

OUR AGRICULTURE IS BEST

By George W. Campbell

The Soviet Union (Russia) uses almost twice as much land and more than seven times as many farm workers to produce a little more than one half (60%) as much agricultural products as the United States. One Russian farm worker produces enough food for himself and five others. One U. S. farm worker produces enough for himself and 30 others.

Almost half of Russia's total labor force is "tied up" in producing food and fiber, compared to about 10 percent of the U. S. total labor force. Consequently, due to our farmers' unmatched efficiency, even though our labor force is only about two-thirds as much as Russia's, we have about five million more workers than Russia who are free to work at jobs other than food and fiber production.

U. S. farmers by the efficient and extensive use of tractors, harvesting machines, fertilizers and other forms of capital and the constant application of results of scientific research, have become so productive that *our* agricultural problems are problems of *surpluses*. Russia's agricultural problems are problems of scarcity. Russian agricultural production has not increased as fast as has its population. U. S. agricultural production has consistently increased faster than our population.

The average factory worker in the USSR must work 10 percent longer to buy the same *kind* and *amount* of food as he did in 1928. In the U. S., he works half as long for higher quality and greater quantities of food.

The average factory worker in the USSR spends 60 to 65 percent of his take home pay for food; the U. S. worker spends 18 percent for food.

The average factory worker in Moscow must work twice as long as the New York worker to buy a pound of rye bread, 21 times as long for sugar, 9 times as long for butter, 8 times as long for eggs, 6 times as long for tea, 4 times as long for beef, 4 times

as long for milk, 4 times as long for potatoes, 16 times as long for a man's cotton shirt, 11 times as long for a man's wool suit, 16 times as long for a woman's rayon street dress, 11 times as long for women's shoes, 15 times as long for men's shoes, 10 times as long for soap, 4 times as long for vodka, and 4 times as long for cigarettes.

Due in large measure to the inefficiency of Russia's farmers, and to the efficiency of our farmers, the real income of the average Russian is only a fourth to one-third of that of the average American. Indeed, insofar as it can be measured, the Russian's income today is very close to that of the American in 1890. This comparison includes the medical care, education, and related services provided by the government.

A family of four to six persons in Moscow, characteristically lives in a one room "apartment," shares a tiny kitchen with four other families, and a single toilet and shower with eight other families.

The Russians of today are not starving, and are in no danger of doing so. They probably consume more total calories than we do. Most of these calories, however, are in bread and potatoes. The Russian eats about twice as much bread and potatoes as the American — but less than half the meat, less than one-third of the eggs, and only about one-fourth of the milk.

The agricultural problems of the U. S. are complex, serious, and vexing. Attempts to solve them have been, are, and will be costly to us as tax payers. Nevertheless, I would not choose to swap *our* agricultural problems for those of the Russians.

I, for one, thank God that our agricultural problems are problems of *surplus* and not problems of scarcity.

O.K. TO BLOW UP BARN

Buildings that blow up like balloons now show potential for agricultural uses, according to South Dakota State University. The air-supported structures have been found useful as portable processing plants, temporary storage, temporary labor housing, livestock show houses or as crop storage structures that can be ventilated or collapsed on the product alternately, if necessary for conditioning.

Dr. Campbell is an agricultural economist in the Extension Service. He is reporting on his own observations as a recent visitor to the USSR.

U.S. Agriculture—1980

If the American farm of yesterday is hard to recognize today, think how it will be tomorrow.

Economists who trace trends foresee big changes down on the farm by 1980.

Many young people have already quit the family farm, leaving dad to man the tractors.

But dad is now beginning to think of trailer life in Florida. Who will replace him?

Many college-educated farmer's sons will return — but as ambitious businessmen rather than farmers. They will demand capital, new credit practices, modern equipment, and a big enough plant to harvest a good profit.

So farms will grow bigger. Assets per farm and farm worker are expected to double by 1980. Computers will be rolled in to help solve questions dad used to answer by hunch.

These trends, already shaping, will pick up still more momentum.

—Christian Science Monitor.

4 Tucson Girls Win County Dress Revue

Four Tucson girls who created their own wardrobes will represent Pima County in the dress revue and fashion show at the state 4-H Roundup on the U of A campus July 26-30.

They are:

— Amy Roberts, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon Roberts. She is a member of the Nimble Fingers 4-H Club.

— Claudia Park, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Park. She is a member of the Tanque Verde Community 4-H Club.

— Kathy Kegans, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kirby Kegans, a member of the Nimble Fingers 4-H Club.

— Jeanette Roberts, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garold Roberts, and a member of the Nimble Fingers 4-H Club.

The statewide winner, to be chosen here this July, will go on to the national 4-H Congress in Chicago next November.