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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

August 30 - September 6, 1990

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# News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## NATIONAL COLLECTION OF NORTH AMERICAN BONSAI CHOSEN

WASHINGTON, Aug.30—The first bonsai trees have been selected for the North American collection being established at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum here.

Fifty-six bonsai from 50 donors in 15 states have been chosen as the nucleus of the collection. Trees from bonsai artists in Canada and Mexico will be added in the future. Ultimately, the collection will contain 75 bonsai and 25 miniature bonsai, said H. Marc Cathey, arboretum director.

The North American collection will be housed in the John Y. Naka Pavilion of the museum. Both the pavilion and the North American collection are being donated to the U.S. Department of Agriculture by the National Bonsai Foundation. The arboretum is part of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The National Bonsai Foundation raised funds and gathered the trees entirely from private sources. "We are happy, on behalf of all who contributed, to present this gift to the people of the United States," said the foundation's president, Frederic L. Ballard. "We believe this marks the coming of age of American bonsai."

A ceremony dedicating the pavilion and the collection will be held at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at ARS's National Arboretum.

"The National Bonsai and Penjing museum was originally inspired by a gift of trees from Japan in honor of the United States bicentennial," Cathey said. "The gift of North American bonsai will enhance the arboretum's collection as we work with the National Bonsai Foundation to complete the museum."

The initial selection of trees for the collection was made by six regional committees, which received nominations from individual bonsaiists, clubs and other organizations.

**Donors to the Initial Collection, North American Bonsai Collection,  
U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.**

Ted C. Guyger, Dallas, Texas.  
Brussel Martin, Olive Branch, Miss.  
Doris W. Froning, Kennett Square, Penn.  
F. Chase Rosade, New Hope, Penn.  
Frederick and Ernesta Ballard, Philadelphia, Penn.  
James J. Smith, Vero Beach, Fla.  
Harold M. Harvey, Orlando, Fla.  
Mary Madison, Homestead, Fla.  
Marian Borchers, Tampa, Fla.  
Jim Fritchey and Dick Wild, Naples, Fla.  
Edwin S. Nishida, Pearl City, Hawaii.  
Mike Uyeno, Honolulu, Hawaii.  
David W. Fukumoto, Kurtistown, Hawaii.  
Haruo Kaneshiro, Honolulu, Hawaii.  
John Y. Naka, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Ben Oki, Culver City, Calif.  
Sze-Ern Kuo, Bueno Park, Calif.  
Harry Hirao, Huntington Beach, Calif.  
Kiichi Wayne Takayasu, Santa Maria, Calif.  
Bob Kinoshita, San Juan Capistrano, Calif.  
James R. and Helen Barrett, Arcadia, Calif.  
Marybel Balendonck, Fullerton, Calif.  
Susanne Barrymore, Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Larry Ragle, Laguna Beach, Calif.  
James J. Smith, Vero Beach, Calif.  
Kaz and Kiyo Yoneda, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Melba Tucker, El Monte, Calif.  
Shig Miya, Los Angeles, Calif.  
George Yamaguchi, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Alice T. Naka, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Frank Goya, Los Angeles, Calif.  
June M. Chambers, Woodside, Calif.  
James M. Sakahara, Seattle, Wash.  
Bertram F. Bruenner, Seattle, Wash.  
Daniel Robinson, Bremerton, Wash.  
Jack B. Douthitt, Glendale, Wis.



Thomas Tecza, Elgin, Ill.  
Roland Folse, Springfield, Ill.  
Yuji Yoshimura, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.  
William N. Valavanis, Rochester, N.Y.  
Richard M. Meszler, Towson, Md.  
Muriel R. Leeds, Southport, Conn.  
Bob Y. Kataoka, Denver, Colo. (donated by his family)  
Vaughn L. Santing, Metairie, La.  
Guy Guidry, Metairie, La.  
Thomas G. Wright, Atlanta, Ga.  
Larry Williams, Atlanta, Ga.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 31, through midnight Thursday, Sept. 6.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988, 1989, and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80, 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Aug. 30, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price .....	81.64
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	13.13
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	2.15
Average U.S. location .....	0.35
Sum of Adjustments .....	<u>-15.63</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	66.01 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price .....	81.64
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-78.25</u>
	3.39
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....	<u>-4.10</u>
	-0.71
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Sept. 6.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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**SEVEN MORE STATES JOIN PSEUDORABIES BATTLE**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—Seven additional states—Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Utah—have joined the battle to wipe out pseudorabies, a costly disease of swine and other livestock, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

According to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 36 states are now enrolled in the five-stage state-federal-industry cooperative pseudorabies eradication program. “Two additional states—Colorado and South Carolina—also have applied for program status,” he said.

