

WE'RE ALL FARMERS

A colleague asks about "a college that serves just one group—the farmers." We would ask him to accept our definition that "We're all farmers, if you include all who are helped by a modern, efficient agriculture."

Many critics of government spending for agriculture overlook the fact that efficient, plentiful production of high quality farm products is a direct benefit to the entire population. It means cheaper, better food for everyone.

It would cost consumers in the U.S. \$15 billion more each year for foods and fibers if farm technology today were no more advanced than in 1940. Public and private research programs—notably in the Land Grant colleges and U.S. Department of Agriculture—have had a large part in the progress.

Additionally, USDA operates a number of services almost strictly for consumers and not for farmers at all, such as public inspection and grading of meat and other food products.

Or take an example right here in Arizona—the lettuce harvester being perfected by agricultural engineers in our own college. With the bracero program winding up, with domestic labor reluctant or unsuited for the stoop labor of lettuce harvesting, let-

tuce could soon be priced so high that it would no longer be widely available to the American people unless this new automated harvesting were available.

Take another example—soil conservation, the saving of irreplaceable topsoil. Early civilizations crumbled and disappeared because of wholesale soil erosion. In our own country we lost nearly half our topsoil between colonial days and the dustbowl era of the 1930's.

Then came the soil conservation act of 1935, soil erosion was greatly reduced, and a rich and productive topsoil is being preserved—not just for farmers, but for the security and well being of all Americans, including generations not yet born.

In agricultural programs the farmer actually is a middleman, a processor who turns the benefits of research, improved methods and greater efficiency, into better living for all of us, in cities and farms throughout America.

Harold E. Myers

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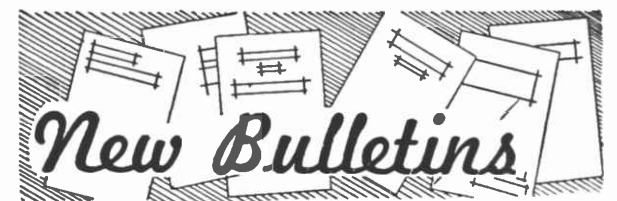
Our Cover Picture Is Patriotic Pose

The two alert young people on horseback, carrying the nation's and 4-H flags, as pictured on our cover, are (left to right) Donna Howe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Howe, and Jim Sexton, son of Mrs. Ethyl Sexton, both of Young, in Gila County. They are members of the Pleasant Valley 4-H Club.

This patriotic motif was chosen for two reasons—to tie in with the interesting agricultural story of Gila County by Pat Gray and Mary Kay Simmons, and also because this publication date coincides with our nation's birthday, the Fourth of July.

Readers may be interested to know that such pictures do not come easily. An entire troop of riders was summoned to saddle up for the picture taking, and the scheduled day turned out to be exceedingly windy.

With horses nervously walking and



A-34 (reprint) Forage Production on Arizona Ranges III—Mohave County

turning, with flags waving and snapping in the breeze, with some of the horses young and only green broke, it was inevitable that accidents occurred. One girl was thrown from her horse, another kicked by a horse. The photographer's camera acted up, so extra pictures were necessary.

We just want you readers to know the efforts made—mostly by County Agent Pat Gray—to provide you with an attractive cover picture. We also wish to thank those enterprising 4-H youngsters in Gila County who went through this ordeal just for us.