

# FARM NEWS

Present U. S. bituminous coal production from surface mines, about 110 million tons annually, is 7 times as great as it was in 1925.

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Farmers who are established and solvent are advised by ABC agricultural economist to keep out of debt, modernize homes where needed and protect their properties with insurance.



## Breetings

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to all of you—  
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Season, filled to the  
brim with joys of  
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## Joy at Christmas

Now is the time  
for all Good Holiday  
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to all our friends  
the best of health  
and joy for Christmas  
and the New Year.

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### B. DALE BALL NAMED DIRECTOR AT LANSING

Recently named deputy director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture was B. Dale Ball of Willsboro, for the past three years coordinator of the Department's division of institutional farms.

Mr. Ball takes over the post of deputy director, a position left vacant by George S. McIntyre, who became director of the Department on December 1. Mr. McIntyre has served as acting director since the retirement of Charles Fitzgery in the fall.

Mr. Ball, although only 38, has had a lifetime of experience in agriculture. He was graduated from Michigan State College in 1939 and taught vocational agriculture at Yale and at Lapeer. For several years he engaged in Soil Conservation Service work before joining the department to take over management of the state's 15 institutional farms and herds. On these institutional farms production each year amounts to more than two million dollars worth of food which is consumed entirely in the state's institutions.

Mr. Ball owns a 138-acre farm north of Howell. He also has a herd of 45 purebred Holstein cattle.

Much of coal's energy in the future may be transmitted from electrical power stations at the fuel source by long-distance transmission lines.

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### Part I: Secretary Of Agriculture Benson Discusses U. S. Farm Problems

NOTE: This is the first of a series of articles prepared by Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture.

This nation has a serious farm problem. It does not affect agriculture alone. It is everybody's problem. Today our government has approximately \$5 billion of your money invested in farm commodities.

You own outright more than \$2.5 billion worth of wheat, corn, cotton, and other surplus farm products. You have outstanding loans on agricultural commodities totaling about the same amount. This figure is growing daily.

You are paying more than \$14 million each month just to store these surpluses. This bill is growing, too, as additional inventories are accumulated by your government.

The losses which your government sustained in disposing of even a small portion of your holdings during the first three months of this fiscal year amounted to \$47 million.

But, you ask, don't we have a farm program designed to insure agricultural prosperity and prevent the very situation we find ourselves in today?

The answer is that we are operating under the same farm program we had last year and for several previous years. Actually we have strengthened it in several important respects to permit farmers to take broader advantage of its provisions. Existing legislation binds us to a continuance of price supports at 80 per cent of parity on basic commodities for the 1954 crop year.

Nevertheless, farm prices have declined steadily from the record peaks established under the impact of the Korean war in February, 1951. During the 12 months immediately before I became Secretary of Agriculture, the farm price parity ratio slid from 113 to 95 per cent. Since February of this year, prices have been more stable than in 1952, averaging about 93 per cent of parity.

This story of declining farm income and mounting agricultural surpluses is the best evidence that

### PRICE SUPPORTS HIT NEW HIGH, SAYS DONDERO

Congressman George A. Dondero this week cited figures put out by the Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, showing that farm price support costs to American taxpayers reached a new high this fall.

"Price support program loans and inventories," declared Congressman Dondero, "amounted to \$1,053,142,000 at the end of September, an all-time high. The previous peak was about \$17,000,000 less at the end of February, 1950."

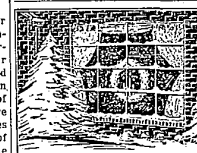
"At the same time, Commodity Credit Corporation's net loss on its operations for the first three months of this year amounted to \$16,700,000, compared with \$61,100,000 for the fiscal year ending last June 30."

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### Persistence Pays Off For 4-H Girl Winner

Miss Phyllis Curtis of Swartz Creek, who won the grand championship prize with her steer at the Detroit Junior Livestock Show, forced the persistence taught her by 4-H Club work pays off.

The pretty 20-year-old farm girl won the top award of the show after nine good but unsuccessful tries in previous years. Her "Little Joe," a sleek jet-black Angus calf was picked by Judge William Van Arsdell as the outstanding beef animal of the show. Hamady Brothers Market of Flint paid \$450 a pound for the animal—or a total of \$5,080.



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### Avoid Pig Rickets Add Yeast To Feed

Watch out for signs of rickets in pigs this time of year. Lack of sunshine and supplementary vitamin D in the ration are the causes, Michigan State College veterinarians say.


Dr. Frank Thorpe suggests including irradiated yeast in the feed. That will take care of the vitamin D need. You can buy it at a feed store and mix it in the feed yourself, or you can have your local elevator do the job. The rate is a half-pound of yeast to the ton of feed.

If your pigs already have rickets, Dr. Thorpe advises, consult your veterinarian.

## BEST BUYS!

### Annex Used Furniture

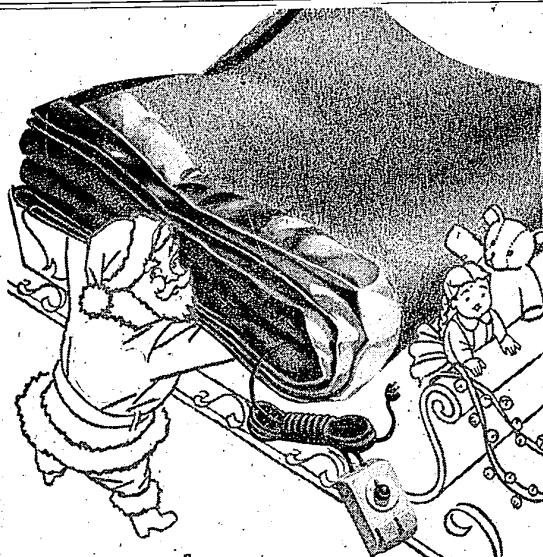
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## MERRY Christmas

The Yuletide season is a wonderful time. With it comes fun and laughter for the children, good cheer and pleasure for the grown-ups. May all the happiness that comes to you and your dear ones this Christmas continue throughout the New Year.

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## Best Wishes

In the true spirit of this most joyous of holidays, we wish all our friends and neighbors a full measure of happiness, health and prosperity.

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS

May the good cheer of the season enter your home at Christmas and abide with you and yours through all the days and months to come. To all we extend our sincerest wishes for health, happiness and the fulfillment of dreams most dearly cherished...

**JIM BURNS BUICK, Inc.**

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Farm, 1411