



EARL KERKER (seated) U.S. Conservationist at West Union, is assisted in his duties by Harold Boyle, conservation technician and Lela Heick, Fayette district clerk. Leslie Cline, a conservation aid attached to the West Union office, is not shown in this photo. In addition to his assigned help, Kerker calls on the full resources of the Soil Conservation Service for aid in solving problems of soil waste.

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Copies will be available after February 7 at county extension offices. Applications may be made to the Extension Office, Morrill Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 50010.

Call for more hog production

Will the high corn-hog ratio of 1965 result in excessive increase in hog numbers?

The corn-hog ratio hit an all time high of 24 in the last two months of 1965. A ratio of 17 in the past has meant higher hog production would soon follow. Whether history will repeat itself again remains to be seen.

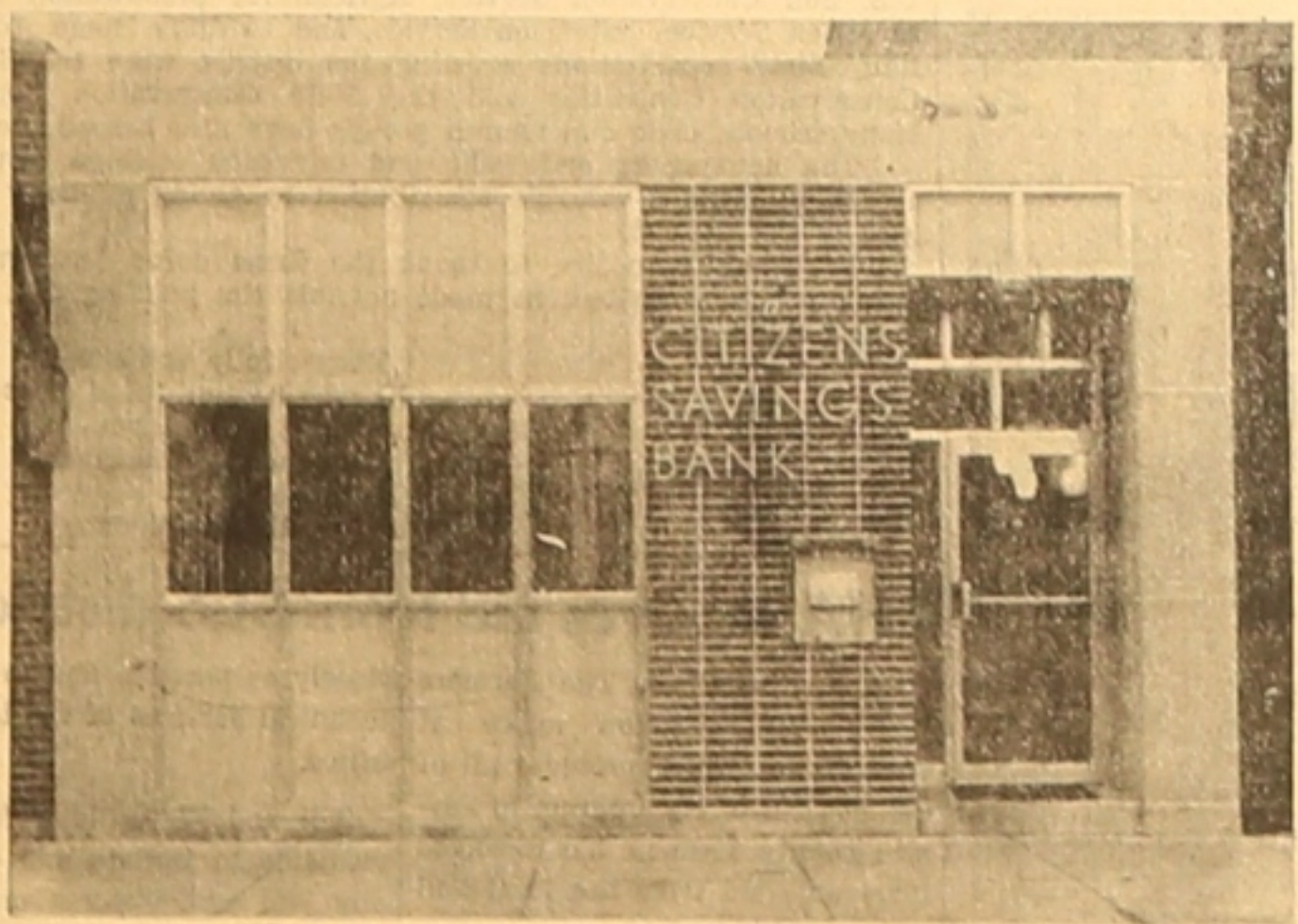
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An analysis by Gene Futrell, Extension Economist at Iowa State University, reports that hog producers in ten corn belt states have reported that they will boost farrowings by 5 per cent in the March to May period.

