

AGRICULTURE

# Farm Scene Changes

► A "NEW RURAL America" is emerging, Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse told the California Fertilizer Association meeting in San Francisco.

More part-time and residential farms, with salaries and wages a major part of the family income, is one characteristic of the changing farm scene. Since 1939 part-time and residential farms have increased 22%.

The second important characteristic is the increasing size of commercial family farms. In the past 15 years there has been a 44% increase in the number of the "more productive and larger farms." At the same time smaller and medium-scale farms have decreased 20%.

Commercial farms, which produce most of the crops marketed, are receiving the greatest benefits from research, marketing and Government price support and stabilization programs. There is an urgent need to get changes in the price support laws in a way that will better serve farmers.

Recognizing the current trend toward part-time farms, Government officials must build and administer programs in a way that will help promote progress for all farm families, Mr. Morse stressed.

The industries and companies that serve farmers will also have to adjust to the two new broad fronts in agriculture.

In conclusion, Mr. Morse noted that this is now a great era of peacetime progress in which there will be an ever-expanding demand for farm and ranch products. Today incomes per farm are increasing and productivity per farm worker has doubled in the past 30 years. Farms were never so well-equipped with machines as now, surpluses are smaller, and only about one farm in three has a mortgage.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1957

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## Agriculture Research Funds Grow, NSF Says

► EXPENDITURES for research by the nation's 53 agricultural experiment stations totalled more than \$74,000,000 in 1953-54, the National Science Foundation has reported.

Basic research accounted for \$17,000,000 of the funds, which, the NSF found in its survey, are mostly supplied by the states. The Federal Government provided \$13,500,-

000 of the total while \$16,000,000 came from non-state sources such as sales and royalties.

In contrast to colleges and universities, the experiment stations reported a "substantially higher percentage" of their budgets went for applied research rather than basic. However, faculty members engaged in research at the stations amounted to 45% of the total faculty employed by the institutions. Practically all the stations are administered by land-grant institutions.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1957

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By Joseph Degrazia, Ph.D.

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