

Farm Accidents, Health Problems Need Attention

By

Victor A. Christopherson

Development of medical and related sciences has been such that human beings now survive and sometimes thrive under conditions that would have been fatal or almost totally disabling a short time ago.

However, there still is a wide gap between many of those who need medical and rehabilitation help and the sources of such help. This gap is sometimes caused by a lack of knowledge concerning available facilities and services and sometimes by hard-to-describe factors which reside in the person or in the rural culture of the disabled agricultural worker. For example, the injured farm worker who remains on the farm following the onset of disability is frequently resistant to occupational training that would remove him from the rural environment.

The individual who has left the farm prior to contact with the vocational rehabilitation agency seems already to have made the psychological adjustment prerequisite to vocational re-education.

Rural-Urban Gap Narrows

In many respects, the so-called "rural way of life" has changed so that the gap between rural and urban culture has narrowed substantially. Even though transportation, mass media and other aspects of modern technology have obscured clear-cut lines between the rural and the urban, in the interest of providing needed medical and rehabilitation services, one should keep in mind the possibility that real differences exist in important areas of rural and non-rural life.

It has been suggested that . . . The demands of an agricultural existence tend to give the farmer a psychological make-up quite different from that

Professor Christopherson is chairman of the Division of Child Development and Family Relations, in the School of Home Economics.

Plastic Cone Aids Desert Survival



Ray D. Jackson of the U. S. Water Conservation Laboratory at Phoenix (in white coat) gives a group of agricultural plastics experts a few tips on how to survive if they get lost in the desert.

The inverted white cones are simple pieces of plastic film small enough to fit in the palm of the hand — or carried in a pocket. The hole is about a yard wide and 20 inches deep. A container is first placed in the pit at the center of the hole.

Then the plastic is spread over it, forming an inverted cone.

Sunlight penetrates the plastic film and heats the soil and surrounding plant materials. Moisture from the soil rises and condenses on the cooler plastic, then flows to the center and into the cup.

These water drops, running along the underside of the film to drop into the cup, may total up to three pints of water a day — important to survival of a human.

of the city resident. Typically his contacts with people tend to be fewer and he is thrown more completely on his own resources . . . He is more attached to the traditional, the 'tried and true' way of doing things. His closeness to nature and his relative helplessness against the ravages of drought or flood or windstorm make him somewhat fatalistic and, at the same time, rather stoical about the misfortunes of life. Obviously these attitudes have a bearing on the farm family's reaction to illness, injuries, or impairments, and to the need for medical services.

Physicians who practice in rural areas tend to be the senior members of their profession. Their average age

has been estimated at more than 50 years. The significance of this is largely related to the recency with which rehabilitation has become a specialized field involving, in addition to medicine, such fields as physical therapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation nursing, psychometrics, psychology, vocational counseling and home economics — principally nutrition and work simplification. In general, rural areas are underprivileged in medical services.

Expensive to the Nation

Disease and disability are known to cost the United States some \$35 billion per year. The economic cost of farm accidents alone can only be

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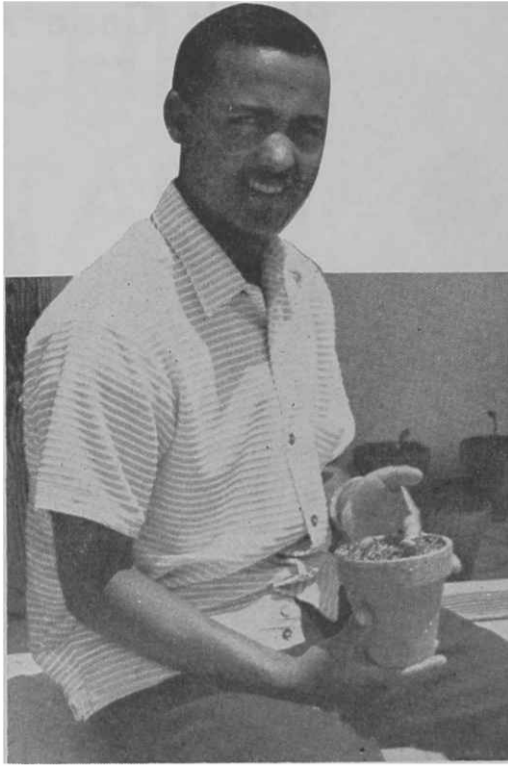
Ethiopian Student Gives Thanks to U.S.

