task Force established by Congress in 1978 to make recommendations for removing impediments to agricultural transportation. Baumel is nationally known for his research on transportation and grain marketing systems.

Gene Griffin, director of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, will present "Transportation Deregulation: What Does It Mean to Agriculture?", which addresses the implications of the recent truck and rail deregulation legislation to agriculture.

A film entitled Green Light For Grain will be shown. The film was produced by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., and shows the grain transportation problems facing our nation.

Other presentations will address Minnesota Grain movements and local rail, road and highway problems. A question and answer session will follow the presentations.

Add one--Transportation Seminars

The Moorhead seminar will be held at the Clay County Courthouse, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. The Fergus Falls Seminar will be held at the Otter Tail Power Company's Community Room beginning at 9:30 a.m., and ending at 12:30 p.m. Coffee and registration for both meetings will begin at 9 a.m.

Both seminars are sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Transportation. For more information, contact your local county extension director. The public is invited.

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
March 2, 1981

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FIRE CENTER SETS WORKSHOP FOR  
ELEVATOR OPERATORS, FIREFIGHTERS

Each year about 25 grain storage and milling facilities are destroyed by fires or explosions in Minnesota. This hazard claims millions of dollars in property as well as a number of lives.

The University of Minnesota FIRE (Fire Information Research and Education) Center in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service Office in Lincoln County are offering a workshop for grain elevator operators and firefighters from throughout the state on April 4 at Marshall.

According to Frank Oberg, associate director of the FIRE Center, the day long workshop will stress fire prevention, procedures for handling fires and hazards to look for in regular inspections of such grain handling facilities.

"Fighting a fire in a grain elevator is extremely difficult, and it is usually a once in a life time experience for firefighters," Oberg added. "Fire departments don't get practice fighting such fires and, unfortunately, these are the kinds of fires that can wipe out the major economic base of a small city."

For information and registration material for the workshop, contact the FIRE Center, 3300 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 or call (612) 376-3535.

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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
March 2, 1981

Sources: Michael Pullen & Isabel Wolf  
(612) 373-1126 (612) 376-3401

Writer: Diedre Nagy, (612) 373-1781

BEWARE OF RECIPES  
FOR UNCOOKED LOCAL FISH

Never eat locally caught fresh fish without first cooking them thoroughly or freezing them for at least 48 hours, advise Michael Pullen, extension veterinarian, and Isabel Wolf, extension food and nutrition specialist, both at the University of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Health recently reported two instances of fish tapeworm infestations among Minnesotans who ate marinated raw northern pike or walleyed pike caught in Canada.

The tapeworm is found in freshwater game fish in such areas as Minnesota, Canada, Michigan and Alaska. The Minnesotans who developed the tapeworms had eaten freshly caught fish that they had marinated overnight in lemon juice, following a recipe for seviche, a South American raw fish dish. Several months later, members of the fishing parties were diagnosed as having fish tapeworm.

The life cycle of the fish tapeworm (Diphyllobothrium latum) is complex, according to Pullen. Eggs can enter lakes and streams in the feces of infected human hosts. The eggs are eaten by small fresh water crustaceans, which are the food supply for fish. In their infective stage, the tapeworm larvae make their way into fish muscles. When humans eat infected fish without destroying the organisms through heat, freezing, pickling or marinating, they develop intestinal tapeworms that can live in their systems for as long as 25 years and grow to 30 feet in length.



add one--beware of recipes

Pullen says most carriers of the tapeworm experience few symptoms but among the possible signs of tapeworms are dizziness, fatigue and constipation alternating with diarrhea. Because the tapeworm competes with its host for vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, a type of "tapeworm anemia" occurs in a small percentage of sufferers.

The safest method of preparing locally caught fish is to cook them thoroughly (to 140° F). For those who are determined to have raw, marinated or pickled fish, Pullen recommends that the raw fish be first frozen at 0° F for 48 hours before eating or preparing (marinating, pickling).

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CA, 4HE I, II

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
March 2, 1981

HORSE CLINIC SET FOR APRIL 4

Dr. Ted Stashak, an associate professor and coordinator of large animal surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University, will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Spring Clinic for Horsemen April 4.

The session will be held in the Classroom Office Building on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

Dr. Stashak will address the conference on the "Evaluation of Front Leg and Hindlimb Lameness in the Horse." In his discussion of front leg lameness, Dr. Stashak will include observation of the horse, conformation, plus clinical examination and diagnosis.

Additional speakers will include Dr. Larry Booth, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, who will talk on foot imbalances as a cause of lameness. Dr. Victor Myers will speak on equine first aid. During the afternoon session, Chuck Lilligren and Mona Bonham will give a horsemanship demonstration with an emphasis on driving. The demonstration will include conditioning of a horse for driving, tack, plus fitting and grooming.

The Horsemen of the Year award ceremony will take place at the noon luncheon held during the conference.

The annual Spring Clinic for Horsemen is an educational program which deals with a variety of subjects of current interest to horse owners. The program is open to horse owners and breeders, saddle club members, 4-H horse project members, stable owners and managers, members of the Minnesota Horse Council, and practicing veterinarians.

The fee for the clinic is \$20 per person. Families who plan to attend the short course may pay \$40 for the first family member who registers and then \$10 for each additional family member.

For further information and registration materials, contact the Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. Telephone, (612) 373-0725.

The meeting is open to interested persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or handicap.

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March 2, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #1

WHO IS THE WORKING WOMAN?  
SHE IS YOU AND I

Whether at home or in the job market, Minnesota women have always worked. What has changed, however, is the number who now juggle the important duties of home and family with the demands of careers.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says that although more and more women are holding jobs, the last decade has brought changes in the composite picture of the working woman.

For one thing, the number of married workers, has dropped since 1970 while the number of never-married or divorced persons has risen from one-fourth of the work force to one-third.

Goss says much of this change reflects social and age composition changes in the population. Many of the persons entering the work force since 1970 have been post-World War II "baby boom" workers who have tended to postpone marriage or not to marry. And those who did marry were more than twice as likely to become divorced than were workers of a similar age 10 years ago.

At the same time, the number of married women in the work force has soared nationwide by nearly six million persons. Nearly 57 percent of all women with children under 18 were in the labor force as of March 1980.

One-fifth of the mothers in the work force are heads of their families. Even when children under six were in the family, 55 percent of mothers in one-parent families held jobs.