However, the corn-hog ratio and other factors in hog outlook suggest a larger increase.

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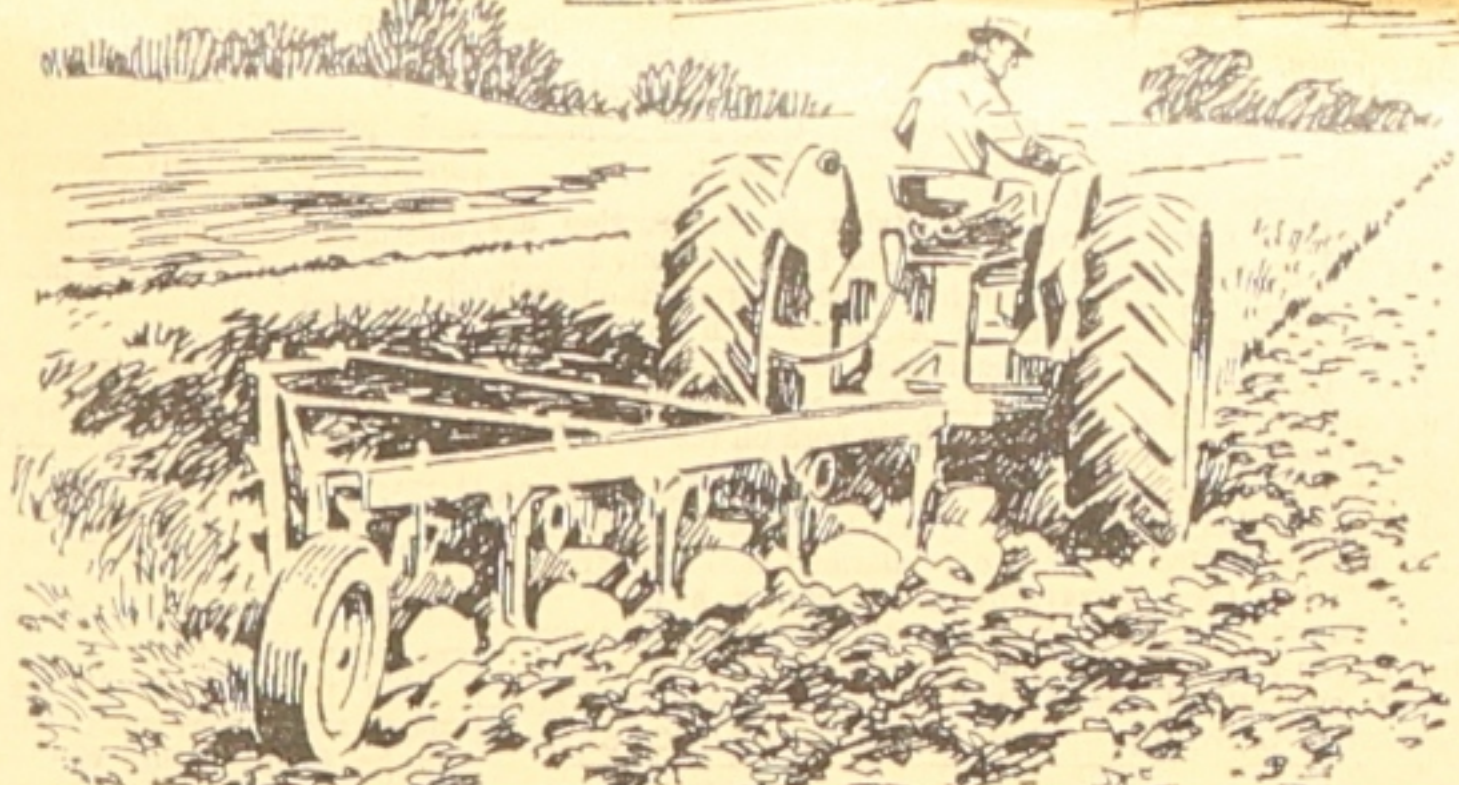
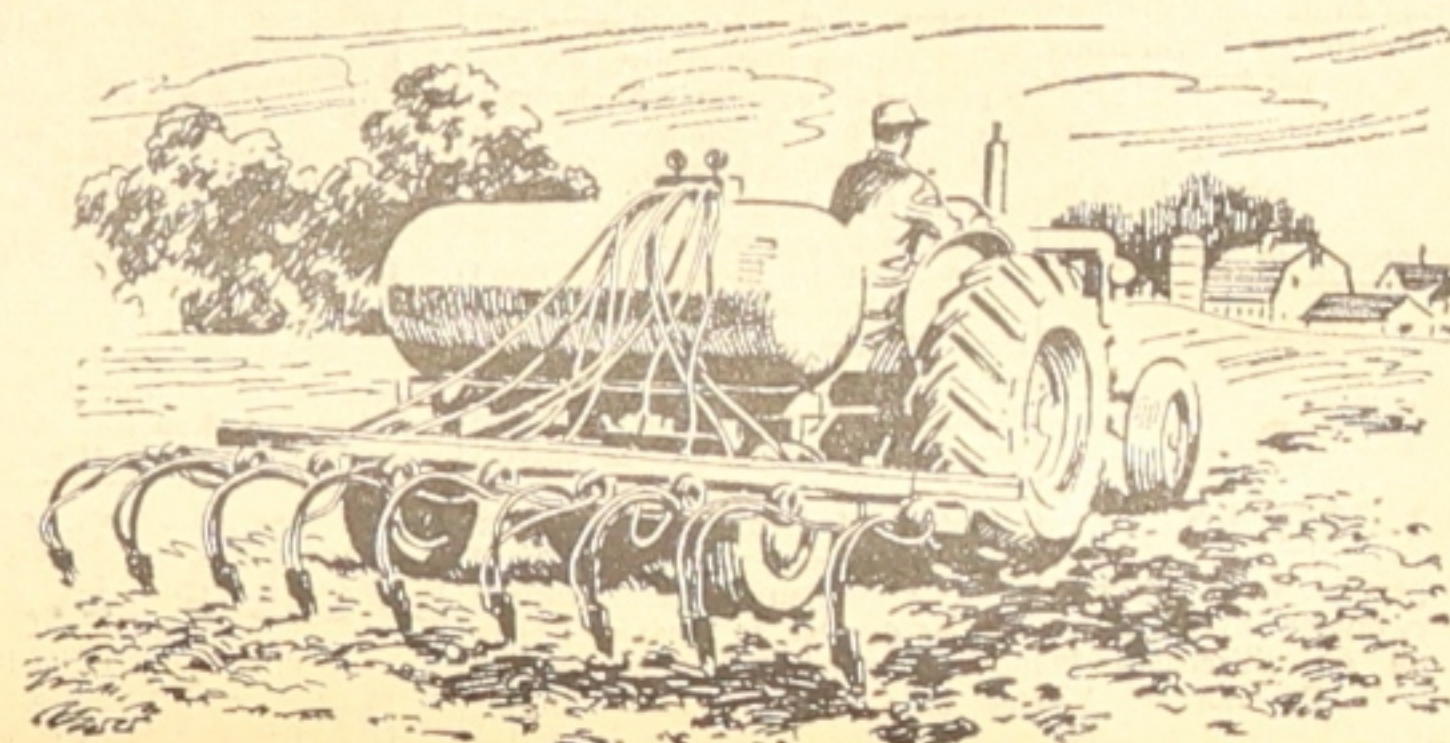
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For years the Soil Conservation Service has been pointing out that soil is not a permanent thing. Each time the wind blows a certain amount of top soil is blown with it. In some cases a few feet, in others, hundreds of miles.