Bantayehu Gelaw, pictured here in the agronomy greenhouse on this campus, completed his graduate studies in this College of Agriculture last June. Title of his thesis was "Factors Affecting Germination of Safflower Seed." Bantayehu is now a lecturer at the Haile Selassie First University, in his native Ethiopia.

Writing to his major professor, Dr. Robert Dennis, Bantayehu speaks feelingly of his appreciation for the opportunity to study in this country and on this campus:

"Each year about 5,000 foreign students are enrolled in colleges of the United States under the sponsorship of the AID Program. I am one of the 5,000. My two years in the United States have enabled me to know and respect Americans, for they have extended their hands in friendship.

"To the people of America I want to say thank you. Surely this support of students from foreign lands will help in an understanding which will benefit all of the countries of the world and their citizens. The ideal of



BANTAYEHU GELAW

this and other similar programs will be reached when the exchange functions both ways. Perhaps someday soon more American youth will be privileged to live and study in other continents beyond the shores of their country. I will work toward making this possible in my country, Ethiopia.

"One of the many projects of the

AID program is the implementation of a long term plan for agricultural extension, research and education. A major part of this plan consists of training appropriately individuals of many different nationalities.

"As an Ethiopian, I hate cruelty and arrogance wherever it exists. It is my firm belief that neither law nor police force will change the inherent thinking of individuals or nations. Much has been done to wipe out racial discrimination from the face of the earth, but unless peace is built in the hearts of men, true love, respect and mutual co-existence will not endure.

"It is my earnest desire, now that I am back in Ethiopia, to use the training I have received in the United States to help raise yields and the standard of living of the people of my country. Ethiopia holds a unique position in her support of freedom and is a strong supporter of the basic principle that only through collective security and international morality can lasting peace be attained. My studies at the University of Arizona will help me to be of greater service to the people of my country."

FARM SIZE AND BEET COSTS

Bigness, alone, does not insure a production cost advantage for sugar beet growers. Increased output accounts for only 25 percent of the decreased cost per ton, say North Dakota agricultural economists. Other important factors affecting total cost per ton are managerial ability, soil fertility, and weather. L. D. Loftsgard and Robert Yaggie conducted a study involving 132 growers. They found that with average costs and an average yield of 13 tons an acre, the grower with 500 acres has production costs about \$1.50 less per ton than the grower with 35 acres.

FOOD SPENDING

Consumers spent \$85.5 billion for food last year, according to USDA, Food expenditures averaged \$439 per person.

NO ES PRACTICO seleccionar ovinos en base a simples preferencias y gustos. Hay caracteres hereditarios que no se pueden tolerar aun cuando los animales que los presentan pretenden algún mérito. Debe descartarse todo animal que presente uno de estos defectos: Prognatismo superior o inferior. Patas deformes. Conformación pobre o defectuosa. Vellón con características indeseables como la presencia de fibras pigmentadas y de pelos. Cara cubierta de lana o ceguera por lana.

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estimated. It seems highly probable, however, that hospitalization and medical treatment are but minor in relation to the cost of loss of wages and production.

The agricultural industry appears to be among the most hazardous. The actual number of deaths resulting from farm work has been larger in recent years than that of any other major industry. However, the death rate per 100,000 workers places the agricultural industry behind mining and construction work, respectively.

Even though farm accident fatalities run high, the non-fatal injuries appear to occur about 500 times as frequently. Figures from the National Safety Council suggest that approximately 1,000,000 such injuries occur every year. Tractors alone account for approximately 45,000 non-fatal accidents per year.

The agricultural worker is very prominent in injury and mortality tables, yet his vocational disposition, once a disabling injury has occurred, is something of a mystery. For ex-

ample, in Arizona many of those who receive vocational rehabilitation are referred from the State Industrial Commission.

However, those eligible for Industrial Commission benefits are limited to persons whose injuries were incurred through operation of farm machinery only. Very few, if any, records are kept on the large numbers who apparently do not come to the attention of the Industrial Commission or the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

We Can Do Better

Preventing disabling accidents and diseases and, once they have occurred, helping the individual acquit himself with dignity and profit, both occupationally and socially, are goals worthy of the best talents and efforts of a concerned society. That agricultural injuries result in a tremendous economic and human loss cannot be gainsaid. It is time that both medical and social sciences accord the rehabilitation of the disabled agricultural worker the high priority the problem deserves.