From children's perspectives, 53 percent of children under 18 now have employed mothers. In 1970, only 39 percent of children under 18 had mothers who held jobs. Even among preschoolers, the figure has jumped since 1970. Today, 43 percent of preschool children have mothers who work outside the home.

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Department of Information  
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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
March 2, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #2

### THE ECONOMICS OF DIVORCE HIT THOUSANDS OF STATE FAMILIES

Although the emotional wounds come to mind first, divorce inflicts financial stress that often lingers long after other pains have dulled.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, reports that Minnesota's divorce rate is lower than the national average but it still affects about 15,000 state families each year. This means that thousands of women, particularly, enter the poverty ranks.

"After a divorce, most full-time homemakers lose all immediate income," Goss says. "And even for a woman who has been employed before a divorce, her income is likely less than her husband's so her habits and standard of living must change completely."

Goss adds that divorce involves many hidden costs as well. A divorcing woman may lose her insurance coverage and her chances for pension and disability coverage and Social Security credits are often lost unless the woman has a full-time job.

Nationally, about one in twenty divorced woman receives alimony. In cases where a divorce settlement involves child support payments, these average about \$200 a month. Three-fourths receive no child support. Goss reports that for about half of the women getting child support, the payments amounted to less than 10 percent of total family income.

In short, says Goss, divorce is a major contributor to poverty in the U.S. Although the majority of all divorced women hold jobs, about one-fourth of divorced women have incomes below the poverty level. More than one-third of persons in single-parent female-headed families live in poverty.

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March 2, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #3

UPDATE: WOMEN IN THE  
LABOR FORCE

Sluggish economy hurts women less -- Data for the end of 1980 show a continued rise in women's participation in the labor force, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Women's labor force participation edged upward to 52 percent and no change was noted in their unemployment rate.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, comments that during a recession, the gap between the jobless rates of women and men has narrowed with men's unemployment a larger problem.

She says, "Because employed women are concentrated in clerical and service jobs, they are less likely to face layoffs during economic downturns than are men. Men have been particularly hard hit by layoffs in construction and auto-related industries. Only a small proportion of women are employed in these fields."

\* \* \*

Household workers declining -- More women entering the work force means that more of them might wish to hire workers to do household tasks. The supply of such workers, however, is shrinking, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The department reports that the number of private household workers fell by one-third between 1970 and 1979. Currently about one million women are domestic workers.

\* \* \*

College-bound graduates -- The high school graduating class of 1979 sent about half of its women members on to college, a figure that has stayed fairly stable throughout the 1970's, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. About the same proportion of young men also go on to college but statistics show that men are more likely to complete their degrees than are women.

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March 2, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work # 4

NORMS ON FAMILY ROLES  
CHANGING, TOLERANCE INCREASING

Not surprisingly, Americans tend to view marriage and parenthood differently than they did 20 years ago. Today, fewer of us see marriage and parenthood as essential to adult fulfillment. We also tend to judge less harshly those who never marry or couples who choose to stay childless, says Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Citing a recent survey on family roles done by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, Goss says Americans tend to be more tolerant about variations in family life. In both the 1957 and the recent survey, respondents were asked "Suppose all you knew about a person was that he/she didn't want to get married. What would you guess he/she was like?"

Some 80 percent of the 1957 respondents thought that such a choice was bad and that the person was either sick or immoral or too selfish or neurotic to marry. Twenty years later, only one-fourth of respondents condemned the choice.

Attitudes toward divorce also indicate that marriage norms are less rigid. Today, about 80 percent of the respondents said they approved of divorce under at least some circumstances.

Despite these shifts, our attitudes toward work have changed little. Goss reports that more of those surveyed disapproved of a person who failed to seek important life work than disapproved of a person who opted to remain single.

"Even though marriage norms have become more tolerant, most people still marry and have children," Goss says. "The study found that although people today are more aware of problems in marriage, they also indicate increased happiness in marriage. Similarly, parents today seem as satisfied with their roles as did parents 20 years ago. It was childless respondents who held the most negative attitudes toward parenthood."

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March 9, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #11

Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

JUNIOR'S PRICE TAG  
IS MORE THAN FOOD,  
CLOTHING AND TUITION

A baby born today is likely to absorb \$85,000 of his or her parent's resources before completing college and becoming financially independent. This is 33 percent higher than the estimate for childrearing costs made in 1977, according to Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Even if you subtract the cost of four years of college, it will still cost about \$43,000 to raise a child in our area in a rural setting and about \$50,000 to raise a city child to age 18.

Goss says that averaged over 18 years, the cost of childrearing takes about 19 percent of a family's after tax income, and this only takes into account the so called "direct maintenance costs." Another cost of child rearing is the "opportunity cost." This means the "lost" earnings of the parent, usually the mother, who chooses to stay home with the child instead of working for pay outside the home. For women, average opportunity costs range from \$32,479 for women with an elementary school education to \$66,329 for women with college degrees when the lost earnings are totaled for 15 years.

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March 9, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #10

Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

FAMILIES WITH WORKING WIVES SAVE  
DIFFERENTLY THAN THOSE WITHOUT

If the Smiths and the Jones have about the same family income, number of family members and financial obligations, would you expect the Smiths, where both husband and wife work, or the Joneses, where only Mr. Jones is employed, to have more money saved?

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, reports that recent research would predict that the Joneses have more money saved than the two-income Smiths. Why the difference? Goss points out that couples with two working members have more job related expenses -- child care, transportation, clothing, restaurant meals -- than do families with only a single wage earner.

She adds that it's also possible that two-income couples feel more shielded from the economic hazards of unemployment, death and disability so they may not feel the need to keep as much money in savings for family emergencies.

Working outside the home is still most common among wives of men at the lowest income levels, but in recent years the largest increase has been among those whose husbands are in upper income brackets. This trend could widen the gap between incomes of working-wife and nonworking-wife families, Goss says. In 1978, the median income among families in which both husband and wife were employed was about \$22,000, compared with \$15,800 for families of wives who did not hold jobs outside the home.



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Minnesota Women at Work #9

Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TIME  
USE PATTERNS SHIFTING

The hours that men and women contribute to their jobs are evening out, and as women add hours to their work schedules and men cut back, their patterns of leisure time use are shifting. Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, reports that working women are decreasing the time they spend on housework while working men have increased their housework time slightly.

