Home freezer management

Good management of the home freezer can cut costs and provide convenience, according to Catherine Knarr, KU Extension specialist in home management.

Frequent complaints are that the freezer isn't big enough, Miss Knarr says. The U.S.D.A. has provided a guide to determine freezer size requirements. Usually, six cubic feet of freezer space per person is adequate; one cubic foot of space will accommodate about 35 pounds of food.

Often the problem is in the management of freezer space rather than the size of the freezer, she points out. In many cases, the homemaker just can't resist freezing more of the early fruits and vegetables than her family needs. Food bargains are often bought for the freezer, regardless of whether or not they fit in with family food plans.

Miss Knarr gives these recommendations for good freezer management. Choose good quality food and process it carefully. Freeze the foods you need and use often. Avoid long storage since food remains at top quality indefinitely, even though frozen. Keep an accurate inventory so you will know the foods on hand and the length of time they have been stored.

For the most economical operation of the home freezer, keep it full with a rapid turnover of food, suggests Miss Knarr.

General business to be good next two years

Lexington, Ky., June 29 (Special)—General business activity, except for farming, has continued its improvement since early 1954, and probably will continue at a favorable level the next two years.

That's the statement in the bywekly business outlook letter of the U.K. Experiment Station and Extension Service economics department, issued yesterday.

The report noted considerable improvement in the last year in such areas of business as home construction; durable goods manufacture; consumer spending; private income; government spending, etc., but said,

"Unfortunately agriculture is not likely to share in the improved economic situation to the extent of other segments of the economy in the near future."

James Pearson, economist, said farm income in May, 1959 was nine percent under that of May, 1958. "Despite the fact consumers' disposable income (money to spend) is increasing, as is population, the farm income situation has worsened—despite an increasing for agricultural products (food and fiber). This is due . . . to the cyclical increase in livestock production that began in the latter part of 1958. This means that for several reasons, agricultural production has increased at a faster rate than consumer demand and (products of the farm) must be moved at lower prices and lower total income."

Pearson noted that livestock production, however, helped farmers maintain farm income at a relatively high level during the 1958 recession.

In other fields of the economy:

Gross national product was $467 billion in the first quarter of this year, a 9.3 percent increase over the first quarter of 1958. (Gross national product is a total of government spending, personal spending and private investment.) Private investment is up in the last year; consumer expenditures and government purchases also have risen.

There have been important changes in construction outlays: one is in private home building, up a third from 1958; manufacturers' "new orders" are up 20 percent; new durable goods business is up almost a third; and nondurables, about 12 percent.

April's industrial production was up 18 percent this year over 1958, the report says, with principal gains in steel, automobiles and machinery.

Other factors indicating favorable conditions: Unemployment continues to decline; personal income totals are up more than 10 percent from 1958; consumers are spending more freely; and the consumer price index has held steady the last 10 months.

Improved prices for broilers is forecast

Improved prices for broilers in the next few weeks was forecast this week by the U. K. Agriculture Extension Service economics department in its biweekly outlook letter.

Everette Mackey, economist, said a smaller supply of broilers and a period of high demand will mean improved prices. Broiler chick placement the last four weeks have been under 1958's placements, he says, which will result in a reduced supply by about late July. Coupled to that reduction is an increased consumption by the public of about 15 percent, he added, since July 1, 1958.

Mackey noted the peak in weekly volume of marketable broilers, 35 million head per week, will be reached in mid-June; but by late July the weekly figure will be down to about 32 million head, it is anticipated.

For the egg business, Mackey foresees little chance of improvement through the laying period of hens now in production. Egg prices now are at the lowest price since before World War II, he noted.

Mackey suggested egg producers make a careful check of production methods and cut inefficient production and handling procedures to reduce costs and up profits.

One such improvement, he says, would be for producers to make an "orderly planning of egg production" to coincide with seasonal demands and create a more stable supply throughout the season. This would result "in a more uniform price at a average level".

Farm facts

by William C. Johnstone
Soil Losses. Millions and millions of tons of fertile top-soil were washed away from Kentucky's best land this spring—land good enough to produce cash crops. Although the scars may be covered up, nothing can be done to replace the soil that was lost.

