markets. A promising new outlet, Walsh reemphasized, exists in the use of fats as an additive to animal feeds.

The export market today is taking unprecedented quantities of tallow and greases, nearly half of the total output, he cautioned.

But who can tell how well or how long export outlets will hold up, and when we shall be confronted with an immediate need for a substantial expansion in domestic usage, to be attained without too great a drop in price, he asked.

Grassland Acres in the South Double in 25-Year Period

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.—Acreage devoted to pasture and hay in the nine southern states east of Texas has more than doubled since 1925. In that year more than 31 million acres were devoted to hay and pasture; by 1950 almost 65 million acres were in hay and pasture. During the same period, acreage in corn and cotton dropped from 36.7 million to 27.7 million acres. These figures were given by T. S. Buie, South Carolina State conservationist, before the Soil Conservation Society here Nov. 15 to 17.

The greatest increase in pasture occurred between 1946 and 1950, when the tremendous increase in demand for livestock products, generated by the war, began to be felt. Reviewing the history of grassland development in the South, he said that the movement started in the 20's, probably because of the labor shortage immediately after World War II. Other factors were the decline in cotton prices at that time and the destructive spread of the boll weevil throughout the cotton territory. The trend did not advance far during the 30's but it picked up speed again during World War II.

Three types of southern farm land are being turned over to grassland. A substantial acreage of row crops has been directly replaced by grass for hay, pasture, and seed. Thousands of acres, idle for many years because of severe soil erosion, lack of labor, the low price of cotton, or a combination of these, are now being planted in grass. Bottom land, found along streams in the hilly portions of South, is being cleared and used for pasture and hay.

Responsible for the growth of grass land farming in the South are several technical developments: breeding of varieties adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of the south, mechanization, and fertilizer.

Of approximately 40 different species of grass in more or less general use now, approximately half of these were unknown, at least in the areas where they are now extensively grown, 20 years ago.

Many new problems have arisen because of the development of grassland agriculture, such as control of disease and insects, application of fertilizer, weed control, and adaptation of equipment.

Dr. Buie stated that grassland agriculture cannot be expected to replace cotton throughout the South, but the two, he believes, will fit together in a complementary relationship based on ecomomic conditions, land capability, farmer desires and abilities, and related factors.

Entomologist Believes Miller Bill Can Curb "Malicious Rumors"

New legislation should go a long way toward curbing "malicious rumors" that the public is being poisoned by agricultural chemicals. Bailey B. Pepper, chairman of the department of entomology at Rutgers University, made this assertion at the annual Rutgers conference for pesticide dealers.

He spoke particularly of the announced proposed tolerances in the Federal Register on Oct. 20. "The fact that the proposed tolerances have been announced probably means," Dr. Pepper said, "that the Food and Drug Administration will be active in 1955, checking on farm products in interstate commerce to determine whether growers are abiding by established tolerances."

"That being the case, it would seem to me that it is the responsibility of the extension specialist and the research specialist to make every effort to help the grower get satisfactory pest control and yet not permit sprayed or dusted crops to exceed the established tolerances of chemical residue at harvest.

"For the most part, it is believed that established tolerances will not work a particular hardship on the grower. At the same time the grower now has the advantage of knowing what limits of residue levels are permitted. In past years, without tolerances, he could not be sure that his product could go to market and not be questioned or seized."

Besides curbing malicious rumors about chemicals, establishment of tolerances should convey to the public, Dr. Pepper concluded, that any of the agricultural chemicals used within certain limits do not adversely affect the health and well-being of the public.

Industry

FMC'S Buffalo Electro-Chemical Becomes Becco Chemical Div.

Food Machinery & Chemical Corp. has announced that on Jan. 1, its subsidiary, Buffalo Electro-Chemical Co., Inc., will be merged with the parent corporation and thereafter will operate as its Becco Chemical Division. The announcement was made by Ernest Hart, FMC executive vice president in charge of chemical divisions.

Buffalo Electro-Chemical, producer of hydrogen peroxide and other active oxygen compounds, was acquired by FMC in 1951 to complement the corporation's operations in diversified industrial chemicals. Sold under the trademark, Becco, the company's peroxygen chemicals are produced at its headquarters plant in Buffalo and its West Coast facilities in Vancouver, Wash.

Sorbic Acid Unit to Be Built by Carbide & Carbon

A sorbic acid production unit, designed to meet the expanding demand for sorbic acid as a mold inhibitor in foods, has been authorized and construction is already under way at South Charleston, W. Va., according to an announcement from Carbide & Carbon Chemicals. The unit is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1955.

Demand for sorbic acid exceeds production capacity of the present pilot plant and requires construction of the larger facility. If yields can be improved in the new large unit, lower selling prices should be possible, the company stated.

To market sorbic acid, Carbide & Carbon has arranged for a non-exclusive license under The Best Foods, Inc., patent relating to the use of sorbic acid for control of mold growth. This arrangement permits the company to grant sublicenses to its sorbic acid customers under the patent, (U.S. 2,379,294). Royalties are included in the price of sorbic acid.

Sorbic acid has proved to be an effective antimycotic for certain cheese and cheese products. It is estimated that an annual loss of more than 10 million pounds of cheese due to mold spoilage can be avoided through the use of sorbic acid as a mold inhibitor. Reports indicate that the use of sorbic acid in the concentrations necessary for mold control does not affect flavor, odor, or color.

Temporary permits have been granted by the Food and Drug Administration to a number of cheese manufacturers to use sorbic acid in certain standardized