Glosser said that Stage I of the eradication program is preparation. Stage II is control; stage III is mandatory herd cleanup; and stage IV is surveillance to make sure no infection is present. A state can be declared “pseudorabies free”—stage V—if it goes for a year in stage IV without finding an infected swine herd.

Pseudorabies is a contagious livestock disease that is most prevalent in swine. Although it often causes death in newborn pigs, older hogs may survive the infection and remain carriers of the virus for life. Stress or other conditions may trigger the virus from its latent state in these carrier animals. Pseudorabies, sometimes called Aujeszky's disease, also affects cattle, sheep, dogs and cats and other animals. In these species, it almost always causes death. Pseudorabies does not affect humans.

Glosser said a number of new tools are being used in the campaign to eradicate pseudorabies, including genetically engineered vaccines that allow tests to differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals. "In past programs against other diseases, use of vaccines sometimes masked the disease and made it difficult to detect infection," he said. "But the genetically engineered vaccines let us use vaccination as a valuable weapon in helping wipe out this disease."

Glosser said the pseudorabies eradication effort also is unique in that the swine industry took the lead in developing standards for the eradication program. "In essence, pork producers got together and said, 'Here is the kind of program we need to get rid of this disease,'" he said.

The 36 states and the program stages of each are as follows: Stage I—Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Wyoming; stage II—Alaska, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Virginia; and stage III—Alabama, Arkansas, Maine, North Dakota, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Larry Mark (202) 447-3977

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## **USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending to Oct. 1 the comment period on the environmental impact statement of its animal damage control program. The closing date had been Aug. 31.



The draft environmental impact statement, first published June 18, evaluates alternatives for conducting a wildlife damage control program by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Control programs are needed to avoid serious economic losses to agriculture, as in cases of livestock losses to predators, and for human safety, as in cases where birds could collide with airplanes.

Public meetings on the issue were held in Sacramento, Calif., Kansas City, Mo., and Washington, D.C., on Aug. 6, 8 and 10, respectively. No further meetings are planned.

To comment on the environmental impact statement, send an original and three copies to Gary E. Larson, Acting Director, Operational Support Staff, Animal Damage Control, APHIS, USDA, 820 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments should refer to docket 90-165. All comments received by the new deadline may be inspected in rm. 1141-S, USDA, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Amichai Heppner, (301) 436-5222

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## **YEUTTER NAMES MEMBER TO NATIONAL POTATO BOARD**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today named Jerome Edling of Clear Lake, Minn., to the National Potato Promotion Board for a term ending Feb. 28, 1993.

Edling will represent Minnesota potato producers.

Authorized under the 1971 Potato Research and Promotion Act, the board currently comprises 96 members appointed by the secretary of agriculture from nominations by potato producers of individual states. Board membership is apportioned among all potato producing states.

The board administers a national research and promotion program to increase the consumption of U.S. potatoes domestically and internationally. Assessments on potato handlers' (dealers) sales fund the board and its programs. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors operations of the board.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **USDA PROVIDES EMERGENCY FOOD STAMPS FOR TORNADO VICTIMS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service announced today that emergency food stamp benefits are being provided for tornado victims from Plainfield to Joliet in Will County, Ill.

“This is one way that we in the government can help during this tragic time,” said Betty Jo Nelsen, FNS administrator, who gave the official approval for emergency food stamp issuance after state officials requested assistance.

Emergency food stamp distribution began yesterday, Thursday, Aug. 30. Tornado victims residing in the declared disaster area who are experiencing loss or inaccessibility of income, or who have experienced disaster-related expenses, may apply for emergency food stamps through Sept. 7. If applicants are determined to be eligible, they will be given emergency authorization redeemable for food stamps at local currency exchanges in Plainfield and Crest Hill, Ill.

Approval for emergency Food Stamp Program assistance comes under the authority of Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. The approval is based upon the state's determination that there is a sufficiently large number of households affected to require the use of disaster procedures.

