

Old McDonald Never Had It So Good Down on the Farm

MINNEAPOLIS — Young McDonald has a farm, too. There's still an "oink-oink" here, a "quack-quack" there and, of course, an occasional "moo-moo." But that's about the end of the resemblance to the farm in the old novelty song about the elder McDonald.

On McDonald's 20th century farm the cows may live in air-conditioned comfort; be milked to music in a "parlor" and enjoy shower baths and electric blankets.

Young McDonald's chickens may be kept healthy by a refrigerator that runs in reverse. A digital computer may be the "daddy" to his baby pigs, and "sun lamps" are popular with his lambs and ducklings, as well as his young porkers and chicks.

Frivolous goings-on? Not at all. They are signs of a new era on American farms—an era in which robots, according to one authority, will bring about revolutionary changes on the farm scene.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
"With mechanization nearly complete, modern farmers now are turning to pushbutton electrical and electronic devices to help solve their production and labor problems," points out Lloyd Hamilton, farm manager for Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co.

The trend, Hamilton explains, is being pushed along by many factors: more college-trained farmers, vast research programs by colleges and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the research and engineering work being done by industrial firms—often in cooperation with colleges—to provide farmers with new, labor-saving equipment.

All this is having a strange effect on pigs, cows, chickens and the nature of farming generally. Typical is dairying. Clean and convenient milking "parlors" have replaced crowded stanchions in many barns. They're scientifically ventilated and automatically heated or cooled to provide pin-point regulation of temperatures.

Automatic milkers have become so common that few cows will hold still for old-fashioned methods—which is fine with the modern dairyman whose herd may number 50 or more. Also okay with the modern McDonald is the discovery by the University of Minnesota that Bossy

suffers no ill effects from irregular milking hours; this lets a farmer sleep a bit later in the morning, at least once in a while. Farmers long ago discovered that radio music is just as pleasant for Bossy as it is for her owner.

"Getting the milk has ceased to be a problem," Hamilton says. "However, today's dairymen need thermostatically controlled hot water for sanitary milk handling and precisely regulated coolers for safe storage."

Some farm buildings—barns

poultry houses, milk houses and even a few farm homes—are now heated by a reverse-running refrigerator called a "heat pump," which draws heat from water or the earth and circulates it through the building. In summer it reverses the process for cooling, removing heat from the warm room just as a refrigerator draws heat from articles inside it.

BARN CLEANERS
Automatic barn cleaners are making it easier for modern farm boys to resist the call of the big city. Feeds are scientifically and automatically mixed and a "green-grass" diet is provided livestock from glass-lined steel silos. New thermostats and heating devices keep drinking water ice-free the year 'round.

Sensitive heat-detecting devices similar to those used in industrial furnaces automatically insure the safety of unattended brooders in hog and poultry houses. Incubators for chicks and baby pigs now feature electronically controlled temperatures and rigidly regulated humidity.

Electronics can even be a very

decisive pre-natal influence in a pig's life: it is now possible for young McDonald to record the genealogical records of his hybrid sows on punched cards and have them fed into a complex business computing machine which thereupon will produce a card describing the kind of boar needed to produce the healthiest and heftiest baby pigs when mated with young McDonald's sow!



Decertification Hearing Set

A hearing will be held Thursday in Eugene on decertification of workers at Fischer Lumber Co., Marcola, from IWA-CIO Local 5-246.

Results of an election held earlier will be given and spokesmen for the local, company, and employees in favor of leaving the union will be heard.

The action was started during last summer's industry-wide strike. The company employs about 150 men.

The hearing will be in Room 13, Eugene Postoffice Bldg., at 11 a.m.

Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore. Sun., Jan. 23, 1955

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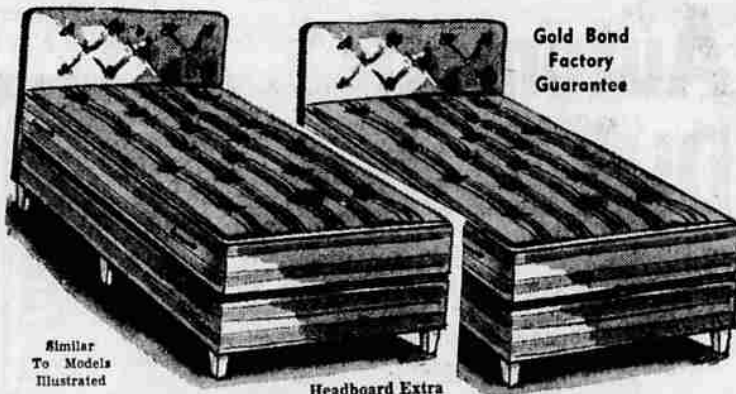
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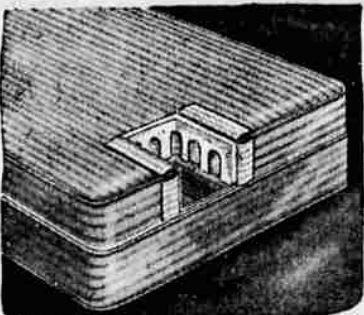
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