Along with this shift, working women, particularly those with college educations, tend to have fewer children and to meet their combined home/office responsibilities by reducing the hours spent sleeping and in such activities as television viewing and reading. Recent surveys show that both men and women, married and unmarried, have more leisure time now than they did about ten years ago. Goss points out, however, that the increases in leisure time have been more pronounced for men and for unmarried women than they have for married women, possibly indicating the greater time juggling that married women experience between duties at home and on the job.

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Minnesota Women at Work #8

Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

MORE WOMEN MOONLIGHTING  
TO STAY EVEN WITH INFLATION

Taking a second job has long been a way to add extra dollars to the family budget, and during the current inflationary period increasing numbers of persons are "moonlighting." What has surprised statisticians from the Bureau of Labor Statistics is the rapid increase in the number of women now holding more than one job. Nearly 30 percent of multiple job holders are now women, about double the proportion of ten years ago.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, adds that one reason for the relatively slow growth in the numbers of men moonlighting could be that as more and more wives take jobs, their incomes lessen the pressure on their husbands to take second jobs.

Figures show that about two-thirds of multiple jobholders work one full-time and one part-time job. Nearly half of women moonlighters, however, hold two part-time jobs. Among occupational groups, farmers and professional and technical workers reported the highest rates of moonlighting. Particularly large increases have occurred in moonlighting among women teachers and health care professionals since the early 1970s.

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Minnesota Women at Work #7

Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

### WORKING WOMEN ON THE RISE?

In the past 30 years, six out of ten additions to the work force have been women and the estimates are that a million women will join the labor market each year in the 1980s.

Despite these gains, however, the ratio of women's earnings to men's has dropped from about 63 percent in the mid-1950s to below 60 percent currently.

Why the inequity? Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says one reason is probably the clustering of women in traditionally low-paying positions such as clerical and retail sales jobs. Unions have been an effective tool in raising the pay of many types of work, but women currently constitute only 23 percent of union members. Only about 17 percent of the female work force is covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

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March 9, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #6  
Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914  
Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

IS THERE A TREND TOWARD  
FEWER BUT LONGER WORKDAYS?

Full time workers seem to be leading a trend toward fewer, but longer workdays that may some day make the four-day, 40 hour workweek standard, says Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Figures on work week length suggest that we value our two-day weekends enough to work long hours during the week to prevent having to work six days a week, Goss adds. Since the early 1970s greater numbers of workers report working more than 41 hours a week, but the number of workers on the job six days a week declined by more than one-half million.

For example, among workers employed for 48 hours a week, eighty percent compressed those hours into five working days. Six years ago, only seventy percent of workers who put in 48 hour weeks did it in only five days.

What does this mean for organized labor's objective of a four-day, 32 hour week in the future? Goss says we may be moving closer to this, but it is likely to be slow in coming. First, the four-day, 40 hour week may have to become widespread before the 32 hour week becomes a bargaining point for labor unions and other workers' organizations.

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March 9, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #5

Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914

Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

DO WORKING WIVES ORGANIZE  
THEIR TIME DIFFERENTLY  
THAN NONWORKING WIVES?

Coaxing every productive second out of a 60-minute hour can be a basic survival technique for women who work outside the home. But do working women use their time much differently than their counterparts who work at home without benefit of a paycheck?

This was a question that has intrigued researchers at many universities, according to Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Perhaps surprisingly, the strategies that employed women use to economize on time are used nearly as often by women who don't hold jobs.

Research done at several institutions shows that the families of employed women eat more meals in restaurants and may rely more heavily on convenience items from the grocery store, but on many other counts working women and nonworking women are very similar.

Goss says that there is little difference in the ownership of freezers, microwave ovens or other convenience appliances between households with a working wife and those without. Working women rely more heavily than nonworking ones on other people's services, particularly on child care services from sitters or day care workers. Whether they work or not, few women (about 7 percent) have regular paid help for household tasks. At all income and age levels, husbands contribute little to the housework duties.

## Add one--Working Wives

One study indicated that husbands of employed wives spent only five minutes more per day on housework than husbands whose wives did not work.

Working women do, however, spend less time on housework than nonworking women. One study showed that women working at least 35 hours a week spent 4.2 hours a day less on housework than did full-time homemakers.

Where else do working and nonworking women differ in their time use? Several studies have shown that working women do significantly less volunteer work than nonworking women. Leisure time also suffers, Goss reports. "It appears that working women have about an hour or two less leisure time per day than other adults," she says. "This often means less time spent on passive activities such as reading and television viewing. There's also some evidence that working women get a bit less sleep than women who aren't job holders."

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March 9, 1981

NOTE TO AGENTS: Fill in the  
blanks on the following news  
story to make it appropriate  
to your local townships.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS  
COURSE SET IN \_\_\_\_\_

Township officials from \_\_\_\_\_  
site  
County will be able to  
participate in a day-long educational program intended to update them on  
regulations, legislation and administrative duties scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_  
date  
at the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
place town

The course, which is offered at 12 locations throughout the state,  
provides township officers with technical information to help them carry  
out their duties effectively. Topics this year will include finance,  
borrowing, state and federal income taxes, planning and zoning, record  
keeping, fire protection, elections, roads and bid procedures.

A representative of the governor's office will address short course  
participants as well. Governor Al Quie will speak at the Detroit Lakes  
and Thief River Falls courses.

The course will begin with registration at 8:15 a.m. and the program  
beginning at 9:10 a.m. The afternoon session will be small group discussions  
on the duties of supervisors, clerks and treasurers.

Registration fee is \$13, which includes noon lunch, refreshments and  
materials. For further information, contact the Office of Special Programs,  
Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 or phone (612)  
373-0725. The Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota  
offers its programs and facilities without regard to race, creed, color, sex,  
national origin or handicap.

Add one--Township Officers Course

Dates and Locations:

Rochester, Holiday Inn South	March 17
Waseca, University of Minnesota Technical College	March 18
Sleepy Eye, Orchid Inn	March 19
Marshall, Southwest State University	March 20
St. Cloud, Holiday Inn	March 23
Morris, U of M Science Auditorium	March 24
Fergus Falls, Holiday Inn	March 25
Brainerd, Craguns on Pine Beach	March 26
Detroit Lakes, Area Vocational Technical Institute	March 30
Thief River Falls, Best Western Motel	March 31
Eveleth--Virginia, Holiday Inn	April 2
Grand Rapids, Holiday Inn	April 1

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Tel. (612) 373-0710  
March 23, 1981

Source: Clif Halsey  
(612) 373-1060

Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373-0715

## EMERGENCY TILLAGE MAY HELP CONTROL WIND EROSION

Farmers whose fields are blowing or in danger of blowing with the wind may be able to temporarily reduce the hazard until spring tillage begins.

