

Crops to be predicted from space

A team in the Remote Sensing Center at TAMU is developing a way to predict crop conditions using satellite imagery.

Dr. Cliff Harlan, project manager, explained that this information

will be used jointly by the Departments of Mathematics, Statistics and Meteorology. They are cooperating in a research project sponsored by the Earth Observations Division of NASA's Johnson

Space Center. "The purpose here is to improve the ability for determining crop production through remotely sensed data," he said. "The practical application would be to supply this data to agriculture administrators to allow them to predetermine where shortages and surpluses might occur.

"There are two aspects to any crop survey," he noted. "The first is to be able to identify the acreage of a

specific crop. The other is to tell the yield per acre of that crop. The two together tell you the crop production.

"The satellite observations are fairly simple," Harlan pointed out. "The visible spectrum and near-infrared could be used to locate the acreage. The satellite information can also be used to update crop yield predictions based on meteorological and fertilizer availability information. This information could possibly give us an improved measure of

expected yield. That is, the appearance of the crop on the satellite images can tell us about the health of the crop.

"The yield will be computed two ways," Harlan added. "Meteorological data will provide soil temperatures, air temperatures, humidity, precipitation and solar radiation that are indicators of growing conditions. This will be correlated with the updated remote satellite information for a more accurate current picture of crop situations."

Sorority excels

Alpha Lambda, the freshman women's honor society, recently became a national affiliate but raised questions at national headquarters. The chapter is now officially the Texas A&M chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta. Formal installation ceremonies will be held later this fall, said Karen Switzer, the new adviser.

"The national organization called and said they only had one question," said Switzer. "They just couldn't understand how any one

institution could have a women eligible for membership. The figures the national found so astounding are that 1,282 freshman women in the qualified for membership and accepted.

Membership in the organization is based on the first semester and those freshman women with a 3.5 or better GPA that are full course load are issued letters to join. Members are active through the second year of college and hold office if they are designated active.

Alpha Lambda Delta also projects the tutoring of freshmen subjects. The service is available any student needing help. "The girls seem to feel they should do one large project rather than take on several, so they can't do them all," said Switzer.

Officers for this year will be Raesner, president, Carl H. president; Candy Baumgardner, secretary; Patti Grethouse, treasurer; and Susan Stroder, reporter.

Placement post created

A 1965 TAMU graduate, J. Southernland will fill the newly created post of Coordinator of Educational Placement Services at TAMU effective Sept. 1.

Southernland's appointment was announced by Robert Walker, director of development, and Van Pelt, placement director. "Malon will be responsible for directing placement efforts in the area of education at school, college, university levels, much in the way university placement programs organized approaches to placement for our graduates in the business and in industry," said Pelt.

"Although his primary focus will be with graduates of the colleges of education and liberal arts, he will also have responsibility for existing placement functions added Van Pelt.

Aircraft tax due Sept. 3

Aircraft owners must file a Federal tax return, Form 422, Sept. 3 for aircraft in use by July.

The annual fee for each aircraft is \$25 plus the tax of 3 1/2 cents per pound of maximum certified weight for turbine powered aircraft and 2 cents for each pound of maximum certified take off weight for other aircraft.

The tax year for the use of aircraft occurs after July 31, based on weight is proportionately reduced. The return is due the last day of the month following the month of first taxable use. If the last day of the month falls on Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the return is due on the next preceding day.

These tax revenues are used for construction and improvement of public airports and air facilities.

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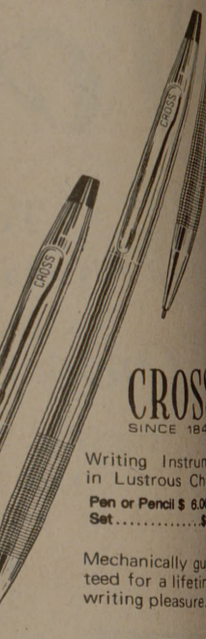
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