Phil Stanholtzer (703) 756-3286

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## **N.C. MEAT FIRM, OWNER CONVICTED OF INSPECTION VIOLATIONS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—A federal court has convicted Morty Pride Meats, Inc., of Fayetteville, N.C., on one felony charge for adding sulfites to sausages and selling those products in commerce, according to Dr. Lester M. Crawford, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Mortison B. Hudson, the owner of the company, was convicted of three misdemeanors for preparing, selling and transporting misbranded meat products. After pleading guilty to all charges, Hudson was fined

\$6,075 and placed on probation for one year. The firm was fined \$5,200 and placed on probation for two years.

The convictions were handed down by the U.S. District Court in Wilmington, N.C., on Aug. 13.

“Sulfites are not permitted in sausages because they mask spoilage,” Crawford said.

The convictions resulted from a FSIS investigation that followed a violation found by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture during routine laboratory testing.

The FSIS and its 9,000 employees ensure that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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## USDA PROTECTS THREE NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of three new varieties of alfalfa.

Kenneth H. Evans, of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders’ records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform, and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

—the Magnum III variety of alfalfa, developed by Dairyland Seed Co. Inc., West Bend, Wis.; and

—the 5373 and 5472 varieties of alfalfa, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa.

The certificate of protection for the Magnum III alfalfa variety is being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The plant variety protection program is administered by AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## USDA FINDS FIRE ANT REGULATIONS POSE NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has completed an environmental assessment of its imported fire ant regulatory control program and has found it has no significant adverse effect on the environment.

“The current program regulates nurseries and sod farms to restrict fire ant movements,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “The environmental assessment fully evaluates our limited use of chemicals and quarantine activities to control fire ants in infested nurseries and sod farms. We will continue to use a combination of both. We were unable to identify other techniques, such as changed cultural practices or biological control, that would be practical for the program.”

Glosser said the environmental assessment covers the biological environment, including fire ants and other species of plants and animals; the physical environment, including soil, water and air; and the human environment, especially with regard to health and safety. The study considered primary and secondary effects as well as cumulative effects of long-term fire ant control. Review of the assessment resulted in a finding of “no significant impact,” and therefore it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement for the imported fire ant program, Glosser said.

Imported fire ants harm humans, wildlife and agriculture in the 11 southern states where they have become established. USDA imposed a quarantine in 1958 to keep the ants from spreading. Infested sod and nursery stock, for example, may not cross quarantine lines. An active campaign is underway to alert truckers to the danger of hitchhiking fire ants.

Copies of the environmental assessment are available from Michael T. Werner, USDA-APHIS, Room 828, Federal Building, 6506 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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## CCC INTEREST RATE FOR SEPTEMBER LOWERED TO 7-3/4 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Sept.4—Commodity loans disbursed in September by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 7-3/4 percent interest rate, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 7-3/4 percent interest rate is down from August's 8 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in September.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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## HIGHWAY MINI-FIELDS PLANTED TO TRACK WHEAT RUST

WASHINGTON—There's more than just old hubcaps and dropped mufflers rusting along the highways these days. Mini-wheat fields also are rusting away.

Planted early each July, these one-foot-square roadside patches of wheat are part of a new technique U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist John Roberts is using to monitor outbreaks of wheat rust diseases in the Southeast.

“We designed a system to collect more complete and precise information each year about where and when rust appears in the Southeast,” Roberts said. He is now in the fourth year of validating his monitoring system.

Leaf and stem rust are the worst fungi-caused wheat diseases. They can dent the U.S. wheat crop by more than \$500 million in years of heavy infection.

Roberts said one of the obstacles to controlling rust is that the fungi mutate. Every few years, the fungi have changed enough that the previous chemical treatments and bred-in natural resistances become less effective.

“That's what makes tracking so important. We have to know how much rust we have each year and how fast the rusts are changing,” said Roberts, who is a plant pathologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Such surveys are a major part of the researchers' and wheat breeders' battle to control rust diseases.

Roberts has laid out a route along the Interstate highways of five states in the Southeast—through Georgia, into Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, then looping back into Georgia. And he selected roadside sites about 20 miles apart that were accessible instead of down a back-country lane.

In the past, researchers monitoring rust have had to depend on driving from wheat grower to wheat grower and sampling their fields. “But that meant sampling whatever variety of wheat a farmer happens to be growing and having to allow for whatever treatments a farmer may have applied,” said Roberts.

“Our method really gives us control. All of the sampling is on the same varieties and we can regularly get enough samples to create a complete picture,” he said. The old method also meant driving a patchwork route—skipping from point to point looking for enough farms to sample for a complete survey.

