



TIME ROLLS ON. A power tiller, capable of twice as much work, moves past a water buffalo pulling a plow in a demonstration of new and old techniques in a Formosan rice paddy.

Meats Tested For Flavoring

Beef loses none of its good eating qualities when animal weight gains are boosted with recommended dosages of stilbestrol hormone, according to an Oregon State College agricultural experiment station research team.

Twelve trained "taste testers" in the OSC food and dairy technology department found it impossible to detect differences between cooked standing-rib roasts from stilbestrol-treated and untreated young beef steers.

Mrs. Lois Sather and A. F. Anglemier, OSC food technologists, and David C. England, animal husbandman, headed up the research project, using more than 90 young steers in their tests. The steers were kept for a 247-day feeding period, about the maximum time used in commercial operations to finish young steers for slaughter.

The feed ration was primarily peavine silage, with barley and mill feed as the grain, small amounts of beet pulp, and five per cent molasses. Some of the

steers received an average of 4½ pounds of grain a day, with others averaging as high as 8½ pounds a day over the entire feeding period.

In the test, stilbestrol pellets implanted in the ears of some of the animals ranged up to 60 milligrams for comparisons with non-treated animals on the same feed ration. This high level, used to insure a rigid test of meat quality, is about double the recommended dosage for young beef steers.

Even with older animals, a 30 to 45 milligram implant of stilbestrol gives maximum gain boosts of one-third to one-half pound a day under most feeding conditions, England said.

Taste testers who gave the stilbestrol treatment the go-ahead sign scored the beef roasts for flavor, tenderness, juiciness, texture, and aroma. The researchers also found no difference between treated and untreated beef in cooking "shrinkage" or in cooking time required per pound of meat.



HARVEST TIME. It is rice harvest time on Formosa and this pretty lass doing her share at Taichung wears gauntleted mittens to protect her arms from the sun because suntans are not fashionable on Formosa. The man behind her is working over a screened tub used to shake the rice grains loose. Free China is harvesting the greatest rice crop in her history: 1,900,000 metric tons, breaking the 1956 record of 1,789,000 tons. Famine, a periodic scourge in Communist China, is unknown on Formosa. In fact, free China will export 200,000 metric tons from the 1957 rice crop to Japan.

USDA Studies New Materials

New insecticides less toxic to warm-blooded animals than any now in general use have been discovered by U.S. Department of Agriculture chemists at Beltsville, Maryland, in their continuing search for insecticidal chemicals that leave no harmful residue.

Results of limited toxicity tests with the new compounds and preliminary trials to determine their effectiveness as insecticides have justified application for a public service patent on these materials, USDA says.

Efficient methods of manufacture must still be worked out before the new materials can become available to the public at reasonable cost.

The new insecticides are derivatives of chrysanthemum acid, a synthetic material similar to an acid found in flowers of the Chrysanthemum family. This acid makes up a part of the molecules of the well-known insecticides pyrethrum and allethrin.

Acute toxicity tests on warm-blooded animals revealed that the new compounds are only one-eighth as toxic as pyrethrum and one-third as toxic as allethrin. Both pyrethrum and allethrin have long been considered the "safest" insecticides.

In the preliminary laboratory tests on insects, two of the new compounds were shown to be equal or better than either pyrethrum or allethrin at high levels of kill, although somewhat slower in "knock-down." Both were less effective as insect killers than DDT and other hydrocarbons, all of which may leave toxic residues. However, the new materials gave good results against larvae of the common malaria mosquito, the codling moth, the salt marsh caterpillar, and the southern army worm. They were also very effective against the body louse.

Further tests are being made to study the effectiveness of these new compounds against other insects. The results will indicate the extent of their use in insect-control work where it is necessary to avoid residues.

Bottles Get Blame For Forest Fires

It's odd but true that summer forest fires are caused by winter-time carelessness.

State foresters point out that many hunters and fishermen who carry liquids in glass containers are tossing the bottles thoughtlessly aside in the woods. When summertime rolls around, the bottles serve as magnifying glasses to focus hot sunshine on dry leaves. Result: More man-caused forest fires.

Farm Family's Costs Higher

Medical costs for the typical American farm family were about as much for each person in 1956 as they were for the whole family in 1941, say U.S. Department of Agriculture home economists. Comparing results of a 1955 survey with those of a similar survey in 1941, they note that farm families spent about \$240—or \$63 a person—for medical care in 1955, but only \$60—\$15 per person—in 1941.

The general rise in prices accounts for a large part of this increased spending for medical care, USDA researchers say. But they point out that farm families have increased their medical expenditures more than their general expenditures and are spending a greater share of their money for medical care than they once did. The researchers suggest that this may be due in part to hospital

building programs in rural communities and other advances, which have helped make medical care available to more rural people.

Health insurance grew much more common among farm families between 1941 and 1955. Although in 1941 nearly all farm families paid for medical care as they received it, by 1955 half of them either belonged to pre-payment plans or carried health insurance. This has probably encouraged greater medical spending. Earlier surveys have shown that families with hospitalization insurance use hospitals more than those without it. Families probably find they can spend more for medical goods and services when expenses are portioned out in regular payments.

Physicians' services took a larger part of the health-care dollar than did any other type of medical expense in both years, taking 38 cents in 1941 and 33 cents in 1955. Hospital care nearly doubled its share of the farm health-care dollar, taking 15 cents in 1941 and 27 cents in 1955. Medicines and drugs took about 17 cents in both years, but dental care dropped from 15 to 12 cents, and eye tests and glasses from eight to six cents.

Farm families spent about three-quarters as much as urban families for medical care in 1955. Although farm families were spending more like city families for food, housing, clothing, transportation, and all other types of family living items, it was in spending for medical care that the two groups were most alike.

Slick Divider



WHERE THE FRONT DOOR enters directly into the living room, a short wall divider defines a partial entryway. This ingeniously designed divider wall may be made of Douglas fir finished in natural tones of burnished gold and will serve as a storage unit for books and bric-a-brac.

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734 So. 6th

Ph. 4-4197