Emergency tillage to roughen bare ground can be helpful on medium and finer-textured soils, loams and clay loams, says Clif Halsey, conservationist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service. Till the soil so that larger clods and pronounced ridges are left on the surface, Halsey advises. This can be done with chisel plows or one-way disks with two or three disks removed at intervals to create a ridged effect.

If erosion has already started, begin tillage on the side of the field toward the direction from which the prevailing winds come. Work the entire field rather than intervals.

Emergency tillage should be done at right angles to the expected prevailing winds in the area.

After tilling loam and clay loam soils, at least 50 percent of the soil surface should be covered by clods at least one-half inch in diameter.

The optimum roughness for wind erosion control ranges from ridges about two inches high spaced eight inches apart to ridges about five inches high spaced about 20 inches apart. Such cloddiness and ridging is difficult to achieve and maintain on sandy soils.

Emergency tillage is a temporary measure and is effective for only a short time. It's better to depend on field shelterbelts, field strips, cover crops and conservation tillage to adequately control wind erosion.

More information about wind erosion control can be obtained from county extension and soil conservation offices. Ask for folders and leaflets on wind erosion control and for technical assistance.

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March 23, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #15

Source: Dottie Goss

Writer: Deedee Nagy

AMONG THE ELDERLY, WOMEN  
LIVING IN POVERTY ARE COMMON

It reads a little like a good news/bad news joke. On the bright side, Americans are living longer, but for many of the elderly, particularly women, the later years pose real economic hardships.

A recent study by the Women's Studies Program and Policy Center at George Washington University concluded, "By every economic measure, women are more deprived in their later years than are men."

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, comments that among the elderly, women account for 70 percent of those living in poverty. Elderly Black women and all unmarried women were particularly likely to be in financial need.

Why the difference between men and women in their retirement years? Goss suggests that the traditional 65-year retirement age is based on what was, and sometimes still is, the normal working life of men. "Women's lives, however, often follow a different pattern, especially for the increasing number of women who work outside their homes."

She says, for example, that women may withdraw from the labor force to raise children and then return to employment later. Widowhood or divorce also may force them into the job market at older ages than men typically begin careers. In addition, women tend to live longer than men so their retirement funds must stretch further. If they qualify for pensions at all, most women have not worked long enough to receive maximum pension benefits. If they have no pension benefits in their own names and are dependent on their

Add one--among the elderly

spouses' benefits, these probably will be drastically reduced if their husbands die.

"Displaced homemakers" are also common among the ranks of the country's poor, Goss says. These are the three to four million women who have lost their means of support because of death of their husbands, separation or divorce. They have little work experience and are not eligible for Social Security or other pension or unemployment benefits.

Goss thinks that policy changes may be coming that will aid the elderly. These may include changes in private and public pension plans to acknowledge the realities of widowhood and divorce, more realization of the usefulness of elderly persons as employees, retraining efforts for those re-entering the job market, more part-time and flexible hour jobs and better transportation networks for elderly persons who continue to work.

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March 23, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #14

Source: Dottie Goss

Writer: Deedee Nagy

MORE AMERICANS WORKING  
FLEXIBLE HOURS, COMPRESSED WEEKS

Some 12 percent of all full-time workers (7.6 million persons) are on "flexitime" or other such schedules that permit them to vary the time their workdays began and ended, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Labor. In addition, nearly two million more Americans compress a full workweek into three, four or four and one-half days.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says that the types of jobs most likely to allow flexible beginning and ending hours included sales personnel, managers, and professionals. Actual flexitime where rules about beginning and ending hours are firm policies is more common among clerical and service workers.

Of the 26 million parents who held wage and salary jobs during the survey week in 1980, about 13 percent could vary their beginning and ending hours. The option was more common for fathers than for mothers. Among federal employees, who are being encouraged to experiment with alternative work schedules under a federal employment act of 1978, one in five workers reported being on a flexible schedule in 1980.

Goss adds that full-time workweeks of four and one-half or fewer days are most common among service workers, factory personnel and such local government employees as police and fire fighters.

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Minnesota Women at Work # 13

Source: Dottie Goss

Writer: Deedee Nagy

SINGLE WOMEN SHOW  
UNIQUE LABOR FORCE PATTERNS

Single women who have never been married represent a growing portion of the labor force. Data from the U.S. Department of Labor show that between 1968 and 1978, the number of single women in the labor force increased from 6.4 to 10.2 million. Single women currently represent nearly one-fourth of the labor force.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says this jump is due, in part, to the rise in the proportion of women in their twenties who postpone marriage or remain single. Between 1968 and 1978, the proportion of women 20 to 24 years of age who were single rose by one-third and the proportion of women in their late twenties who were single rose by three-fourths.

Despite these gains in employment, married women have overtaken single women as the dominant group in the female labor force. Married women accounted for nearly one-half the increase in the female labor force in the decade just past.

The majority of single women are employed either in clerical or service occupations. Professional-technical and managerial jobs were dominated by single women over 25.

Goss says that single women are particularly hard hit by unemployment when the nation's economy is suffering. In 1978, for example, more than ten percent of the nation's single women who are in the labor force were,

Add one--single women

in fact, unemployed. Black teenaged women were especially likely to be out of work. One group, however, single women 55 to 64, had a very low level of unemployment. Figures for 1978 showed that only one percent of the single women in this age group were out of work.

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March 23, 1981

Minnesota Women at Work #12  
  
Source: Dottie Goss  
(612) 373-0914  
  
Writer: Deedee Nagy  
(612) 373-1781

CONFLICT BETWEEN WORK,  
FAMILY LIFE IS COMMON

Conflict between work and family life is common to both men and women in the work force, according to a survey conducted recently for the U.S. Department of Labor by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, reports that one-fourth of all workers who are married or living with children under age 18 reported moderate work-family conflict. About ten percent termed their work-family conflicts "severe."

Women heading one-parent families reported conflict slightly less often than women or men in two-parent families. Parents reported more conflict than childless couples and parents of preschoolers reported more conflicts than parents of school-age children.

What conditions contribute most to conflict? Goss says the list included long working hours, scheduling incompatibilities and physically or psychologically demanding jobs that caused fatigue and irritability.

