

Pennsylvania Milk Production Sets Record in 1956 Report Shows

HARRISBURG — Milk production on Pennsylvania farms set an all-time 12-month record in 1956 and there are indications that a new annual egg record may have been established, according to Federal-State preliminary reports announced by the State Department of Agriculture.

Output of milk for the entire year 1956 is estimated at 6,558,000,000 pounds or four per cent above the previous record of 6,364,000,000 pounds established in 1955.

Until final estimates are prepared on egg production, officials expressed belief that the 1955 record of 3,654,000,000 eggs would be equaled or slightly exceeded.

The new milk record was attained in spite of October, November and December production dropping below the same months in the previous year. Lush spring and summer pastures helped attainment of the new record. December output, totaling 488 million pounds, was down about 2 per cent from December 1955.

Decreased production during

the last three months of 1956 reflect the low feeding value of rain-damaged hay in western, northern and some central areas of the State, the Department said. Milk output per cow averaged 514 pounds in December, down 12 pounds from the same month in 1955. Milk cow numbers at 950,000 compare with 943,000 for December 1955, but the increase failed to offset the production rate.

Pennsylvania poultrymen during December were bothered by changes in weather and prevalence of disease in some flocks. However, generally mild temperatures brought a substantial increase in the average number of eggs per layer compared with a year earlier. Total production of 320 million eggs from 19 million layers was 1 per cent above December 1955.

Prices received by farmers for eggs and poultry meat remained unusually low during December from a year earlier. Broilers were at the lowest mid-December average in 15 years.

Tobacco Co-op To Market Unsold Crops

Unsold Lancaster County tobacco will be marketed through the Lancaster County Tobacco Growers Cooperative Assn. starting in about two weeks under a plan proposed Friday night by the co-op manager, Mark S. Hess.

He said that the co-op will pay growers an advance price of 10 cents a pound, delivered to designated warehouses. The farmer will then give the cooperative title to the tobacco to sell it for the highest possible price.

The plan is similar to the ones used by the organization to market 1951 and 1954 crops. The 1954 crop netted growers 27 1/4 cents a pound.

Hess said that several offers for fillers have been received "at the top market price." He expressed confidence that growers will equal present market price after deducting storage and handling costs.

In the event the crop must be sold for less than the 20 cents advanced, the loss will be the co-op's, it was explained.

Hess said that the co-op is reserving the right to case some or all the tobacco received. He added that it is hoped to lower packing costs from the 1954 level. The saving will come mostly from being able to buy used cases.

In the marketing agreement, the producer receives a 20 cent advance payment. When the tobacco is sold, he is paid the net gain after packing and storage cost and a cent a pound handling fee has been deducted.

Of approximately 125 farmers jamming the auditorium at the Farm Bureau Building, about 100 of them said that they had not sold their crop.

However, only 50 acres were signed for participation in the program immediately following the meeting.

A number of growers indicated that they prefer to hold their crop in hopes of selling it on the regular market. The present market price is about 23 cents a pound after an early season high of about 30 cents.

In answer to questions by farmers, Hess recommended continuation of the practice of sizing tobacco. He explained, "The number of potential buyers is limited when pull-off is marketed."

"The trend is toward pull-off, but I will not be able to suggest marketing it that way until maybe this time or maybe next year," he added.

USDA Handbook Lists State Laws On Egg Marketing in 47 States

Forty-seven of the 48 states (all except Texas) have laws regulating egg marketing — but the standards, grades, and other regulations vary greatly from state to state.

To inform the industry about the regulatory requirements and to stimulate interest in a greater degree of uniformity, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued a handbook summarizing

now beginning to produce their own agricultural commodities, getting their profit from lowered handling costs, quality control, and lower transportation costs.

Three directors were re-elected during the meeting. Aaron Binkley from the Northwest district, Edgar Martin from the Northeast, and Samuel Harnish from the Southern district.

and comparing principal provisions and requirements of the state egg laws and regulations.

The publication is expected to be helpful in coordinating efforts to improve egg marketing practices, meanwhile providing the egg trade with detailed information on regulations under which it operates in different areas

It includes summaries and comparisons, many of them in tabular form, of requirements by state as to the size, weight, quality, labeling, handling, and displaying of eggs. It covers exemptions of producers from certain regulations, the use or prohibition of certain terms such as "fresh" to indicate the quality of eggs offered for sale, penalties for violations, and many related factors of the egg trade.

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