

# Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

## Index of Prices for Pennsylvania Crops 5 Points

HARRISBURG — The index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for their principal products dropped five points during the month ended Jan. 15, the State Department of Agriculture announced.

Major cause for the decline was a drop of 15 cents a hundred pounds for milk at wholesale, coupled with lower prices received for beef cattle, according to State surveys.

Standing at 245 per cent of the 1914 base level, the index for farm products was 6 points lower than on Jan. 15, 1956.

Top prices showed good advances during the month. Meat prices other than beef cattle showed encouraging advances but prices were more than offset by lower prices received by farmers for chickens, eggs, and seasonal decline in wholesale

the face of declines in overpriced, the index of prices received by farmers for interest, taxes and advanced two points from Dec. 15 and was 11 points higher than the year previous.

On the brighter side, all major Pennsylvania grain crops showed gains over Dec. 15 price averages ranging from 1 to 5 cents a bushel, with buckwheat holding steady at \$1.20 a bushel. The index for crop prices rose four points standing at 230 on Jan. 15, 31 points higher than a year previous.

The livestock index at 249 per cent of the base level, showed a gain of six points. Hogs advanced a hundred pounds live weight and at 17.70 were the highest since July 1955. Lambs were 2 cents a hundred, calves had a 20-cent increase, but chicken, egg and milk declines offset these gains.

## No. 1 Hogs in Cut-out

WASHINGTON — The average value advantage of U. S. No. 1 over No. 3 live basis, for 220 pound barrows and sows was 73 cents a hundred based on wholesale carlot prices of fresh pork cuts at Chicago, Jan. 18 to Jan. 24, 1957, in the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports.

## Series of Meetings

### Discuss Soil Bank

### Agreement

A series of community meetings has been scheduled by the Lancaster Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee to discuss the acreage reserve program in 1957 and the 1957 ACP program.

For the date and place of the meetings, see the Farm Calendar in this issue.



SIX WEEKS OF BAD WEATHER are yet to come, if you believe the groundhog's prediction made as he saw his shadow Saturday. These are two of the groundhogs that assisted in the annual celebration of the big event by the Slumbering Ground-

hog Lodge at Quarryville. The top hats were part of the garb worn by the lodge members. For the U. S. Weather Bureau's version of the coming weather, see the prediction maps on page 12 (Woolley Photo).

## USDA Under Secretary Urges Farmers to Stress Quality, Selling

"This is a world of intense competition. Farmers compete with other businesses for consumers' dollars," according to True D. Morse, under secretary of agriculture who spoke at the twentieth annual Minnesota-Iowa Swine Institute at Austin, Minn., yesterday.

Morse, who formerly headed a midwest farm management service, also said that different farm commodities compete with one another for a place in the diets of people and in trying to be the best buy for the housewife.

"The old familiar meat market is almost a thing of the past. Now we shop in stores that are stocked with thousands of items to attract the dollars of the housewife.

"In the supermarkets of today, meat often is displayed with about 5,000 other items. Seldom do you see the meat counter near the front of the store. In the grocery store of today, the farmer meets intense competition for the dollars that should be spent for products of our farms and ranches," Morse said.

"Food consumption per person has shifted in the past 15 years — poultry up 11 pounds, almost double; beef up over 23 pounds, more than 40 per cent; pork down slightly, one pound. Why? For one thing, poultry producers went after quality, ready-to-use and

mass production to get more customers," Morse explained.

He also noted that cotton consumption has not increased in the past 30 years, but that soybeans, citrus crops, and margarine production has increased in the past few years.

In speaking of the troubles in the swine industry, Morse said, "There seems general agreement that a major problem with pork is 'fat.' Farmers are moving toward meat-type hogs and processors are trimming more fat off pork cuts. Trimming off outside fat is not enough — 'lard' type hogs produce too much fat imbedded inside the lean meat to suit many consumers."

He said that a team effort of farmers, processors and sellers will be needed to expand the market for pork. The farmers to produce quality hogs and the processors put out an attractive cut of meat.

