

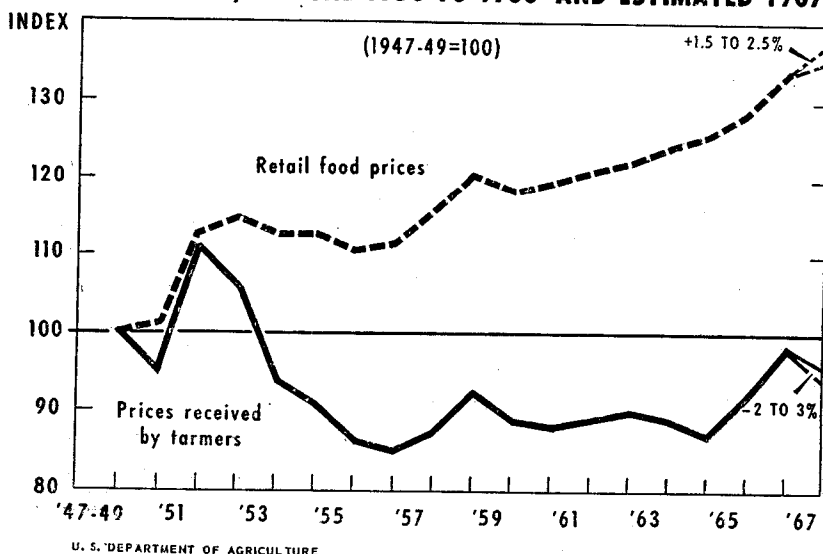
FARM INCOME RISES SHARPLY

Higher livestock prices and a thriving grain market have resulted in sharply rising farm income through 1965 and early 1966. An increase in realized net income per farm from 1964 to 1965 was reported for farms in every sales category. For the large farms, which account for the bulk of farm income, this has meant increased prosperity. For the small farms, which account for the bulk of the farm population, this has meant some relief from near-poverty conditions. In spite of the tremendous boost, the per-capita income of the farm population is still a third lower than that of the nonfarm population.

Realized net farm income during January-June 1966 was estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as just over \$16 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate). Aside from the \$17.1 billion reported for 1947, realized net income has never exceeded \$16 billion in any previous year on record. Realized gross farm income in the first half of 1966 was around \$48.5 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate), substantially higher than in the same period a year earlier. Production expenses through June this year were reported at an annual rate of \$32.2 billion, seasonally adjusted, compared with \$30.4 billion in the first half of 1965. Farmers were paying higher prices and increasing purchases of some of the more important production items. Farm wage rates were up about 7 percent, but the number of hired hands through the first six months of this year was reported to be down about 9 percent from the corresponding 1965 period.

CHART I

**PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RETAIL FOOD PRICES
1947-49 AVERAGE, ANNUAL 1950 TO 1966 AND ESTIMATED 1967**



THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF PROJECT GREEN THUMB

There are several million older low income people living in rural America who, through no fault of their own, cannot continue to farm or find employment. Having poor job prospects and often living in rural pockets of poverty, these older farmers face years of deprivation and poverty for themselves and their wives. Project Green Thumb seeks to use the skills of older and retired low income farmers in growing things to beautify the highways.

Green Thumbers have planted 600,000 trees, built 35 new parks, reconditioned 60 more older parks, established several hundred new rest areas, cleared hundreds of miles of highway right-of-way, assisted in many state, county, city and rural beautification efforts.