

# Business Newsletter . . .

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## Outlooks for 1956

According to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, production of both crops and livestock is at record levels this year. **Demand in 1956 is expected to be as strong** as or stronger than in 1955. Cattle production may show some decline and hogs a leveling off or decline. Milk output may set a new record, but may be matched by consumption. Egg production is likely to advance by next year's end. Wheat should drop off considerably—but there is a big carryover. Demand for fruit will continue high; average conditions will yield bigger crop. **A record cotton crop**—25.8 million bales—is expected. Domestic use is rising but exports are falling.

## Yields Beat Acreage Reductions

**Over-all average yields** per acre of corn, wheat, cotton, and tobacco in 1955 beat the previous record, 1948, **by about 9%**. **Acreage was 8% lower** in 1955. Corn acreage was about the same—81 million—as in 1952. Wheat, cotton, and tobacco are down. Soybeans, fifth ranking crop, increased from 14 million acres in '52 to 18 million in '55.

## British Potash Project Laid Aside

Development work on Northeast Yorkshire potash deposits in England appears halted. At least **350 million tons of potassium chloride**, as sylvanite (sodium and potassium chloride), is known to be present, but it lies at 3500 to 4500 feet. Imperial Chemical Industries examined and rejected methods for obtaining concentrated KCl solution by adaptation of salt fields' brining techniques. Fisons Ltd. then investigated separation of potassium from KCl-NaCl solution by chemical means and decided it is **practical but not economic**.

## New Fermentation Plant

**Pure culture technique** is being used in the new fermentation plant of Grain Processing Corp. in Muscatine, Iowa. The products are **vitamin B<sub>2</sub> and growth factors** for the animal feed industry. Demand has been so great that the plant went into operation last month prior to construction of outside walls or permanent control panels.

## Biological vs. Chemical Insect Control

Increased attention to biological control of insects is on the way, according to Entomological Society President George Decker. Important progress can be expected, but **it will take time**. This doesn't mean discard of insecticides, he says. **Chemical control can be expected to expand**. The Miller Amendment should aid progress in chemicals by early elimination of "also rans" lacking unique or especially desirable qualities.



- Granular insecticides ready to move against corn borer throughout the North Central States next season. So far, only DDT is approved, but others may follow (p. 988)
- Cost bars wider use of pyrethrins for insect control in food packages but demand for pyrethrins' special properties is growing (p. 991)
- Trained specialists in agriculture needed; chemical industry may soon feel shortage (p. 992)
- Shifting population centers and stock production revising the geography of meat packing industry (p. 993)
- Fertilizer industry making progress against its unenviable safety record (p. 994)



## NO SOUR GRAPES

Applying modern commercial fertilizers to the soil helps America's farmers bring in a fine crop of sweet, juicy grapes season after season.

Potash, a vital component of these fertilizers, not only enriches the soil, but protects crops against disease and increases yield and quality.

U. S. P.'s high-grade muriate of potash has the highest  $K_2O$  content and is free-flowing and non-caking—important advantages in the manufacture of fertilizers that help growers produce sweet grapes, and a sweet profit, too.



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HIGRADE MURIATE OF POTASH 62/63%  $K_2O$   
GRANULAR MURIATE OF POTASH 60%  $K_2O$  MIN.

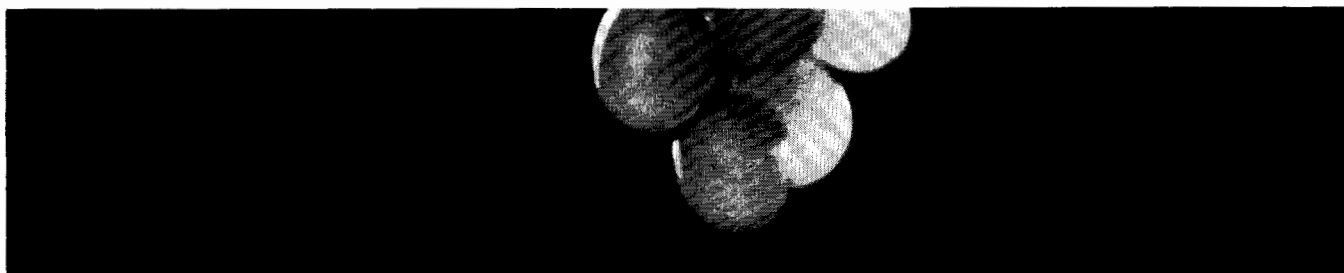
## UNITED STATES POTASH COMPANY

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# Research Newsletter . . .

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## Antibiotics in Food

Food and Drug Administration has opened the door for antibiotics in food—by **improving use of Aureomycin** in water in which poultry is chilled after dressing. Practice retards development of spoilage organisms and prolongs freshness. **Residue tolerance of 7 p.p.m.** is based on evidence that cooking destroys that amount. FDA reaffirms its previously stated policy that antibiotics in food intended for human consumption may be considered adulteration, but it adds that policy will not bar use of antibiotics in or on raw agricultural commodities when evidence shows them to be useful and safe.

## Prescription Entomology in Future

Future trained entomologists may **hang out their shingles and practice** on a basis comparable with that of veterinary medicine, declared George Decker in his presidential address before the Entomological Society of America, Nov. 28. They also will become **expert dealers in agricultural chemicals**, comparable with registered pharmacists in their knowledge and advice on the materials they dispense. Decker pointed to forerunners of the trend: large cotton plantations, canning companies, and land management agencies **who now employ such scientific specialists.**

## Doubts on Antibiotic Growth Stimulation?

Mild flurry has been generated in Great Britain by a paper [Evans, *J. Agr. Sci.* **46**, 329 (1955)] suggesting that growth stimulation of pigs attributable to penicillin is **small and may even be negligible.** Much of the benefit, it appears, is attributed to stimulated appetite and is rated below commercial value, if pigs are healthy and well-fed otherwise. The research was conducted with individual feeding, group feeding having too great an error margin. Unfortunately, tests **included neither Aureomycin nor terramycin,** two that have been particularly successful in practice.

## Lysine Suggested for Hog Feed

Hogs may grow faster if their diet is supplemented with lysine. Du Pont researchers have been looking into this possibility. To date they have tested only with rats fed hog rations but find that **increasing the calorie content** and adding an amount of **lysine related to the calories gave greater gains** than did the same diet without lysine. Many ingredients now used in hog feeds are low in lysine.



- Increased gain and feed efficiency shown in baby pigs fed rations supplemented with proteolytic enzymes. Cause may be unidentified growth factor or improved amino acid balance (p. 1047)
- Two studies on the safety of using Diazinon involve determination of acute toxicity (p. 1017) and residues in milk when the insecticide is used to control flies in dairy barns (p. 1013)
- Nitric phosphate produced from low-grade, leached-zone phosphate occurring in Florida gave crop yields comparable with triple super and another nitric phosphate from higher grade raw materials when water solubilities of the phosphates were in the medium range (p. 1022). Storage and drilling characteristics of nitric phosphates from leached-zone ore found good (p. 1026)
- Dextrans used as soil conditioners found to increase seedling emergence as much as 60% and to improve yields by 70% (p. 1028)