Wives were most likely to report fatigue and irritability as the major conflict while women in single parent families reported the most problems with schedule incompatibility.

The fact that these conflicts exist means that many workers experience lower job satisfaction, lower family life satisfaction and lower contentment with life in general, Goss suggests. "The survey shows that the schedule and demands of a job affect the worker's life. Minimizing these conflicts should be one of the many goals in the design of work schedules," she adds.

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DON'T BELIEVE ALL YOU READ --  
MICROWAVE OVEN UNSUITED FOR PASTEURIZATION

An error-laden article in a recent issue of Hoard's Dairyman magazine has caused a flurry of interest in pasteurizing milk at home in the microwave oven. Edmund A. Zottola, extension food microbiologist at the University of Minnesota, has advice for persons tempted to try the method --- don't do it.

He explains that the information in the magazine article was incomplete and misleading. The person quoted, F. E. Cunningham of Kansas State University, requested and received a written retraction of the article in a later issue, but the retraction did not receive the attention that the original news item did.

Zottola says there are too many variables in microwave ovens to use them successfully for pasteurization. "To pasteurize, a person must know the size of container, time required to heat the milk in that particular model and wattage oven, the final temperature and how long to hold the milk at that temperature to assure safety," he says. "Currently, this kind of information isn't available for home microwave ovens."

In addition, Zottola reports that studies on microwave pasteurization done at Minnesota showed that an undesirable flavor develops in the microwave-pasteurized milk. This flavor is not there when pasteurization is done in a home pasteurizer or in a double boiler.

Proper home pasteurization methods are discussed in Food Science and Nutrition Fact Sheet 21 "Pasteurization of Milk" available at the local county Agricultural Extension Service office. It is also available by contacting the Bulletin Room, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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March 23, 1981

"SEE" INSIDE A PRODUCT  
BY STUDYING THE LABEL

When you can take a product, handle it and actually see that it has qualities you want, the art of buying is easier, says Edna K. Jordahl, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota. This principle works fine on many products, but packaged items are often less available to this kind of study.

Labels on meat and poultry products can cut down on some of the guess work involved in buying, Mrs. Jordahl says. But first, the consumer must learn how to use labels properly.

A new, free publication "Labels on Meat and Poultry Products" is now available to help consumers "see" a little more in these packaged foods. The booklet gives information on U.S. Department of Agriculture requirements for meat and poultry labels, other special requirements and some possible changes that may face consumers in the future.

To obtain a copy of "Labels on Meat and Poultry Products," write to:  
Midwest Information Office, USDA-FSQS, 536 South Clark St., Room 635, Chicago,  
Ill 60605.

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March 23, 1981

Food Briefs

Food Prices to Rise Further -- Forecasters from the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted that food prices during 1980 would rise between 7 and 11 percent. They actually rose 8.6 percent. The forecast for this year is for a steeper rise of 10 to 15 percent, with 12 percent the most likely final figure.

The 1980 rise was the smallest since 1977, even trailing the general inflation rate. This meant that food prices were a bargain in one sense. That situation has changed, however. The 1981 food price rise is likely to outpace the general inflation rate.

Why the steeper rise? Drought cut into U.S. crop output in 1980 and other countries also had short crops. Export demand for our farm products has risen, but many farmers are raising fewer cattle and hogs because of the rising costs of feed and poor pasture conditions. This means there may be an 18 percent rise in prices at the meat counter and consumption of meat per person probably will fall for the fifth straight year.

Food prices might not rise as much as portrayed if:

- \* crop growing weather in 1981 is notably better than in 1980; and
- \* the general inflation rate doesn't worsen beyond expectations.

Department of Agriculture experts point to two positive signs for consumers. Farmers have planted the most wheat acreage on record for harvest this summer, and they are apparently cutting back much less on hog production than was thought might be the case.

# # #

Add one--food briefs

No-Frills Stores Affect Grocery Business -- No-frills, limited

assortment stores springing up around the country sell food cheaper and force nearby competitors to give consumers some breaks. At least that's what U.S. Department of Agriculture economists see happening in the Washington D.C. area.

They studied the no-frills grocery stores and found their prices can be as much as 25 percent lower than prices in chain stores. Such chain outlets located near no-frills stores, however, had lower prices than stores in the same chain located far distant from no-frills stores.

How are the chains fighting the no-frills threat? Most have stepped up their advertising, some have started redeeming coupons at double face value and several have introduced consumer games.

From this limited study, the USDA economists conclude that while no-frills stores are earning less than 2 percent of the total food stores sales so far, they are triggering reactions by existing stores and this price competition may benefit consumers.

# # #

America: Going to Waist -- The Battle of the Bulge rages on. According to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture survey, in 61 percent of households, someone tried to lose weight during the past year. In nearly one-third of the households, all members were trying to shed pounds.

The survey revealed that most dieters are females in the 35 to 49 age range. The higher the household income, the higher the reported incidence of dieting.

Dieting has an effect on household food choices. In nearly half of the households that had made a change in food use in the past three years, weight control was cited as the reason for the change.

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JOB HUNTING?  
WHEN SHOULD YOU PAY?

Promises of desirable jobs with little or no "pavement pounding" required of the job seekers cause many people to use employment services or job counseling agencies each year. In times of high unemployment, the Federal Trade Commission reports higher than normal numbers of complaints about employment services.

Dottie Goss, extension family resource management specialist at the University of Minnesota, says, "Most employment services are legitimate, helpful businesses; only some charge large fees and misrepresent their services. But it's important to know exactly what you'll get for your money before you sign a contract with a placement firm."

Both employment and executive search agencies require payment for their job counseling and placement services, Goss says. Employment agencies, however, are usually licensed by the state while executive search firms seldom are licensed. Employment agencies usually know of specific openings while executive search firms provide help with more general job-hunting skills such as resume preparation. They seldom know of specific job openings.

Goss adds that employment agencies usually require payment after a job is secured. Executive search firms often require money before services are provided. These fees can range from several hundred dollars to as much as \$1,000.

-more-

## Add one--Job Hunting

Before you sign a contract with an employment business, find out about payment arrangements. Will the employer pay any part of the fee? Is payment contingent upon finding a job? Check with local consumer protection agencies to see if they've received complaints about the company. Most important, read any contract carefully before you sign, Goss cautions.