The month of May is often a bad time for erosion in Kentucky but this past May was unusually so. A lot of hilly land, plowed for corn, tobacco and soy beans was exposed to the heavy rains without the protection of roots or cover. When the excess water started to run the sea it carried with it the very life blood of future generations. Often great gullies, clay banks and rocks were left to blemish the face of the earth and sheet-erosion, although less dramatic, was even more destructive. Most of the losses could have been prevented if a few simple principals had been followed, the most important being that of using land for the purposes to which it is best adapted. Land should never be plowed unless erosion is effectively controlled, which means, of course, keeping hilly land in trees or pastures unless it is protected by terraces, sod strips and other mechanical or vegetative means.

Human Losses. At this time of the year we are also shocked to read in the papers about so many casualties on Kentucky farms resulting from carelessness in handling equipment and livestock. Most of these losses are also preventable. In many Kentucky counties Farm Safety Committees have been formed to carry out safety education and prevention. Among other activities, these committees aid in promoting National Farm Safety Week, which begins on July 19. This year, let's do all we can to reduce accidents on the farm and in the home.

Labor Disparity. Today there was an "ad" in the paper offering "cut-up" broilers for thirty-three cents a pound and whole ones for twenty-nine cents. This is a cost of about ten cents per bird for the minute or so of labor required to disjoint a chicken and is far more than the grower received for all of his labor in growing the bird over an eight weeks period."

I don't know what we can do about the situation but it does point-up the importance of education in the lives of farm youths. Their training should permit them to be able to take their places in occupations other than farming. May the day come soon when the scarsity of farmers—but fertility—will enable producers of food and fiber to make incomes comparable with those who process and distribute the same products.

A recent study at the University of Kentucky shows that each year about 11,000 farm boys in Kentucky are released to the labor market but only 1100 opportunities on farms with a gross income of $2700 or more are open to them. There are three alternatives available for those not fortunate enough to be among those who inherit profitable farming units—either enroll their competitors by a wide margin, find employment off the farm or count themselves among those who will have a sub-standard level of living.

In the laboratory, scientists were successful in reducing populations of malaria-carrying mosquitoes by sterilizing the males with Cobalt-60; the process is the same used in eradicating the screw-worm fly in a Caribbean island.

Shorn lambs gained sometimes as high as 50 percent faster than unshorn lambs in an Illinois tett last summer.

Use warm water for sprinkling clothes. It dampens garments more quickly and evenly than cold water.

Highest annual per capita consumption of food in the U. S. in the last 50 years was 1,500 pounds.

SOMETHING SWEET . . . Australian-born actor Ron Randell blows out a candle on 1st day of his American citizenship. Helping celebrate, wife Laya Raki.

Potatoes are one of the housewife's best food buys from an economy standpoint, and they are also a good source of food value.

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INEVITABLE AFFAIR

By Orlan Jones

THERE was nothing personal between Ray Thompson and Miss Decker, the bookkeeper, but she was older than the others and a shade brighter. That's why he sometimes said things to her that he wouldn't say to anyone else.

A little after 8:30, he stopped in front of her desk.

"This extra-curricular stuff always travels a pretty wavy course, doesn't it?" he asked. She was the kind of woman you didn't have to explain things to; she'd know what he meant.

"All the cases I've ever seen," she agreed.

"And the system seems the same," Roy continued. "Afternoon appointments first, then late at night rendezvous, fake business trips and so on."

"Just about," she nodded.

"Why do people do it?"

"I'm not married. You'll have to answer that yourself."

"Come on, Miss Decker. Why do they do it?"

She leaned back in her chair, silent a minute. "Trouble at home, I suppose. Some wives get too busy being wives." Turning abruptly back to her work she added, "And mothers."

Roy returned to his desk slowly. He had been asking for it, and he got it. His wife was too busy being a wife—and mother. He thought of the thousand pitched battles they had had when all he wanted was for her to relax, to take more time for herself, and for him.

At 2:30 he reached out and picked up the phone with a gesture of impatience. Maybe he needed to be a black sheep for awhile.

"Helen?" he said into the phone, and the intimate use of her name rang strangely in his ears.

