

Business

NATIONAL RECORD for alfalfa hay production is now held by Hancock and Son, Riverside County, California — 16.2 tons per acre in 10 cuttings. Average protein content was 21.9 per cent. Former record through 1960 was 12.3 tons per acre. Hancocks applied \$59.46 worth of fertilizer per acre for an extra return of \$202.40 per acre. Average production in the area is 7 tons.

YOU CAN'T JUDGE a cow's ability to produce milk and cream on looks alone. Production records tell the true story. The University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service conducted a 16-county contest where dairymen attempted to judge a cow's production ability from pictures. Only six of the 4,953 dairymen managed to place the animals correctly. The Extension dairyman says that from the laws of chance, only one person in 720 should have placed all the cows correctly. Also, most contestants would have been farther ahead to disregard the cow's looks and simply guess at a top and bottom animal. One out of every 10 contestants placed the top producer in the right place, and less than one in 12 put the poorest animal where she belonged.

WHILE MUCH AGRICULTURAL research has been conducted for the purpose of growing agricultural products many are developed for the specific needs of the consumers. For example, seven out of every 10 crop varieties grown today were unknown just 20 years ago. Many of these were developed for a specific use — and the consumer — in mind. Most of our frozen foods today are tailor-grown for the consumer. New varieties of peas, beans, sweet corn, strawberries and other vegetables and fruits are being sought that will keep their farm-fresh flavor, color and texture during freezing.

IN A RECENT study conducted by the University of Illinois concerning farmers who were forced to leave the farm it was found that 27 out of the 200 interviewed had purchased self-propelled combines to harvest less than 200 acres of beans and small grain. It is estimated that the break-even acreage at which a farmer could own a self-propelled combine or hire the work done is 269 acres in Illinois. In addition, over one-third of these farmers had inadequate forms of record keeping systems.

PIGS GAIN faster on less feed if it is finely ground. This is indicated by tests conducted at North Carolina State College. Finely ground and coarse ground feed was fed to pigs raised in confinement and on pasture. Those fed finely ground grain ate about 7 per cent less feed per pound of gain than those on coarse feed. Pigs in confinement gained faster than those on pasture but those on pasture ate 5 per cent less feed per pound of gain, although it took them a

week longer to make market weight.

CATTLE MAKE better use of protein if they are fed often, according to research at the University of Wisconsin. Frequencies of two, four and eight times a day were tested. It appeared that when feedings are widely separated, much of the protein is lost in the urine. Animals apparently get more than they can use at one time and have no place to store it. When they get feed in smaller doses, temporary surpluses do not build up and less protein is wasted.

BOOM SPRINKLERS reduce labor 40 to 60 per cent as compared to conventional, hand-move types of irrigation systems, University of Minnesota Institute of Agriculture reports. With proper selection and design of nozzles, the boom sprinkler is also capable of giving good uniform-

ity of coverage. Savings appear to make increased cost of boom sprinkler system justified on fields of 40 acres or more.

AN INEXPENSIVE hay wafering machine which can process hay at almost any moisture content has been developed in Michigan. The machine was built from parts of a baler by Michigan State University agricultural engineers. It is expected to be on the market in about two years. The machine is supposed to make wafers from hay with a moisture content of 65 per cent without the use of an artificial binding agent. Wafers are then artificially dried with conventional driers. Leaves are saved because hay is at such high moisture content when they are wafered.

INCREASES OF LAMB sales up to 27 per cent have been measured as a result of coopera-

tive advertising programs and up to 10 per cent as a result of general promotion, according to the Economic Research Service of the USDA. The study was made in six metropolitan areas: Three in the midwest, where lamb is a slow seller, and three in the Northwest where lamb is more popular.

FARM PRODUCTION costs today are about four times as high as they were in 1940, according to USDA Research Service. About 70 per cent of a farmer's gross income went to pay for production costs in 1961, compared to about 50 per cent in 1940. In 1940 U.S. farmers spent \$1.75 on machinery and buildings for every dollar spent for hired help. By 1960 the ratio had risen to \$2.77 to every dollar for hired labor. In 1960 property taxes were about 3.4 times higher than in 1940.



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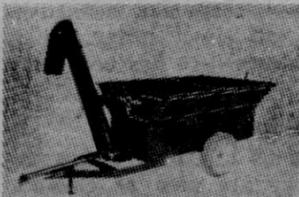
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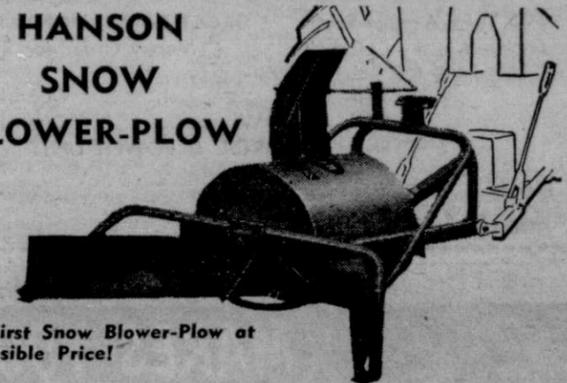


MIXING MODEL—85 Bu. Cap.

The Grain-O-Vator is specifically designed to handle all small grains, corn, ground feed, mash, pellets and other free flowing material. Available in 85 or 125 bushel sizes. Eleven-inch dia. elevators available in 7, 8 or 9 ft. lengths and will unload up to 50 bu. per minute. Single or two-compartment boxes.

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