"DON'T TURN LOOSE POTATO!" — Sidney Bowles, Lafayette county agent, advises parish farmers "Lache-Pas-La-Patate" which means "Don't turn loose of the potato." This bit of advice (in French) will become the title of a regular column that he will write for farmers in The Daily Advertiser.

'Lache Pas La Patate' Is Bowles' Advice To Farmers

By SIDNEY BOWLES

This expression used to be the byword of our sweet potato industry. Laterally it means "Don't turn loose of the Potato." A comparable saying in English is "Don't give up the ship". Back in 1947, our two million dollar sweet potato industry was threatened with an embargo because of the presence of the sweet potato weevil. This meant that our potatoes could not move out of the State except under certain rigid requirements which at that time was carload shipment.

The situation was so serious that we organized a Lafayette Parish Weevil Control Committee and started an intensified campaign to arouse the farmers and the public to the need of practicing certain cultural methods which would help reduce and eventually eliminate the sweet potato weevil. Among other things, we did the following: full page ad in the Daily Advertiser covering the control recommendations; a proclamation by the Mayor and the Police Jury and with concurrence of the mayors of the neighboring towns, a weevil clean-up week was proclaimed. This was done for three consecutive years.

Mr. Maurice Heymann, who has always been tremendously interested in agriculture, came to my assistance and helped me design a poster which pictured the sweet potato weevil, infested potato and the clean-up recommendations. Together we used the slogan "Lache-Pas-La-Patate" which became the very prominent and very impressive slogan of the sweet potato industry at the time. This expression if used in its narrowest sense applies only to sweet potatoes. As you know, our sweet potato crop has become relatively minor, however, Lache-Pas-La-Patate, when used in a broader sense, means a whole lot of things such as "Don't lose courage" "Don't lose hope" and "Don't give up the ship".

Dairy Advice

Our dairy industry which has now become one of the most important agricultural crops in the parish is faced with a situation which calls for a broader application of this expression — Lache-Pas-La-Patate.

C.M.T. This means California Mastitis Test. The State Board of Health has announced that on July 1 every commercial dairy producer must be on a positive Mastitis Control Program or shall be subject to having his permit removed or degraded. We are urging all of our commercial dairymen to faithfully follow the C.M.T. Program. This means that once each month the milk from every quarter of theudder of every cow that is milked is tested with the C.M.T. A form is provided so that the dairyman can indicate the result of the test for each month. Some dairymen already have records of 4 or 5 consecutive months of this C.M.T. We are urging all others to keep a record of this C.M.T. each month as this will be evidence to the Health Department that they are on a definite program of Mastitis Control.

Agricultural Credit is a very important tool in the agricultural program of the parish. The Opelousas Production Credit Association, which I helped to organize in 1933 has been a wonderful help in providing finances to our farmers in this parish and the adjoining four parishes for 24 years. It is amazing the progress that they have made during this time.

I recently attended a supper that was given to the members from Lafayette Parish in Broussard. The financial statement shows that the loan value increased from 250 thousand dollars in 1934 to eight million eight hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars in 1966. This is a credit organizer...