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DO YOU KNOW?

James Patterson On...

FACTS & FIGURES OF INTEREST

THAT over the past 40 years, over 50 percent of all U.S. crop losses underwritten by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation have been attributed to droughts? An additional 18 percent of crop losses were attributed to poor drainage.

THAT the Dow Jones industrial average was first calculated on May 26, 1886, using the stock prices of 12 industrial firms? The number of firms was expanded to 20 in 1916 and again 12 years later to 30. For the past 50 years the average has been computed using 30 firms though the firms in the average have varied.

THAT during 1986 agricultural subsidies in Japan, the European Community, and the United States totaled \$63 billion? The U.S. accounted for 40 percent of the 3-nation total with the EC and Japan accounting for 36 and 24 percent, respectively.

THAT 1987 U.S. unit retail sales of farm tractors increased 2.4 percent from 1986? The last year-to-year increase in tractor sales occurred in 1978.

THAT annually, U.S. dairy farmers sell over 1 billion pounds of milk directly to consumers?

THAT the number of child day-care centers providing food services doubled from 1980 to 1986?

THAT the U.S. exported 3 thousand metric tons of milk-based infant foods to more than 18 countries in 1986?

THAT the U.S. per capita consumption of tobacco products, based on population 18 years of age and over, in 1986 was 6.58 pounds? In contrast, 8.61 pounds of tobacco products were consumed in 1976 by the same population age group.

THAT over 8 billion pounds of vegetables were frozen for commercial packing in the U.S. during 1986, a 30-percent increase from 1976? In contrast, 2 billion pounds of fruits were frozen for commercial packing in 1986, a 3-percent decrease from 1976.

THAT over 61 billion pounds of animal food were prepared and processed under federal inspection during fiscal year 1986 in the United States?

THAT credit card loans at U.S. commercial banks increased \$72.4 billion from 1980 to 1987? South Dakota and Delaware, states enacting legislation to promote commercial banks locat-

ing credit card offices in their states in 1980 and 1981, accounted for 17 percent and 35 percent of the increase, respectively. While credit card loans have grown 243 percent nationally from 1980 to 1987, South Dakota and Delaware experienced growth of 207,876 percent and 24,375 percent, respectively.

THAT 1.6 million cattle received tuberculin tests in the U.S. in 1986? As a result, only .03 of one percent of the cattle tested positive.

THAT 13 states, including North Carolina, Georgia, and Kansas, have designated the honey bee as their state insect? In recognition of the importance of the honey bee to American agriculture, Representative Stephen Neal (D-NC) has sponsored a House Resolution to designate the honey bee our national insect.

THAT 4 billion pounds of fish and shellfish were caught by U.S. fishing craft within 3 miles of U.S. shorelines in 1987? This catch represented 37 percent of all commercial landings for fish and shellfish in 1987.

THAT the Bureau of Land Management collected \$629 thousand in fines for unauthorized use of public lands in 1987? Of this amount, 6 percent resulted from agricultural trespass while 32 percent resulted from mineral trespass.

THAT 65 percent of U.S. public lands, 221 million acres, provide habitat for over 2 million game animals including 1.4 million deer and 300,000 antelope?

THAT from 1981 to 1986 the value of U.S. agricultural exports declined 40 percent, from \$43 billion to \$26 billion? In contrast, imports increased 20 percent, from approximately \$17 billion to more than \$21 billion in the same period.

THAT the U.S. Government sold over 60 thousand Christmas trees from public lands in 1987 at a total sale price of \$130 thousand? The average tree price ranged from a low of \$1 in Montana to a high of \$3.36 in Colorado.

THAT total U.S. commercial bank deposits were \$1,785,510 million in January 1988?

THAT USDA's Food Stamp Program provided an average monthly benefit of \$45.49 to more than 19 million participants in fiscal year 1986?

THAT total costs for U.S. fleet truck and truck owner-operators hauling fruits and vegetables averaged \$1.16 per mile in 1987.

THAT the value of U.S. egg production for 1987 was \$3.18 billion, down 9 percent from 1986?

THAT the total production of U.S. farm-raised catfish was 22 million pounds in 1977? By 1987, it had increased to 280 million pounds, an increase of 1,167 percent.

THAT 422 million pounds of fish, including shellfish, were warehoused in U.S. cold storage facilities as of December 31, 1987? 

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