"A more adequately based pricing system which rewards the farmers who produce U. S. No. 1 hogs is needed," he said.

In summing up, the under secretary said, "Population growth continues to surge up rapidly — people will continue to have a high level of income with which to buy. Farmers can sell more of their products — and have a more rapidly growing income. They can do it by vigorously meeting competition for the consumer's dollar. People want and need more meat, milk and eggs. Let's find ways to sell, profitably, more of these good farm products."

## Poultry Assn. To Hear Talk On Prospects

Robert R. Parks, Altoona, vice president of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation will speak at the annual meeting of the Lancaster County Poultry Assn., at 7:30 p. m. Thursday at the new Poultry Center, 340 Roseville Rd., Lancaster.

Parks is also past president of the American Poultry and Hatchery Federation. His subject will be "There is a Future in Poultry."

The following list of candidates have been nominated as directors for the association to be elected at the meeting: Arthur Graybill, R1 Stevens; John H. Herr, R7 Lancaster; Carl Harnish, R6 Lancaster; J. Richard Kreider, R3 Manheim; Ira Rutt, Peach Bottom; H. Raymond Stoner, 1051 Eden Rd., Lancaster; Benj. G. Shank, R1 Elizabethtown; and Lemon S. Wiest, R1 Ephrata.

The following reports will be made by directors of the association: Membership, Jay R. Greider; poultry tour, Mark Myer; youth awards, Elwood Earhart; programs for meetings, Levi H. Brubaker; poultry banquet, Martin Miller; nominating committee, Roy B. Herr; TV programs, James Dorsey and Lewis Mortensen; and audit, Elmer Groff.

Light refreshments will be served by wives of the members.

Dr. E. I. Robertson, president, will preside at the meeting.

## CCC Grain Loans Mature Feb. 28

Farm stored wheat, oats and barley loans will mature Feb. 28. Farmers who wish to redeem their grain must do so by this time, or the grain becomes the property of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

## Farm Bureau Members Asked To Finish Test

An audience of about 600 persons at the annual Farm Bureau stockholders meeting Wednesday at the Guernsey Breeders Sale Barn was urged by County Agent Max Smith to help in the completion of the brucellosis testing program in the county.

"I hope that we will not be the last county to complete the program as we were some years ago in the tuberculosis testing program," Smith said.

The farmers were told that Bang's testing, now on a volunteer basis, probably will become a requirement in the near future. He also said that the swine brucellosis program is starting. The same procedure will be used for swine testing as for cattle, according to Smith.

Smith also noted that the farmer is still in a price squeeze.

"The cost of things you buy went up .66 of one per cent, while the products you sell rose only .40 of one per cent last year," he said.

But he said that the future of farming and the family farm looks bright. Maryland, Delaware and Florida all show population increases in the East and the Western states also have made great population gains.

"This population gain gives you a continuing market for your rising production," he said.

Smith said that for the family size farm to continue to prosper, the farmer must pay more attention to good management, selection of the proper type of farming, record keeping, acceptance of new farming methods and emphasize quality.

## Eastern States To Move Center To New Building

Eastern States Farmers' Exchange will move from their present quarters at 608 North Prince St. to a new service center at the intersection of Dillerville Rd. and Manheim Pk. Monday.

The new service center is constructed of Butler steel buildings and is paved.

The new buildings also offer two loading docks for trucks as well as a rail dock the full length of the warehouse building.

The reason for the move, according to Fred Irwin, manager, is to eliminate the congestion of the Prince Street location and allow for future expansion of the cooperatives facilities.

Eastern States operates more than 90 service centers in its New England and Mid-Atlantic state area.

The service center, Irwin says, provides a storage point where farmer representatives draw supplies to supplement, in emergencies, the supplies they receive directly.

An open house celebrating the opening of the new building will be held later this month.

## Corn Price Support Loans Still Available

Farmers can still apply for price support on their 1956 corn crops through loans or purchase agreements, the County ASC committee reports.