

bunch of fast-ruble operators...". Of course, many calls are being made from the rostra to "untie the hands of the co-operative cattle-breeders". In fact, they are not being untied at all. That's probably why only 1,300 tonnes of meat are sold by private growers. Is this the best we can do?

When the talk turns to independent growers, the following argument is put forth: the people in the North already make a lot of money; what do they need these young bulls and pigs for? By the way, the average monthly salary in Murmansk Province is 358 rubles.

The time has passed when only one direction for agricultural production in the Arctic was considered: increasing investment in the "large-scale agro-industrial complex". Today, the view of the future shows a variety of paths of development: new factors include co-operative forms of production and personal economic interests. So far, these "forms and interests" have not been evaluated or studied by anyone.

The economists should go out "to the people" and estimate, calculate, discuss: "Who is willing to lend a helping hand? How many of you are there?"

And there are those who are ready to help. Is Motorova really the only one prepared to raise a dozen small bulls to above the minimum slaughterhouse size? There are tens of thousands of retired people in the province.

The following point must also be considered: men in the Arctic retire at the age of 55, and women at 50. As the women of Murmansk joke: "I'm retired now, it's time to get married!" Many