“If a farmer whose fields we usually sample has sold out or switched to another crop, we have to drive around until we find someone else in the area to sample,” he said. Roberts wanted more planned coverage. Each July during the past four years, he and ARS lab technician Howell Fowler have left the ARS Plant Introduction Station in Griffin, Ga., to clear and plow tiny fields along the highways.

Two varieties of wheat were seeded into peat pots, watered and put into the plots. Additional seed of a third variety was planted in the loose soil along the edges. “We chose wheat varieties for their ability to survive the kind of no-care treatment we planned, as well as for their susceptibility to leaf and stem rusts,” Roberts said.

The wheat patches were rarely visible from the road and Roberts figured the test plots would do just fine by themselves until they came back to sample them each November. Unfortunately, the first two years of the pilot study were 1986 and 1987. “Two of the worst drought years in the history of the Southeast,” Roberts said. “This severely limited the number of plots that survived.”

And in 1988, several of the wheat plots along the low ground near the Gulf Coast were drowned out, Roberts added.

There have been other bumps in the road as well. Some plots have been lost to highway maintenance crews. In their enthusiasm to neaten the road-sides, road crews have occasionally mowed down the test wheat along with the weeds.



“Occasionally, our test plots did more to monitor the population of white tail deer and rabbits that like the taste of wheat,” Roberts said.

But enough plots have survived and been attacked by leaf or stem rust that the roadside test plots show real promise as a survey method, according to Roberts.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

Issued: September 4, 1990

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## **GRASSHOPPER CONTROL STUDY SHOWS NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, USDA SAYS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—No significant adverse impact was noted as a result of grasshopper control on land in the Conservation Reserve Program in Idaho, western Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, according to environmental assessments by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“CRP land poses an extremely inviting target to grasshoppers, which can consume all vegetation in an infested area,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “Damaging grasshopper outbreaks are occurring on CRP land this year, so we wanted to assess the impact of a control program.”

CRP land consists of highly erodible cropland that is diverted to grass, trees or other permanent vegetation. The reserve program benefits soil and water resources and creates a better habitat for fish and wildlife. These benefits, at the same time, make the lands particularly attractive to grasshoppers.

The environmental assessments assume that grasshoppers will be controlled through an integrated pest management program. This program may include spraying with malathion, carbaryl and acephate and using baits containing carbaryl or *Nosema locustae*, a biological control agent. However, Glosser said, that *Nosema* will not be used on conservation reserve land this year because it does not achieve the quick knock-down of grasshoppers needed to protect adjacent crops.

The assessments cover effects on human health, endangered species, other wildlife, water resources, aquatic species, soil, vegetation, air quality, land use, cultural resources, and economic concerns. APHIS environmental specialists found that operational procedures and guidelines



for grasshopper control on conservation reserve land adequately protect the environment, particularly the human environment, Glosser said. Threatened or endangered wildlife will not be jeopardized. No unique and sensitive resources will be significantly impacted.

The environmental specialists drew, in part, on an environmental impact statement prepared in 1987 for the rangeland grasshopper cooperative management program. This statement was developed with considerable input from the public.

Copies of the environmental assessment and the 1987 environmental impact statement used in its preparation are available at APHIS headquarters in Hyattsville, Md., and regional offices in Sacramento, Calif.; Gulfport, Miss.; Moorestown, N.J.; and Brownsville, Texas. For details, contact Operational Support Staff, Plant Protection and Quarantine, USDA, APHIS, Room 640 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Amichai Heppner (202) 436-5222

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## ROBOTIC WALKING VEHICLE GOES TO THE WOODS

WASHINGTON—A robotic vehicle that walks rather than rolls will soon be strolling about the woods of southwest Virginia.

In early September, near Blacksburg, Va., the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service will fieldtest this experimental vehicle, an application of space age technology that could solve some forest management problems while helping protect forest ecosystems.

Dr. Robert Koeppen, forest products technologist with the Forest Service, said that forest scientists and managers recognize that new environmentally sensitive technologies are needed to perform timber management and harvesting operations. Present technologies are largely dependent on rubber-tired vehicles, which may not be suitable for performing work in certain forest types due to soil compaction, rutting, or damage to the vegetation. Wheeled vehicles also are limited by terrain that is too rough, steep, wet, or soft to traverse.

The robotic walking vehicle may alleviate such problems, especially those concerning environmental damage. For example, while wheeled vehicles can only move back and forth, the robotic vehicle can also move

sideways—a maneuver that may drastically reduce damage to forest soils and vegetation.

