

State College Economist Contrasts U. S., Russian Farms

What's farming like in Russia? An American farmer would probably say "it is sort of on the sorry side." Khrushchev has expressed about the same opinion, but for different reasons, of course.

Communists like to explain away their farm shortages in terms of such things as weather problems and war losses. Americans say communist agriculture is a flop because the lack of modern technology in production and marketing and the lack of farmer incentives.

But what is Russian agriculture really like? How does it differ from American agriculture?

Charles Brooks, an agricultural economist at State College, has made some comparisons. The contrasts are sharp.

First, Russia has about 650 million acres of crop and hay land. This is 190 million more than the United States. But despite their larger acreage, Russian farmers use only about one-third as much fertilizer as U. S. farmers.

Labor is a different story. In 1959 there were 48 million people working on Russian farms. This was about 45 per cent of the total labor force. In the U. S., the job is done by 11 per cent of the total labor force.

Use of machinery helps explain part of the difference. American farmers were using 4.7 million tractors in 1962; Russian farmers had only 1.2 million.

Brooks said the structure of farm organization is very different between the U. S. and Russia. The U. S. has about 3.5 million farms. The majority of these farms are family-owned and the decisions are made by the operator. In 1962, Russia had 40,600 collective farms and 8,600 state farms.

Brooks explained that collective farms were formed by forcing small peasants to give up their individual holdings. The state determines what will be grown, who will grow it and how much they will receive for growing it.

The average collective farm in 1962 had about 7,000 acres in cultivation, which were worked by about 400 families.

Brooks points out that the state farms are "considered the highest form of socialized agricultural production carried out on such farms.

In 1962, the average state farm contained about 25,000 acres and was cultivated by about 800 workers. These workers were paid "factory-like" wages.

In addition to the collective and state farms, there are almost 26 million private plots in Russia. These plots, averaging about two-thirds acre each, are considered the property of individual farmers. Farmers can work the plots as they wish and have what they make.

Although these plots amounted to only about 3 per cent of all land cultivated in Russia in 1962, they accounted for one-third of the total

agricultural output. What do Russian farmers grow? Brooks found some information on that too.

Wheat, rye, barley, oats and potatoes are the main crops. In the U. S. it would be corn, wheat, soybeans and oats.

Russia has put heavy emphasis on livestock production in recent years. Meat output increased 100 per cent during the '50's, but production of most meat is still far below production in the U. S.

For example, in 1961, per capita meat production in Russia was 37 per cent of that in the U. S. Her milk production was 77 per cent of the U. S. average when put on a per person basis. Egg production was only 40 per cent.

These difference in agricultural production show up in the diets of Americans and Russians, Brooks said. Three-fourths of the calorie supply for communist countries, for example, comes from grains, roots, and tubers. These items account for only one-fourth of the U. S. diet.

Americans, on the other hand, get almost one-third of their calorie supply from livestock products. People in communist countries get only 7 per cent.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor
Lenoir County News
403 West Vernon Avenue
Kinston, N. C.
Dear Sir:

The members of the Lenoir-Greene-Jones Counties Medical Society deeply appreciate the cooperation of so many people who helped our Sabin Oral Polio Vaccine program succeed.

Individuals who participated full time, part time or spontaneously as occasion demanded, overflowed our records so that many acts of generosity never can be known or properly acknowledged.

For this reason, we would like to use this means of thanking one and all, and not the least, those who tried to "Stop Polio" by taking the vaccine.

