

AGRICULTURE

Farming Becomes Business

COMMERCIAL farming in 1975 will be essentially a business proposition rather than a way of life.

Although there will be one-third fewer farms by that time, the remaining farms will be larger, more productive and more specialized and serve a one-third larger United States population.

These predictions were made by Merton S. Parsons, agricultural economist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at a Society of Automotive Engineers meeting in Milwaukee, Wis.

Farming of the future, Mr. Parsons said, will be affected largely by the same forces that have acted in the past. Most of the trends already underway in farming, he said, are likely to continue for the next 15 to 20 years.

Among these trends are the decline in number of farms and farm population; the growth of the size, output, specialization and commercialization of the average farm, and increased mechanization.

By 1975, he said, the number of commercial farms, the group that produces nearly all our farm products for sale, will

be about 2,000,000 as compared with 3,000,000 now. The estimated 1958 U. S. population was 174,000,000.

The increase in production per farm, however, will be attained partly by more acres per farm, but primarily by wider use of improved technology and mechanical methods to increase production per acre, per animal and per farm worker.

Output per man-hour could more than double by 1975, Mr. Parsons said, if the trend of the last decade continues. This could result in a large increase in farm production with a farm labor force even smaller than at present. In fact, the number of farm workers for 1975 is projected at about 2,000,000 less than the current number of about 7,500,000.

The larger, more complex farms of the future will require investments in real estate, livestock and machinery about double the present level. The high capital requirements will create new problems in financing and in transferring farms from one generation to the next, and farming will become less of a "way of life."

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Protect U. S. From Malaria

THE WORLD Health Organization has its finger in the malaria dike in Central and South America.

Malaria has been eradicated in the United States, but there are 5,000,000 square miles in Central and South America that still harbor the Anopheles mosquito, the carrier of malaria.

There is now a widespread campaign to rid this hemisphere of the mosquito. A report of the progress of the campaign was presented to the directing council of the Pan American Health Organization, a member of WHO, meeting in Washington.

The report shows that by July, 1958, only Chile, the U. S., Barbados, Martinique and Puerto Rico had successfully stamped out malaria. At that time it was discovered that the mosquitoes in El Salvador were resistant to the two insecticides used, dieldrin and DDT.

Latest reports reveal resistance to the insecticides has also developed in British Honduras, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Jamaica and Trinidad.

Eradication programs are in full swing in Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Panama and her immediate neighbors. The southeastern half of Brazil is under an approved plan of operations but eradication has not begun. The northwestern half is also undergoing an eradication program, the report shows.

In those areas where mosquitoes build a resistance to DDT, World Health Organization workers switch to dieldrin, and switch to DDT in those areas where the Anopheles

has evaded dieldrin. In El Salvador, where just such resistance has occurred, WHO workers have introduced malathion, which appears to be doing the job, said Dr. Louis Williams, consultant for the Pan American Health Organization.

Sometimes citizens themselves unknowingly interrupted the insecticide cycle, thus prolonging the life of the mosquitoes. For instance, during an inspection trip the officers of the campaign in a South American country stopped overnight in a town in the interior that had been sprayed one month previously.

During the courtesy visit to the mayor he informed them that, to commemorate World Health Day, he had decided that all the citizens would paint the inside walls of their houses—the same walls that had been sprayed.

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MINING

Iron Supplies Seen Ample For Immediate Future

WORLD SUPPLIES of iron ore are "more than ample" for the immediate future but in the long run major new sources will have to be developed.

United States iron ore imports rose from about 2,800,000 tons, or four percent of the ore consumed in the country, in 1946 to nearly 28,000,000 tons, or about 27%, in 1958. They may be expected to reach a figure of 60,000,000 tons annually by 1965.

Most of this increased tonnage, R. W.

Whitney of the Hanna Mining Co., Cleveland, Ohio, told the Metal Mining and Industrial Minerals Convention of the American Mining Congress in Denver, Colo., will come from sources now being operated or under active development.

For example, Canada, which currently can export up to 20,000,000 tons of ore annually to the U. S. and Europe, should be capable of exporting 34,000,000 tons a year by 1965, he pointed out.

As we spend greater sums to develop high-grade ores in out-of-the-way places, Mr. Whitney said, we should also spend more money for ore preparations facilities nearer home.

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