Besides ads in the newspaper, there are other sources of employment information that you can use free. State job service offices post many job vacancies and often provide some counseling and referrals to other job resources. Local and county human resources offices give some placement assistance and often have lists of other helpful groups such as labor unions or vocational programs.

If you have a complaint about a job placement or counseling business, contact the state Attorney General's office, consumer protection agency or an appropriate licensing board.

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OFFICERS ELECTED IN LIVESTOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Officers and directors of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association were elected at the group's annual meeting on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus Tuesday, March 17.

President is Yorkshire breeder Keith Thurston, Madelia. First vice president is Robert Touchberry, head of the University of Minnesota's Animal Science Department, St. Paul. Second vice president is Conrad Kvamme, Holstein breeder from Little Falls.

Directors are Paul Pierson, Holstein breeder from Lake City; and James Bryan, Shorthorn breeder from Red Wing. The secretary-treasurer is Lyle Lamphere, St. Paul.

Directors, by breed represented, are as follows:

Angus, Claire Strobel, Mapleton; Ayrshire, Wayne Dabelstein, St. Charles; Brown Swiss, Joyce Jacobson, Harmony; Charolais, Larry Wakefield, New Richland; Chester White, Roger Beyer, Utica; Duroc, Richard Compart, Nicollet; Guernsey, Russell Wirt, Lewiston; Hampshire Sheep, Mike Caskey, Pipestone; Hampshire Swine, Ordell Jake1, Danube; Hereford, Lester Schafer, Buffalo Lake.

Holstein-Friesen, Paul Pierson, Lake City; Donald Jergens, Hutchinson; Conrad Kvamme, Little Falls; Horse Breeders, Gordon Fickett, Blaine; Jersey, John Kvasnicka, Hayfield; Limousin, Wayne Bollum, St. Paul; Milking Shorthorn, James Foss, Kenyon; Poland China, Herb Boche, Rosemount; Polled Hereford, Gerhard Mitteness, Benson; Red Poll, Arlen Dahlke, Bagley; Sheep Breeders, Gene Sanford, Faribault; Shorthorn, James Bryan, Red Wing; Simmental, David Luhman, Goodhue; Spotted, James Grass, Owatonna; Yorkshire, Keith Thurston, Madelia.

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Source: Jim Baumer  
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Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
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RESISTANT VARIETIES BEST  
ANSWER TO BACTERIAL LEAF BLIGHT

Bacterial leaf blight of wheat was first discovered in Minnesota in 1976. Since then, the disease has been widespread on wheat and barley in the wetter wheat growing regions of the state, except during the dry 1978 growing season.

"Bacterial leaf blight has been most severe in West Central Minnesota, where about one-third of Minnesota's wheat is grown," says Jim Baumer, a plant pathologist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station.

Since the disease is relatively new in Minnesota, little is known about its survival and spread. Estimated average yield losses of five to 10 percent are common, but can be much higher. "We need information on actual yield losses to help farmers make cost/benefit decisions when comparing potential control measures," Baumer says.

Eventually, a program to develop more resistant varieties will be developed. Baumer says this will probably be the best control. He will test chemical seed treatments, but doesn't expect promising results.

He is beginning a study to determine how to select for resistant varieties, determine yield losses caused by the disease, define the role of seed-borne disease in field epidemics, and identify other host plants of the bacteria.

The research project is partially funded by the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council. "Without their support, much important research

Add one--bacterial leaf blight

would not get done since state and federal funding for agricultural research is being cut," Baumer says.

Wheat varieties vary significantly in susceptibility to bacterial leaf blight, but more information is needed on how to manipulate the disease in the field and greenhouse so that resistant material can be properly evaluated.

Recently released Minnesota varieties, such as Angus wheat and Morex barley, appear to be more susceptible to the disease than previous varieties, Baumer says. This may partially explain why Angus is not a popular variety. On the other hand, the less susceptible varieties are not necessarily desirable from an agronomic standpoint.

CA, IA, 4-FC

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Source: Paul Hasbargen  
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Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
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#### ECONOMIST SAYS DAIRY PRICE CHANGE NEEDED

High milk price supports are hurting the Minnesota-Wisconsin dairy industry as well as consumers and taxpayers.

That's the assessment of Paul Hasbargen, agricultural economist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service. After reviewing recent trends in the dairy industry, Hasbargen concludes "I think it is in the long-run interest of local dairy groups to support the proposed changes in dairy legislation now under consideration in Congress." And, "It is definitely in the interest of other farmers, taxpayers and consumers to get some changes in existing dairy programs." Here's his reasoning:

Government programs supporting milk prices at 80 percent of parity since 1977 have encouraged increased milk production.

Government regulations controlling milk price differences among different milk marketing orders have encouraged especially large increases in some of the states that are far distant from the Minnesota-Wisconsin base point used in milk pricing formulas. But, the higher milk prices have discouraged fluid milk consumption.

Large dairy operations are expanding rapidly in states like California and Arizona and are reaping above-market profits to produce surplus milk that is then going into processed dairy products that are competing with midwestern products.

In an effort to maintain milk prices at the 80 percent of parity level, the government buys up excess dairy products--about \$1.3 billion worth in 1980. This growing cost adds to budget deficits and contributes to inflation.

Finally, when the government distributes these "surplus" commodities through school lunch programs or otherwise puts them on the market, they displace other foods--especially high protein items like meat and eggs--thereby hurting the demand for these commodities.

Add one--Dairy Price change

The "parity price" concept still in use in the dairy program has long been abandoned as unworkable in most other farm programs. According to Hasbargen, this formula looks only at price relationships and ignores changes in productivity and in the volume of business that can be handled by one farmer. He says it can be a useful tool in the dairy price support program if allowed to be adjusted downward, as was originally provided for in the Agricultural Act of 1949.

CA, IA, 4-D, II-P, TCO

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Source: Vance Morey  
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Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
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## RESEARCHERS TEST CORN COBS AS FUEL FOR DRYING GRAIN

Corn cobs as a fuel for drying grain may soon be competitive with propane gas if suitable equipment and systems become available.

"Propane fuel costs have risen to a level where it may be economically feasible to use crop residues as the energy source for drying grain," says Vance Morey, agricultural engineer with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station.

Morey and co-workers on the University's St. Paul Campus are developing a biomass burner. Fuels studied include corn cobs, pelleted corn stalks and corn grain.

"Burning biomass materials like corn cobs is a promising approach to reducing use of propane for drying grain," Morey says. About 40 million gallons of propane are used annually in Minnesota for on-farm drying. This is over one-half of the estimated total on-farm propane use of 70 million gallons in Minnesota.

