

Private Farming Potent Factor in Soviet Agriculture

Washington—(UPI)—Private farming is a potent factor in Russian agriculture, according to data supplied by the Soviet Union to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

A compilation of this data shows that the private sector still accounts for about 30 per cent of the total output of Soviet agriculture. It consists essentially of very small holdings and involves practically the entire rural population.

Comparative yields in the private sector are higher than on collective farms and on state farms, FAO said.

An article in the September

issue of the FAO monthly bulletin on agricultural economics and statistics says the private sector not only "represents a compromise between the persistent individualism of

the peasant and communist doctrine," but also corresponds to the economic needs of the Soviet Union.

Every collective and state farm worker was entitled to a

family plot of land, though legally he did not own it, together with a limited number of livestock and a horse. Some workers in industry had similar rights. The size of a private plot was small, roughly one-quarter of a hectare, and the plot was subject to land tax. A hectare is about 2.5 acres.

The private family plots are scattered all through the Soviet Union. The private sector is particularly important in Central Russian, Byelorussia, the Baltic republics, in Western Ukraine, and in Georgia, FAO said.

The private farms supplied the main requirements of the rural population, such as milk, meat, and vegetables. They produced little grain.

FAO said one-half of the total area under potatoes in the Soviet Union was on family plots and produced 64 per cent of the total potato crop.

Manure Abundant

FAO said yields on the private plots were higher than on collective and state farms because of the abundant supply in the private sector of organic manure from livestock, and the intensive labor

put in by farmers.

FAO said more than one-third of the cattle in Russia in 1959 were privately owned.

The situation was similar for pigs (24 per cent), sheep (27 per cent), goats (81 per cent), donkeys (90 per cent), camels

(30 per cent), reindeer (14 per cent), and poultry (75 per cent).

FAO said farmers who

worked on the collective and state farms in 1959 spent nearly one-fourth of their time on family plots.

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

(Register and Tribune Syndicate, Emeritus Consultant in Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, 1962)

Fat Mice and Rats

Recently I was much interested to see that a strain of very fat mice appeared. They are now breeding true, and they constitute an interesting variety of mice. Something is wrong with their body chemistry, and hence their getting extremely fat is not due purely to an increase in appetite or a failure of the mechanism which in normal animals and man produces satiety and thus puts a temporary stop to eating.

Now I read (Journal of Heredity) that a "fatty"—extremely overweight—rat has appeared, and is being bred as a variety. Again, it is found that in these animals something is congenitally wrong with the body's handling of fats. As a result, the blood is so full of fat that the liquid portions look milky. It is a very interesting fact that in spite of a blood cholesterol level four times that of ordinary rats, the aorta (big artery that comes out of the heart) as yet—in animals a year old—shows no disease.



"loves to get fat and stay fat." To them the sciences of genetics and body chemistry are usually "closed books."

Helpful information for persons who are overweight is available in Dr. Alvarez' booklet, "Weight Control." Obtain it by sending 25 cents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request for it to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.



NEEDED THE MONEY—Mrs. Joan Pedersen, 19, who donned a black wig, put a pistol in her purse and set out to rob a filling station, is shown in a Chicago police station after she was picked up 10 minutes after the holdup. Mrs. Pedersen said her husband was out of work and needed the money to pay the rent and feed her 15-month-old baby. (UPI)

Student Government Officers Elected

Ashland—George Gilman, Medford, was elected recently as one of four representatives to complete the newly formed student government in the junior and senior division at Southern Oregon college. He is a senior student.

Others elected are LeRoy Hannan, a junior from Ashland; Joan Isham, a senior from Grants Pass, and Lani Frenzel, junior, of Redmond.

The freshmen officers elected for the continuing academic year are Art Diederich, Talent, president; Dennis Jones, Ashland, vice-president; Patty Brewold, Medford, treasurer, and Christi Hinds, Eugene, secretary.

It is interesting to me that the "fatty" mice and rats, when kept on a restricted diet, still are fat in appearance. They are like most fat men and women, who seem to belong to a fat breed of the human race. This hereditary peculiarity explains why so often it is very hard to change their build with diet.

Another interesting finding is that the "fatty" female rats have a small, under-developed womb and are always infertile. When some women become very stout, they, too, tend to become infertile—however, I have known a few women weighing around 300 pounds who bore one or more children.

I think these observations on breeds of excessively fat mice and rats, with the abnormalities in their handling of fats and fat-like substance, can serve as good antidotes to the curious theories that psychoanalysts like to make up to explain why a fat person

Voters Required to Read Constitution

Phoenix—(UPI)—Charges that Negro and Mexican American voters were forced by challengers to read the Constitution before casting their ballots were made at two precincts Tuesday, and a state legislator charged Republicans with "using Mississippi tactics."

John E. Burke, assistant registrar of voters, said specific claims came from south-side precincts of Bethune and Okemah. In both cases, Burke said, challengers identifying themselves as Republicans required voters to line up and read the Constitution before voting.

George Erhardt, county registrar of voters, termed the challengers "over-zealous." Burke said after officers and Asst. County Atty. Jay Greer visited the precincts, the persons making the challenges withdrew. There were no arrests.

Woman's Body Still on Mountain

Mt. Baker, Wash.—(UPI)—Sheriff's officers and mountain rescue crews were forced to give up attempts to recover the body of Joan Huckell, 27, Toronto, Ont., who died in a mountain-climbing accident on Mt. Baker.

The Whatcom county sheriff's office reported heavy snowfalls and winds up to 70 miles an hour had forced rescue crews to turn back from the mountain. They said they would wait until the weather clears to recover the body.

Miss Huckell had been climbing with a companion, Hans Jorritsma, when she fell Saturday. Jorritsma stayed with her Saturday night but decided to hike down the mountain for help on Sunday. Rescue parties were unable to reach the stranded and seriously injured woman.

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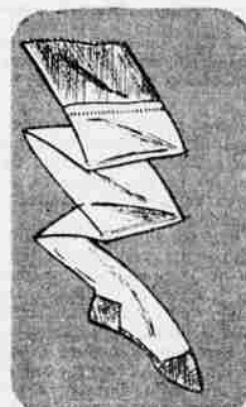
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