To stop this and to prevent further soil loss from uncontrolled erosion, the SCS has long recommended a program utilizing dense growth of grasses, tree planting and control of available water.

A few practices emphasized by the service include proper drainage in the lowlands and terraced crop land where rolling hills are predominant.

It is noted that soil conservation work received little attention until the 1930's and as long as there was plenty of unsettled land, conservation was not really too important. A common practice prior to this time was to farm land until it was no longer productive and then just move on to "greener" pastures.

As the population increased, adequate farm land soon began to decrease in availability and the need for a sound program for soil conservation became apparent. This need was fulfilled with the establishment of the Soil Erosion Service, founded as an emergency agency of the United States Department of Interior during the early 1930's.

A year or so later, in 1935, Congress passed the first soil conservation act and transferred the Soil Erosion Service to the Department of Agriculture.

During the early years the primary purpose of the Erosion Service was to find better methods of conservation and demonstrate those methods to farmers throughout the nation. To aid in this, Congress began to take an active interest in the soil problem and implemented many new acts to facilitate SCS work.

Demonstration areas were established in many states by 1936 and farmers across the nation began to take heed of the new service by giving their cooperation in SCS planned projects.

A few years later, many states began to enact laws within the state to provide for adequate soil work by 1937 the Soil Conservation Service came into being as the result of these state-passed laws and as farmers organized into individual districts the SCS role began to increase in importance.

At the state-level, soil conservation districts are local units of government, operating under state laws. They are organized and directed by farmer residents within each district and are authorized to ask and receive aid from county, state and federal governments.

In each of these self-governing districts farmers have banded together to protect their land and create new recreational facilities at the same time. An individual soil

Packer feeding of stock reported likely to expand

AMES — Packer feeding of cattle is likely to increase in the year ahead. Despite the expected increase in packer contracting and feeding of cattle, independent cattle feeders will probably hold on to the major share of the market, according to Gene Futrell, economist at Iowa State University.

The biggest increase in cattle feeding by or for packers will probably be in packer contracting with feeders, Futrell says. It's unlikely that packers will greatly expand actual feeding operations, even though there are presently no government restrictions in this area, he says.

Writing in the current edition of Iowa Farm OUTLOOK, Futrell reports that more than one million head of cattle and 75,000 calves were fed by or for packers and retail food chains in 1964.

The packer-feeding data were gathered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cattle fed by or for meat packing or retailing firms in 1964 accounted for 34 percent of total commercial cattle slaughter. They accounted for a larger share — 45 percent — of total fed cattle marketings.

The 10 major meat packers in the country accounted for 410,000 head of cattle fed.

In each of the years 1961 through 1963, more than 200 packers and retailers reported to USDA that they were feeding cattle or contracting with others for feeding. The number dropped to 182 in 1964.

However, 1963 and 1964 are the only years since 1956 when packers have fed more than one million head of cattle.

While packers may be expected to expand feeding operations in the years ahead, Futrell notes that the total market for fed beef is also expected to expand. In another 10 years, per-person consumption of beef and veal may total 115 pounds a year. It's around 105 pounds now.

The relative importance of packer and retailer feeding and contracting activities varies widely among cattle feeding states.

In 1964, it was only 5 percent of fed cattle marketings in Iowa. Near by states of Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota and Nebraska also had low percentages. The range was from 7 in Illinois to 27 in Nebraska.

But Kansas, Colorado, California, Arizona and Texas all had higher shares of their cattle fed by or for packers. The range in these states was from 5.5 percent in Colorado to 16.5 percent in Texas, with the

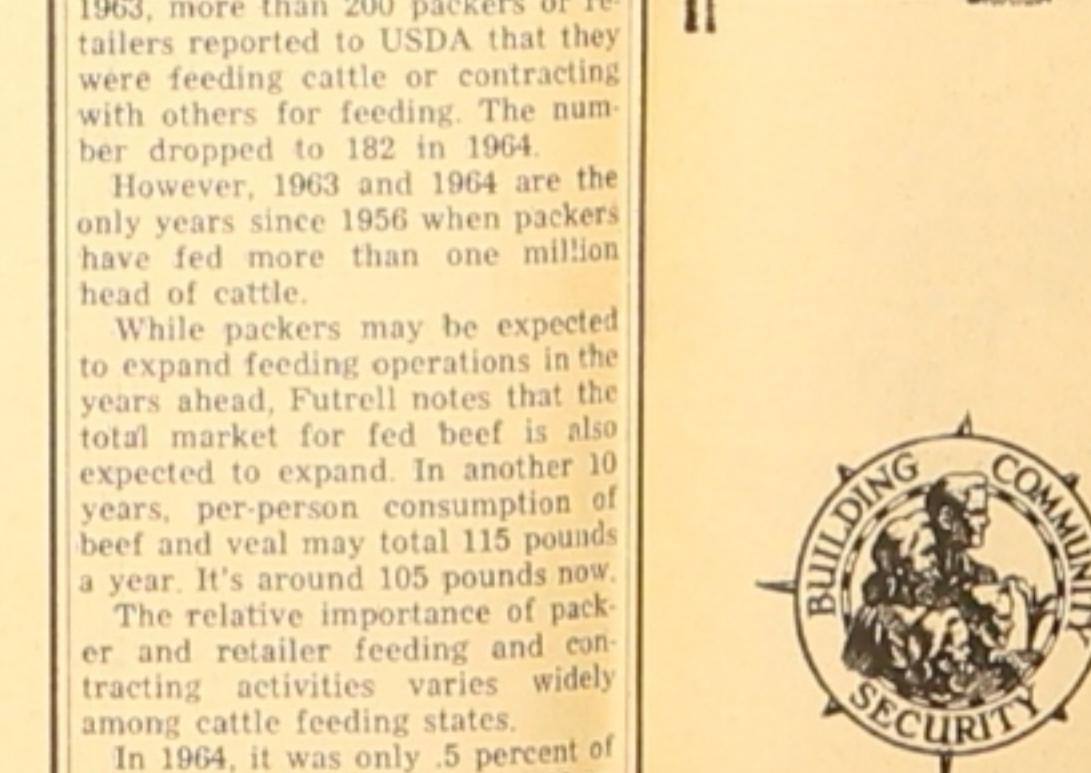
rest around 10 percent.