The experimental burner can potentially be used to supply heat for turkey brooding and hog farrowing houses as well as grain drying. Presently, the researchers are concentrating on grain drying. If funding is available, they hope to test the unit at the Rosemount Experiment Station this fall.

The burner will be coupled with a small continuous flow dryer. The fuel will be corn cobs, which will be collected from the rear of the combine, separated from the husks and leaves, then conveyed to the grain tank where they will be mixed with the shelled corn. The mixture will be transported to the drying

Add one--Researchers test corn cobs

facility and dried. Then the cobs will be separated from the shelled corn with a grain screener and used as fuel.

With propane priced at 60¢ a gallon, it costs about 12¢ a bushel for propane and another cent in electricity to remove 10 percentage points of moisture from grain. However, Morey says a more expensive burner is needed for corn cobs than for propane.

In addition, the handling and drying equipment must be modified for cobs. Assuming the combine could be modified to separate cobs and convey them to the grain tank, 10 to 20 percent more trips would be needed from the combine to the drying facility to haul the mixture of shelled corn and cobs, compared to the shelled corn alone. Morey says about one-half of the cobs would need to be collected to provide fuel for the grain drying process.

CA, IA, II-P, TCO

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Source: Paul Hasbargen  
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### HIGH DAIRY SUPPORTS HURT BEEF, PORK DEMAND, ECONOMIST SAYS

The 1977 legislation freezing milk support prices at 80 percent of parity resulted in the dairy business becoming more profitable compared to other farm enterprises, says Paul Hasbargen, economist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

Farm records from southeastern Minnesota show that returns over feed and directly associated cash costs per dairy cow doubled between 1976 and 1979--from \$400 to \$800. This increased profitability encouraged Minnesota milk producers to increase milk production in 1980 by two percent over 1979.

However, much bigger increases came in some distant "non-dairy" areas because of the incentives available in existing milk orders, Hasbargen says. New Mexico increased its milk production 16 percent during 1980; Idaho, 12 percent; and Nevada, 10 percent. California, currently the second largest milk producing state (after Wisconsin), increased production eight percent during 1980.

These and other distant states are now producing more fluid milk than they are consuming and the excess milk goes into cheese, butter, and other dairy products. "These products compete with those made in local dairies," says Hasbargen. "The excess supplies of these high protein products are just one more factor helping to hold beef and pork prices below production costs."

"Beef and pork producers are not protected by any parity price formula. Because of large meat supplies and relatively weak demand, both of these groups took severe income losses during 1979 and 1980."

Hasbargen says these complex economic interactions are an example of what often happens when government tries to "help" a special clientele group. "Most other groups often get hurt in the process. And, eventually, even the people being 'helped'--or at least many of them--may suffer ill effects from over-regulation."

He says this is happening in the local dairy industry. "Unrealistic price support levels, market order pricing formulas that give other states a Minnesota-Wisconsin price, plus some specified transportation costs are causing a shift in the dairy industry away from the Midwest--despite the fact that we are perhaps the most efficient dairy area in the United States."

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SPRING LAWN CARE BRIEFS...

Get out your sprinklers --- It's not too early to think about watering your lawn, according to Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. She recommends that south-facing slopes be given a good soaking now. With the temperatures we have been having, one thorough watering should last for two or three weeks, she says.

Although less important in areas without south exposure, any part of your lawn could also benefit from watering. Brown cautions, however, that watering should be done early in the day so that blades of grass will dry by nightfall.

\* \* \*

The timetable for spring fertilizing --- Try to time your first lawn fertilizer application to about the time that the grass begins to grow actively. Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota, says a good way to time this is to wait until your lawn is ready for its first mowing.

She added that whether you choose granular or liquid fertilizer, water it in well. The best fertilizer for most Minnesota soils is one labeled as having a 4:1:2 ratio. This refers to the proportions of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium respectively.

"If you fertilized late last fall, hold off until May to fertilize," Brown suggests. "Also, if you have had problems with fusarium blight in your lawn, don't fertilize this spring unless the grass looks pale and weak. And then, cut the label recommendation for fertilizer concentration in half."

\* \* \*

add one - spring lawn

Hello, crabgrass --- Normally crabgrass sprouts at about Memorial Day around the Twin Cities, according to Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. This year, however, it is bound to be earlier.

She advised, "To be safe, we are estimating mid-April as the time to apply pre-emergent herbicides or fertilizer/herbicide combinations for crabgrass control. And if, by chance, we get three consecutive days with temperatures that reach 70<sup>0</sup> F, apply the herbicide even if it's earlier than mid-April."

\* \* \*

Dethatching and aerifying --- If you are eager to begin lawn work, but don't know what to do first, think about dethatching and aerifying your yard this spring. These are the suggestions of Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

Once the soil is firm and dry, rather than moist and spongy, under foot, you can safely dethatch (also called power raking) and aerify. She adds, "If you don't have a bad thatch problem, however, it might be better to wait until early autumn when you won't have as much problem with weeds popping up in the newly opened soil."

Brown defines thatch as the fibrous mat of dead grass and leaf tissue found just above the soil and below the growing plants. This should be removed once it reaches a depth of one-half inch. A heavy thatch layer is closely associated with fusarium blight, a serious lawn disease that has troubled many well-kept lawns in the past several years.

\* \* \*

Don't be too quick to uncover -- Try to be patient. Let your dormant rose bushes and strawberries stay undisturbed under their protective cover, advised Deborah Brown, extension horticulturist at the University of

add two - spring lawn

Minnesota. Temperatures of 20<sup>0</sup> F or lower will damage or kill exposed parts of these plants, and we can still expect some cold nights at this time of year, she says.

"The protective covering serves not only to prevent cold injury, but also to keep the plants from warming up too fast," Brown says. "The fluctuation from warm days to cold nights can be particularly damaging."

She suggests that if you see new growth poking through the mulch and feel you must uncover the plants to prevent yellowing and mold, leave the mulching material nearby so you can cover the plants again on short notice if the weather requires it.

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CA, TCO



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Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
(612) 373--0715

Source: Bob Aherin  
(612) 373-0764

## REDUCING FARM ACCIDENT RISKS AT PLANTING TIME

Your chances of being involved in a farm accident increase during the spring planting season.

