



COW BELLE Frances Comfert, a junior at Mississippi State College, tries her charms on the Jersey shown above at a recent milking contest held on the campus.

Pest Program Employs Atom

This year has marked the beginning of a new era in pest control in the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. In 1957, the by-products of atomic energy were put to use in this country against the screwworm, a serious menace to livestock and wildlife.

The use of harmless, irradiated screwworm flies to help eliminate this pest from the southeastern

part of the United States represents one of the most important and dramatic aspects of the year's efforts by USDA to safeguard livestock and poultry.

The year also registered an outstanding triumph in animal disease control. In 1957, for the first time since 1939, no case of vesicular exanthema was found in the United States. At the height of its outbreak in 1953-1954, this dreaded

swine disease was reported in 42 states.

Control and eradication of pests and diseases is just one phase of USDA's livestock regulatory program. Other responsibilities include: inspection and quarantine of animals and animal products brought into this country to prevent the introduction of foreign pests and diseases; licensing and inspecting of veterinary biologics for safety and potency; and close inspection of packing and processing activities to assure the na-

tion clean and wholesome meat and meat food products.

Preliminary work began on screw-worm eradication this year. When the campaign goes into full operation sometime next summer, more than 50 million screwworm flies, sterilized by Cobalt-60 radiation, will be released each week. Continued distribution of sterile male flies will gradually eliminate the natural screwworm population which now causes an estimated 10 million dollars worth of damage each year to livestock in Florida alone.

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USDA Gives Surplus Foods

Donation of 6.5 billion pounds of foods from U.S. Department of Agriculture stocks for distribution in this country and in foreign countries in the last five fiscal years was reported by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson at the National Conference on Food Donations December 18 in Washington, D.C. These donated foods were valued at \$1,619,000,000.

In issuing the progress report on the Department's Direct Distribution Program Secretary Benson said, "Never in history has a nation been more generous in making its food supply available to the needy than has the United States during the last five years. Donations from our abundance are now going to more than 75 million people in our own land and in other countries around the world. We are humbly grateful for this blessing of sharing our good fortune with others."

In this country, foods are being donated by the department for about 12 million children participating in school lunch programs, for nearly 1.5 million persons in 1,000 charitable institutions, and for about 3 million needy persons in family units. Distribution of the foods to these groups is handled by state and local agencies. Domestic needs are given first priority, and only those quantities in excess of domestic needs are offered for foreign donation.

Through the foreign distribution program, Department of Agriculture donated foods have been made available to more than 60 million people in nearly 100 countries. The foods are processed and packaged by the department, and voluntary foreign service agencies arrange for the shipment and distribution overseas. Twenty-two of these voluntary agencies are now distributing foods in foreign countries.

A summary of food donations, both at home and abroad, during the last five years is given in a publication entitled "Sharing America's Abundance." It can be obtained from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

INVENTED AIR CONDITIONING

Dr. Willis Carrier is credited with the invention of modern air conditioning in 1902, but Leonardo da Vinci created a waterdrive fan to ventilate the boudoir of his patron's wife about 1500 A.D., 400 years earlier.

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