"Roy," she bubbled, "I never thought I'd see the day you called me from the office. Is anything wrong?"

"I've decided to have my afternoon coffee with you. Meet me at Fred's on the highway in 30 minutes."

"It takes some doing for me to get away," she hesitated.

"I don't care what it takes. I want to look at you. Be there," he said, hanging up.

Helen was waiting for him. He ordered two coffees and while they waited he stared intently at her.

She was beautiful. Roy noticed a new sparkle in her eyes and suspected that his surprise invitation to coffee had put it there.

"I don't need to tell you about my home-life troubles," he said, "except that I've given up. We're going to have more coffee dates, perhaps a weekend away, sometime. I'll expect you to accept."

"You've been," she said, taking his hand.

Friday afternoon Roy took the plunge. He called Helen and told her he wasn't going home from the office. He wanted her to meet him for dinner and dancing.

Once, during an intermission, when the impulsively bold his hand against her cheek, he looked at her and wondered how he had let so many years slip by.

It was very late when they walked hand in hand to the door. He drew her to him gently and kissed her. When she leaned her head helplessly against his shoulder.

"Tell me why," she whispered.

"It's very simple. I've known for some time that if things didn't get better at home, I was going to have an affair."

"Roy," she said, a tear running down her cheek, "wasn't there some way you could have let me know how bad things were?"

"I tried, but I didn't know how."

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Celery
Cucumber
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Pimento
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Oregano
COOK . . . 1 cup (4 ounces) IGA Elbow Macaroni. Drain. Rinse in cold water.
COMBINE . . . cooked macaroni
1 1/4 cups diced celery
1/3 cup each of diced cucumber, green pepper and sweet pickle
1/2 cup diced American cheese
1/4 cup finely chopped pimento
1/3 cup Russian salad dressing
1/2 teaspoon each of salt, seasoned salt, and oregano, mix together lightly. Chill.
SERVE . . . on a lettuce leaf.

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"LEST WE FORGET"—This float placed third at the 11th annual American Legion Blackberry Festival and aptly pointed up the Fourth of July theme. The float was sponsored by the Nicholas County 4-H Clubs.—Mercury photo

Saltwell

by Mrs. Fred Hollar

Mr. and Mrs. William Campbell of Carlisle, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gaunce.

Mrs. John L. Ellis and two children of Detroit, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Kendall.

Mrs. Pearli Morris spent a few days the past week with her son, Robert Morris, who is a patient at Harrison Memorial hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Gaunce and sons spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Gaunce Jr. and family.

Mr. Harold Mattox, Miss Celia Glass of Lexington and Strawder Hollar spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Layne Hollar and son.

Miss Dorris Jean Snapp of Paris, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Snapp.

Mrs. Gladys Kenney and son Bobby, Mrs. Lee Hollar and Mrs. Grace Earlywine spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar and family.

Hanson Kenney and Mrs. Kelly of Dayton, Ohio, spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kenney and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Mattox of Lexington, were visitors of relatives here on Sunday.

Henryville News

by Harrison Hamilton

Mr. George Johnson Sr. of Chicago, is visiting with his sister-in-law, Mrs. Clarine Livas.

Mr. and Mrs. James Williams and daughter of Indiana, are visitings with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Groves.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fields and family of Paris, visited here Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Mary Williams.

Sunday was the big day at High St. Christian Church. Preaching and singing and dinner served all day. It was a great Home Coming Day. A lovely crowd attended and was entoyed by all. Pastor Rev. Cassal Walker.

Miss Bettie Jo Steverson of Ky. State College, Frankfort, visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Steverson and family over the holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alando White Sr. and daughter, Mrs. Pearl Sumners, have returned home after visiting in Louisville, with their daughter, Miss Frances White.

Conference adjourned last week at Owingsville. Several attended from here. Rev. Moses Sutton attended Sunday and preached Sunday afternoon at the Christian Church.

Our Sick: Remains the same.

We thank all who help to make the Home Coming of the High St. Christian Church a success, and the ministers Rev. A. Gentry, E. B. Towels, Moses Sutton and members of the C.M.E. Church and J. H. Moore of Paris.