In general, the proportion was higher in Southern and Western states than in the Midwest.

Packers are fairly active in lamb feeding. They were involved with 100 head in 1964. That was sufficient or total slaughter.

There is little packer hog feeding. Only 23,000 head were supplied in 1964.

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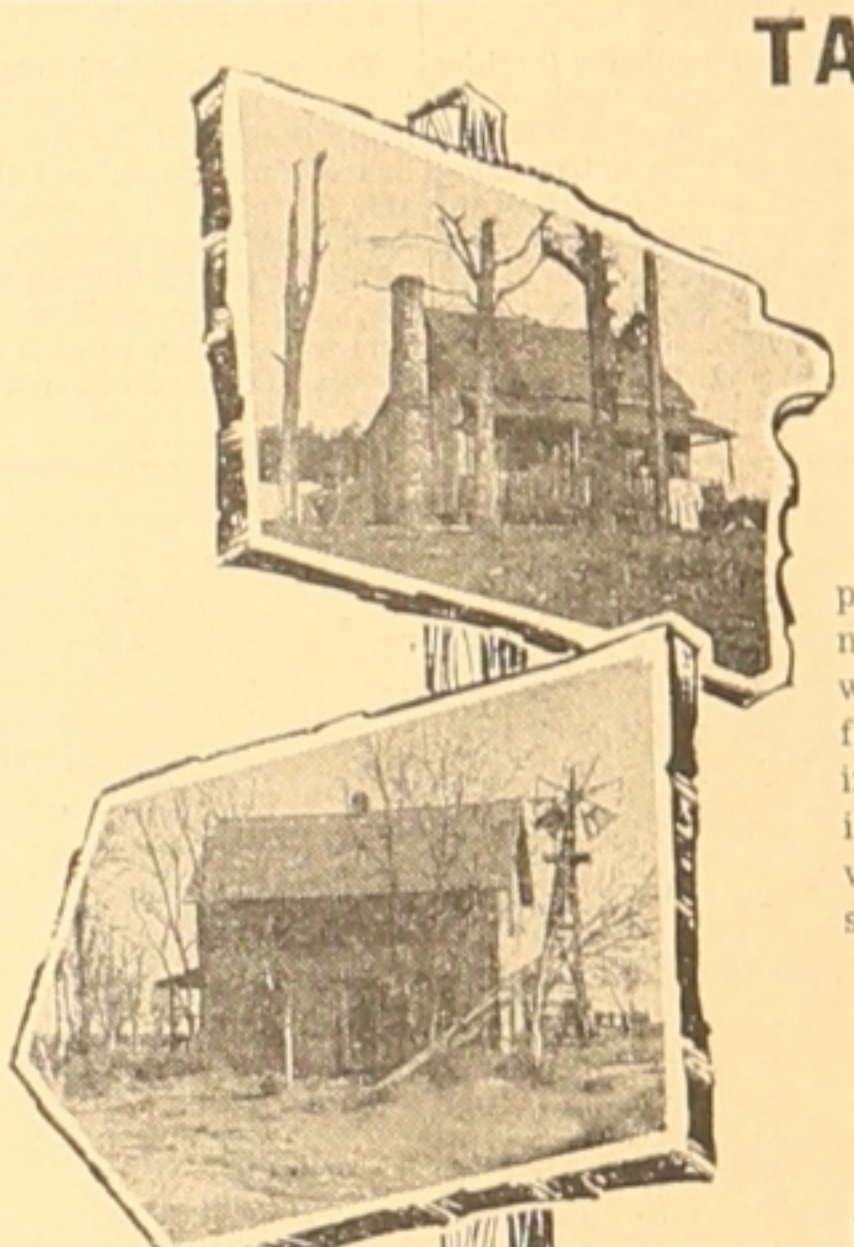
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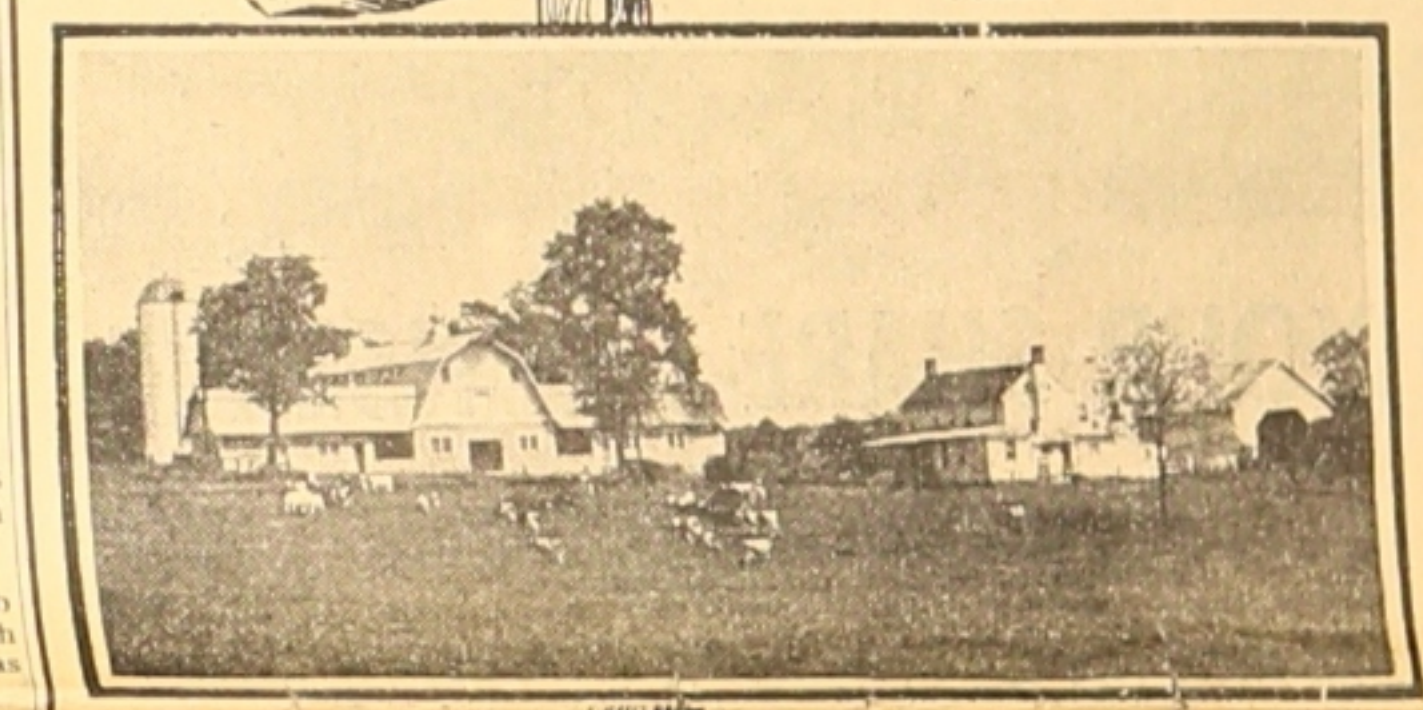


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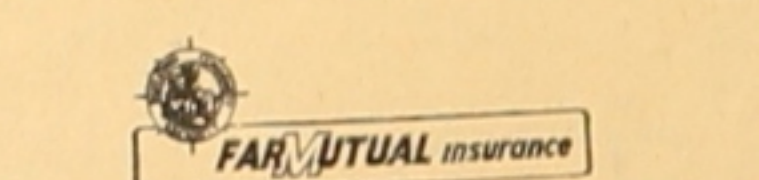
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Call for more hog production

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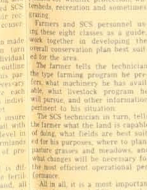
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Phone 422-3844 West Union, Iowa



Packer feeding of stock reported likely to expand

regained 10 percent.
General, the proportion was high in southern and western states in the Midwest.
There are fairly active in lamb sales. They were reported with a better head in 1964 than in 1963.
There is little packer hog feed in 1964.
Only 2,000 head were fed in 1964.

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