Farmers are moving equipment on public roads, which may lead to serious accidents. In addition, they are working long hours, which also increases chances of accidents.

Bob Aherin, safety specialist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service, offers these accident prevention reminders for the planting season:

--When working long hours, take a 15 or 20 minute break every two to two and one-half hours. This will refresh you. When you go back to work, your odds of having an accident are decreased drastically because you are more mentally and physically alert.

--When farmworkers are working out of sight of others, someone should check on them at least once an hour to make sure everything is okay. Many farmworkers have been seriously injured or killed because they became entangled in a piece of farm equipment and no one checked on them for several hours.

--Spend time thoroughly training new farm machinery operators. Minnesota youngsters between the ages of 13 and 16 and farm women working for the first time with farm equipment have an extremely high accident rate. Most accidents which cause serious injuries and fatalities in these two groups occur because of lack of experience and proper training. Educational materials are available

Add one--Reducing farm accident risks

through the county extension office and vocational agriculture programs on safe machinery operator training. In addition, training information appears in most machinery operator manuals today.

--When making adjustments or repairs on farm equipment, shut off all power before attempting this type of work. Numerous injuries occur in our state each year because a farm operator attempts repair or maintenance work while the machine is still operating.

--Only experienced people with adequate tools should do repair and maintenance work on farm equipment. Make sure all equipment is stable before doing maintenance work. Many serious injuries have occurred, particularly in fields, because equipment that was not properly blocked up or stabilized and shifted or fell on farm workers.

--Never allow extra riders on farm equipment. Many extra riders have fallen from farm equipment, resulting in death or serious injury. Most farm machinery is designed for only one person to ride on it--the operator. Anyone else riding on a piece of farm equipment is in a very unstable situation because farm equipment normally does not have any shock absorption other than through the seat where the operator sits. If the machine makes a sudden stop or is jolted for some reason, all the shock is absorbed through the equipment. In these cases the extra rider is apt to lose his balance and fall off.

Here are some safety rules to observe when moving farm equipment on public roads:

--Allow only licensed drivers to operate farm equipment on public roads. Skill, maturity, and knowledge of the rules of the road are needed for safe operation.

--Allow traffic to pass--if necessary, pull over to the shoulder of the road.

Add two--Reducing farm accident risks

--If you are using a traffic lane, take it all but no more. Do not tempt motorists to squeeze by with insufficient space.

--Maintain and use a bright, clean, slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem and use lights, flashing lights and reflectors during both day and night when moving equipment on public roads.

--Lock brake pedals together when transporting and avoid high speeds with heavy loads.

--Do not pull more weight than the tractor braking system is designed to handle. A good rule of thumb to follow is do not pull anything that weighs more than the tractor or vehicle that is pulling the load unless the pulled load has a separate braking system. You could easily lose control of the system in a sudden stop, particularly when going down hill.

--Use the same gear going down a steep hill as you would use going up it.

--Use the seat belt when operating a tractor or other piece of farm equipment with a roll-over protective structure. The seat belt keeps you within the frame of safety if the tractor or other equipment turns over.

To date there are no recorded fatalities in the U.S. resulting from a tractor turning completely over sideways or backwards if it had a rollover protector and the operator was wearing the seat belt.

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Source: Bob Aherin  
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Editor: Jack Sperbeck  
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#### BE CAREFUL WHEN HANDLING ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Anhydrous ammonia can be an extremely dangerous chemical if not handled properly, warns Bob Aherin, safety specialist with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service.

This chemical is normally stored under pressure in liquid form and vaporizes quickly when it's released to the atmosphere. Ammonia boils at -28 degrees F. and has a drastic cooling effect when it vaporizes. Ammonia striking your skin can freeze the flesh almost instantly.

In addition, anhydrous ammonia has a strong attraction for water, which helps keep it in the ground by dissolving the soil moisture. Since tissues of the respiratory tract, eyes and skin have a high percentage of water, they're very susceptible to caustic burns from contact with ammonia. If ammonia comes in contact with any part of the body it seeks out moisture and quickly destroys the tissues.

Aherin suggests these safety tips when you're handling anhydrous ammonia:

1. When transferring ammonia or operating an applicator, wear rubber gloves, chemical goggles and/or a full face shield. The most important time to wear this protection is when transferring the ammonia or when you're working on the equipment. If you store bulk quantities of ammonia on the farm, keep a rubber suit and a gas mask with ammonia canister on hand for emergency work.
2. Check all relief valves, hitch pins and applicator tubes to make sure they are in good operating condition.

Add one--Be careful when handling ammonia

3. Check all hoses and couplings for breaks and cracks before using.
4. Keep a minimum of five gallons of water available for flushing in case of accidental contact with anhydrous ammonia. Water is the only first aid for anyone who comes in contact with this fertilizer.
5. Ideally, a five-gallon water supply should be available on the nurse tank, applicator and tractor. Also, anyone applying anhydrous ammonia should carry a small squeeze bottle of water in their shirt pocket to use in an emergency. The water should be changed daily. Remember that any injury must be flushed with water for at least 15 minutes before you go for emergency help. Never use salves or ointments on any anhydrous injury.
6. Work up wind when possible.
7. Ammonia fittings on filling and transfer lines are designed to be hand tightened. Do not use wrenches.
8. Carry filler hose only by the valve body or coupling--never by the valve handle.
9. Make sure that hose and fittings are free of dirt and loose rust.
10. Check that all bleedvalves are closed before opening valves for filling.
11. Stay in attendance during transfer or filling to prevent overfilling.
12. Open the bleedvalve and wait for bleeding to cease before disconnecting couplings. Make sure the bleed hole is away from you.
13. Check anhydrous equipment for wear and damage before accepting it from your dealer.

Do not accept equipment that does not have a five-gallon water supply on it. If your dealer does not supply personal protective equipment, ask him where you can get it.

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Source: Vance Morey  
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Writer: Jack Sperbeck  
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#### RESEARCHERS TEST CORN COBS AS FUEL FOR DRYING GRAIN

Corn cobs as a fuel for drying grain may soon be competitive with propane gas if suitable equipment and systems become available.

"Propane fuel costs have risen to a level where it may be economically feasible to use crop residues as the energy source for drying grain," says Vance Morey, agricultural engineer with the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station.

Morey and co-workers on the University's St. Paul Campus are developing a biomass burner. Fuels studied include corn cobs, pelleted corn stalks and corn grain.

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Add one--Researchers test corn cobs

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