Due to the machine's unique manner of locomotion, it can facilitate the management, protection, and planting of forests where adverse or sensitive terrain limit the capabilities of available vehicles.

This study is part of a cooperative agreement among the research branch of the Forest Service, the Forestry Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a consortium of other public and private organizations.

The purpose of the field study is to explore the capabilities of the vehicle and its applications to forest operations. The vehicle will be tested on level, mountainous and simulated low-lying wetland terrain. The study will seek to determine the physical impacts on the environment as the vehicle moves about the forest, and the economic feasibility of using it as a forest management tool.

For technical information about the robotic walking vehicle, contact Dr. Koeppen at (202) 453-9565.

John Denne (202) 475-3774

Issued Sept. 4, 1990

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## **WHEN OVEREATING, YOUR METABOLISM DOESN'T GEAR UP TO KEEP WEIGHT DOWN**

WASHINGTON—The person who can eat and eat and never gain a pound probably doesn't exist, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study being published this week.

The study should help to resolve two conflicting schools of thought on whether or not a person's metabolism automatically gears up to prevent weight gain when eating extra calories day after day, said physiologist Susan B. Roberts at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Boston, funded by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The findings show very little change in metabolism, Roberts reported in the September issue of *American Journal of Physiology*.

“Agreement on this fundamental issue is important in helping to define the causes of obesity and in improving methods to prevent and treat it,” she said.



For three weeks, seven young men consumed about 1,000 more calories each day than they would normally eat. “Overfeeding,” she said, “has been a classic technique for studying how people regulate body weight.”

Weight gains varied markedly among the men, she said, but all of them gained weight. The average was one-quarter pound a day. About 85 to 90 percent of the excess calories were stored—mainly as fat. The other 10 to 15 percent was needed to digest, absorb, convert and store these calories.

Once the men stopped overeating, they dropped weight rapidly, even though they were instructed not to diet, she said. They unconsciously chose fewer calories than they would normally eat, primarily by avoiding high-fat foods.

This supports the hypothesis that successful body weight regulation might be due to separate hunger and satiety signals associated with body fat and carbohydrate levels, rather than by a single factor such as total energy level, she said. The men had plenty of fat reserves so they selected less fat.

Roberts said she and colleagues used the most up-to-date methods to avoid the shortcomings of earlier studies. In some of those studies, subjects had little or no gain in weight or body fat, she said, prompting researchers to conclude that the body has a built-in mechanism for “wasting” excess calories. But these studies did not measure how much energy (calories) the subjects expended.

Other studies, which found no change in metabolism, measured energy expenditure under confined conditions that don’t reflect a person’s normal life style. She said one source of error in weight gain studies is that the subjects may not consume all they were given.

“While it’s not uncommon for men’s caloric intake to vary 1,000 calories from day to day,” she said, “it’s not easy to eat an extra 1,000 calories day after day.” So the group developed a method to assure the men consumed all the extra food they were given.

A greater potential for error lies in incorrectly estimating the number of calories needed to maintain each subject’s weight, she explained. “It’s very difficult to make an accurate estimate.” If researchers underestimate, then some of the “extra” calories they feed subjects are not really extra, and the subject doesn’t gain weight.

In this study, she said, inaccurate estimates accounted for 90 percent of men’s differences in weight gain. This occurred even though the researchers used two methods—including chemical analysis—to determine



the calorie count of the diets each man chose for himself during a 10-day weight maintenance period prior to overeating.

Once they began overeating, she said, "we could more exactly calculate the excess calorie intake of each subject." The researchers compared the total number of calories the men burned each day during the 10-day weight maintenance period with the total number of calories in their overfeeding diets.

Also, the researchers measured total calories burned with a new method that allowed the men to live at home and to work and play as usual. They simply drank a small glass of water containing nonradioactive isotopes of both hydrogen and oxygen and provided urine samples for analysis. "We felt that confining the subjects to a metabolic ward might well suppress natural mechanisms of energy regulation," Roberts said.

Roberts lead a team of colleagues at the USDA center, including Paul Fuss, and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the study.

Judy McBride (301) 344-4095

Issued: September 5, 1990

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## **THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

### **Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table**

White . . . . .	40.0
Extra-light Amber . . . . .	37.0
Light Amber . . . . .	36.0
Amber . . . . .	35.0
Nontable . . . . .	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Contacts: Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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