Sincerely yours,
P. M. Dunning, M.D.
Chairman, Immunization
Committee
Lenoir-Greene-Jones
Medical Society

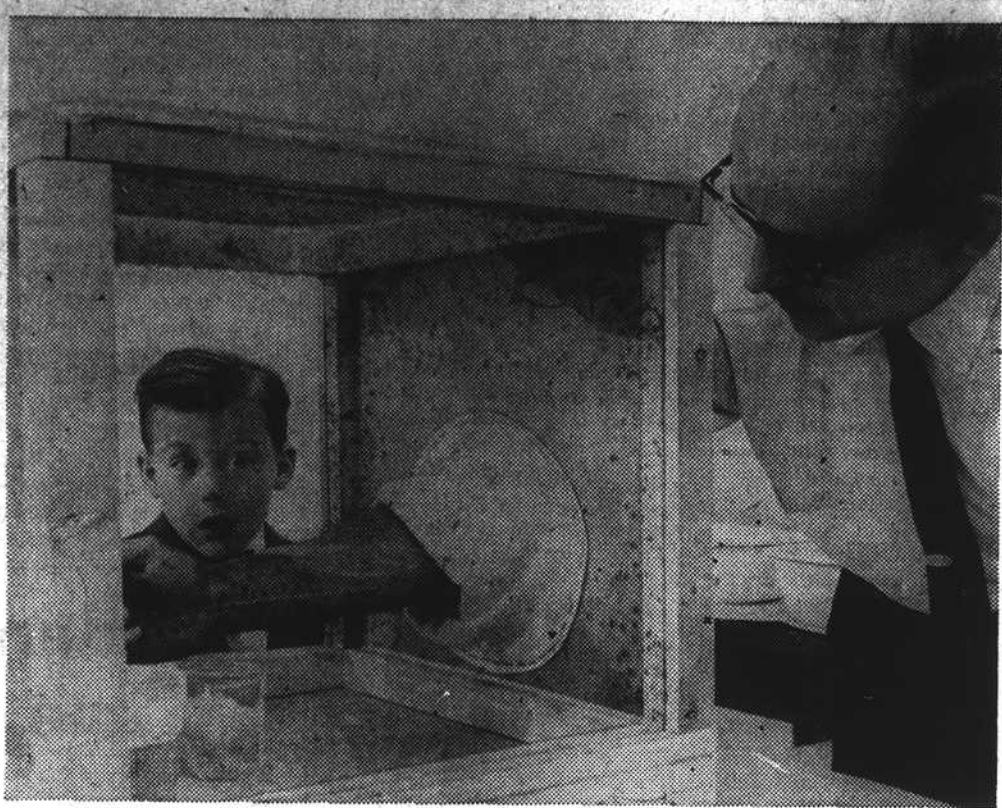
SENATOR SAM

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many feel are already bumping high levels.

The paring down of proposed medical benefits and the necessity of increased social security taxes to meet the cost renews the question, among others, of the feasibility of the plan.

As the session reaches the halfway point, the important questions



ARM DEFENSE—Wide-eyed visitor to Washington, D.C., Russell F. Forte, watches Agriculture Department specialist thrust his arm into a cage full of mosquitoes. After spraying with a new repellent, mosquitoes shunned his arm instead of clinging to it.

Cattlemen Asking Cuts In Imports of Beef

Approximately 1,750,000,000 pounds (carcass weight) of beef and veal were imported into the United States in 1963. This is 20 percent more than in 1962 and 360 percent more than in 1956.

This was the equivalent of more than 2,916,000 carcasses of 600 pounds each, and is equal to 6 weeks capacity of all the federally inspected cattle slaughtering establishments in the country.

before Congress continue to be how to meet the needs of society without submerging individual personality and freedom, how to keep a proper balance in the delicate structure of constitutional government, and how to cope with ever mounting costs of government.

These are the constant tasks of the Congress. The answers are complex. They are not cut and dried. They continue to constitute the real decisions that engage the Congress and the country from day to day, and from session to session.

United States is today the world's largest producer of beef; the world's largest importer of beef; and the only major beef market without any quantitative restrictions and with only a very nominal fixed import duty. Cattle prices have reflected this situation for the past year and a half.

Exactly how much imports have affected the domestic price structure is very hard to determine. Many market men are saying that the imports have depressed prices \$1 to \$3 per hundred.

Cattle producers and feeders are asking with even louder voices when the Federal government is going to assert its constitutional authority "to regulate commerce with foreign nations" in the matter of excessive beef imports. The Summer issue of Farm Quarterly magazine notes that the

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