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# DO YOU KNOW

## James E. Patterson's Facts and Numbers

**THAT** in 1987 U.S. recipients of such awards as the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, will be taxed for the first time in U.S. history. Section 74 of the Internal Revenue Service Code has been revised to permit taxation of any award for scientific or artistic achievement.

**THAT** U.S. agricultural exports to China in fiscal 1985/1986 declined 63 percent from the previous fiscal year.

**THAT** the number of bachelor's degrees conferred in agricultural and natural resource disciplines decreased nearly 10 percent from 1979 to 1983. During the same period, the number of master's degrees for agriculture and natural resource disciplines increased 6.5 percent; the number of Ph.D.'s increased 20 percent for the period.

**THAT** U.S. per capita consumption of dairy products (including butter) dropped from 343 pounds in 1968 to 290 pounds in 1984.

**THAT** the United States produces less than 2 percent of the world's rice, but supplies over 20 percent of the world's rice exports.

**THAT** per capita consumption of red meat in 1984 was 142 pounds in comparison to 159 pounds in 1971. In the same period per capita consumption of poultry, chicken and turkey, increased from 49 to 73 pounds.

**THAT** farm debt held by the Farmers Home Administration increased more than 400 percent from 1976 to 1985 while total farm debt in the United States increased about 120 percent over the same period. And,

**THAT** borrowers in three states—Georgia, Mississippi and Texas accounted for nearly a third of all delinquent loans with the Farmer Home Administration on June 30, 1986.

*James Patterson is an agricultural Statistician located in the Washington, D.C. area.*

**THAT** the Commodity Credit Corporation's outstanding farm loans increased \$10 billion from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1983.

**THAT** over 50 million tons of commercial fertilizer were applied to soil in the United States in 1984.

**THAT** the estimated average monthly electricity bill per farm in 1984 was highest in Arizona (\$257) and lowest in West Virginia (\$47). The U.S. average was \$97.40 for 1984.

**THAT** over 70 percent of all U.S. agricultural land is used for range and/or pasture.

**THAT** wool had a 10 percent share of the U.S. fiber market in 1950 but only 2 percent in 1983.

**THAT** nearly one-third of all harvested cropland, 111 million acres, were harvested for exports in 1984.

**THAT** with no appreciable decline in the number of livestock grazed the Forest Service received less than \$10 million in grazing receipts in 1984—the lowest since 1975.

**THAT** forest fires have burned over 2.6 million acres of our national forest since 1970.

**THAT** the U.S. trade deficit with Asia, the developing nations and Japan, amounted to \$82 billion, or 55 percent of the total U.S. trade deficit, in 1985. In contrast, the U.S. deficit with Asia was only \$3.5 billion in 1975.

**THAT** the median age for men, in 1985, at first marriage was 25.5 years while for women the median was 23.3. This is the highest median ever recorded for women.

### A Letter From:

**Eugene Lamb, Program Analyst,  
National Association of Conservation Districts**

Mr. Patterson, I enjoyed reading your new column, "Do You Know," that began with the First Quarter 1987 issue of "CHOICES". There were two items in the column that particularly caught my attention.

Your lead "fact" on the District of Columbia soil Conservation District pointed out that we do not have any farms here. That is right. But, while we do have a large agricultural constituency, conservation districts aren't just for farmers. Soil and water conservation embraces many activities outside of agriculture. We have a viable and active program here in the nation's capitol even though we don't have any farms.

By the way, the District of Columbia shares the distinction of being one of only two completely urban conservation districts in the United States. Boston (Suffolk County), Massachusetts is the other completely urban district. But, Boston does have a farm—the old Brook farm which, not too long ago was still raising corn. That may not last, however, since I recently heard that the farm was about to be purchased by an urban park district. When that happens we'll have two conservation districts that have no farms.

A second fact stated: "That state governments, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, in the fiscal year that ended September 30, 1984, appropriated \$247 million for conservation programs? By comparison, the budget of the Soil Conservation Service in the same fiscal year was \$165 million."

This "fact" is erroneous in two places. First, state *and* local governments together appropriated \$247 million in FY-1984 (state = \$132 + million; local (counties) = \$114 + million; total was \$247 million). The FY-1984 budget for the Soil Conservation Service was \$622 (\$621.894) million, not \$160 million.

Thought you might like to know. ☐