Say you saw it in The Mercury

AMERICANA — Our Big State

Statehood Spotlighted Alaska

Near famous Hole-In-The-Wall, Alaska

Alaska hasn't been exactly hidden. It's a bit difficult to hide that huge chunk of territory comprising 586,400 square miles—more than twice the size of Texas. Rather it has been overlooked until statehood focused national attention on this "great land."

Turning their eyes northward are travelers seeking something different; pioneer-organized folk whose instinct is to go to a new country; and tourist Alaskans who never forget those years in Alaska.

Alaska is thought of as a young country—yet it has an old history. In 1728 when Vitrus Bering was sailing the strait that bears his name, the Russian Czar Catherine was being founded in Philadelphia. While Capt. Cook was exploring Alaska's coastline in 1778, the English Colonies in America were declaring their independence from the mother country.

The year Prince Maximilian was executed in Mexico (1867), the United States paid a bargain price of $7,200,000 for Alaska which was referred to as "Seward's Folly."

Alaska is still a frontier—yet it is modern. Three-quarters of its 208,000 population is composed of migrants from all 50 of the states. The other quarter is made up of Eskimos and Indians. Its population is young—an average of 27 years.

This backwoodsy country of dramatic attraction is a land of contrasts. Old log cabins dwarfed in the shadows of modern 10-story buildings. There are hot volcanoes and cold glaciers. It is still a land of prospectors and trappers but valley farms are yearly increasing agricultural output. Alaska is laced with old trails but it has more than 1,000 miles of road system of which 95 per cent of the 1,000 miles primary highways are paved.

There are lively ghost towns, wilderness camps, gold panning, river and trail boat trips, hunting and fishing. Cameras fans may capture the hardy bull moose, Dall sheep white mountain sheep, or the curious caribou.

Hospital notes

Admitted

Mrs. Louise Terhune, Mr. Earl Marshall, Mr. Ernest Dale, Sandra Sherry, Mr. Bruce West, Mr. Kenneth Stephenson, Mrs. Henry C. Peters Jr., Mr. Marion George, Carlisle; Mr. Harold Robertson, Sharpsburg; Mrs. Reese Smoot, Paris.

Released

Mrs. Mollie Chrisman, Mr. Pearl Gill, Moorefield; Mrs. Marion Lunsford, Myers; Mr. Earl Marshall, Mrs. Julian Green, Mr. William C. Snapp, Mr. Clay Herrin, Mr. Kenneth Stephenson, Carlisle; Mr. Harold Robertson, Sharpsburg.

your FARM BUREAU IN ACTION
by C.H. Fields

The Surplus Problem
Hard to Handle

It is safe to assume that farmers are in total agreement when asked if they get a fair share of the national income. They don't feel that they do.

Most of them realize the thing that's responsible for depressing their prices — surpluses! But how do you get rid of surpluses? That's the 64 dollar question. No matter how much wealth we now have, we can eat only so much—diseases are pretty in-elastic.

Perhaps the most logical approach to the surplus problem is for farmers to get together and just decide to produce less in the years to come. After all, they would need to cut production only about 8 percent to get rid of the present troublesome surpluses.

That would be a fairly easy way for farmers to get themselves out of their dilemma if the big business that is farming were Big Agriculture. But it isn't! It is some 4½ million farmers scattered over a nation which has swelled to 173 million. The farmer is an individual in a great sea of competition. He is a price taker, not a price setter.

Although it is regrettable, we must face up to the fact that no single farmer can do much about changing the supply of food, fiber, and tobacco going to the market. And collectively, farmers can't produce just exactly what our nation demands. Agriculture is a biological process which cannot be greatly accelerated or retarded in any short length of time.

Various governmental programs have been tried from time to time as a solution to the surplus problem, but it seems that something more than a few tax dollars is needed to make things right again. Consumers can help by making a sincere effort to understand why farmers aren't getting rich although agricultural commodities are "sky high" at the retail level. Consumers must remember that everything in terms of dollars compared with prewar prices, but this is not due to inefficiency in production and marketing of agricultural products. It is evidence of inflation or of a depreciation in the value of money.