

## Steady and Stronger Cattle Prices In February; Drop in Hogs Expected

Steady prices are expected on the better fed cattle grades during the next 30 days according to agricultural economists. Prices of lower grades and replacement cattle will show some strength.

Stronger hog prices are likely until about mid-February. Prices then will likely drop, the economists say, to a point where the average February price will be near the January level. Lamb prices are expected to stay a little above those of a year ago.

Cattle prices will continue under pressure from heavy marketings. Feeders have been topping out feed lots rather closely and moving cattle to market with less finish this winter.

The result is a shorter supply of choice and prime grades and a larger supply of good grades as compared to a year earlier. This situation has resulted in slightly stronger prices for the two top grades than existed during the same period a year ago.

Average price of choice fed steers at Chicago for December at \$22 was \$1.64 above December, 1955. Prime grades averaged \$25.52 for the same period showing a \$3.60 increase over December, 1955.

Weather conditions will have a

marked effect on price trends this spring, the economists believe. General rains through the Midwest drouth areas would add considerable strength to the feeder and stocker and slaughter market by drawing many of the two-way cattle back to the country.

During February and March, pigs farrowed during August and September will be coming to market and will exert a downward pressure on prices. Prices will continue above last year's levels during the winter and early spring.

However, the price this spring isn't expected to be as much above that of a year earlier as it was during December and January.

Average price of barrows and gilts at eight markets for December was \$16.70 — \$6 above December 1955. Intentions of hog producers in December were to have two per cent fewer sows farrow this spring than last.

The planned reduction in spring farrowings, though the second in a row, is small and a new upturn could begin by the end of the season or in the fall crop.

Choice and prime slaughter lambs sold in December averaged nearly \$20 per 100 pounds at Chicago — \$1.66 above December 1955. At this time of year, the lamb supply for slaughter is from feed lots and wheat pastures.

More lambs will be on feed for market than last year in the central Corn Belt, but poor condition of wheat pastures reduced lamb feeding in the Plains states. Lambs, as well as cattle, moved to feed somewhat earlier this sea-

son and probably will also move to slaughter earlier.

With the expected seasonal increase, lamb prices stand a good chance of continuing above a year ago. At that time, they were depressed by extremely large supplies of other meats.

Retail prices for lamb and mutton will likely be strengthened by the shorter supplies of other red meats and are also expected to average a little higher in the first half of 1957 than in 1956.

## Farm Calendar

### Monday

Southeast County Agents Meeting, noon, Lakeside Inn, Pottstown.

### Tuesday

Southern 4-H Tractor Club — 7:30 p.m., L. H. Brubakers.

Trench Silo meetings — morning and afternoon. John Walker, Penn State, will assist.

Eastern States Service Center open house — 8-9 p.m. at the Eastern States Service Center, Manheim Pike and Dillerville Rd., Lancaster.

Stockholders meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Artificial Breeding Cooperative, Lancaster County District — 7:30 p.m. at East Hempfield Elementary School Bldg, Landisville. Speaker will be Joe S. Taylor, Penn State. A director for the Lancaster County District will be selected.

### Wednesday

Cloister Flower Club, 2 p.m. — at the home of Mrs. Harvey Boltz, Ephrata.

Lancaster Rotary Club Farmer's Day Program. Bruce White, night, USDA, Washington, D.C., speaker. Topic, "National Agricultural Soil Bank Program."

Stockholders meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Artificial Breeding Cooperative, Chester-Delaware Counties District — 7:30 p.m. at Coatesville Y.W.C.A. Speaker will be Dr. Samuel Guss, Penn State.

ASC Community meeting on 1957 ACP Program and the Acreage Reserve Program on Corn — 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall, Rawlinsville.

John Deere Day — at Alan Beyers', Christiana.

### Thursday

Western 4-H Tractor Club — 7:30 p.m., N. G. Hershey, Manheim.

ASC Community meeting on 1957 ACP Program and the Acreage Reserve Program on Corn — 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall, Georgetown.

Annual extension meeting — 6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 136 East Orange St., Lancaster.

John Deere Day — 7 p.m. at A. B. C. Groff, New Holland.

### Friday, Feb. 22

Egg quality conference at Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

### Monday, Feb. 25

ASC Community meeting on 1957-ACP Program and the Acreage Reserve Program on Corn — 7:30 p.m. at the Messick Chevrolet Co., Ephrata.

### Tues. & Wed., Feb. 26 & 27

Poultry Housing and Equipment Conference at Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

### Tuesday, Feb. 26

Farm and Home Planning Conference, Assembly room, Lancaster County National Bank, North Queen Street, Lancaster.

International Harvester meeting at Kauffman Bros., Mountville.

### Wednesday, Feb. 27

Dairy Day — 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Guernsey Breeders Sales Pavillion, Highway 30 East. Speeches by Penn State and industry specialists, educational display on making more high quality roughage and luncheon at noon.

### Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 27 & 28

International Harvester meeting at C. B. Hooper's, Intercourse.

### Saturday, March 2

International Harvester meeting at J. Paul Nolt's, Gap.

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## Lancaster Markets: Market Steady For Most Grades of Stock Offered

By DAVID S. LORENSEN  
USDA Market News Service  
WEDNESDAY TO

LANCASTER, Feb. 13 — CATTLE Three days 2,713, week ago 2,861. Compared with last Wednesday slaughter steers and heifers steady to weak. Cows active fully steady, bulls weak to 50 cents lower. Stockers and feeder steers mostly steady. The three-day receipts comprised around 40 loads slaughter steers, three loads heifers and ten per cent of the total was cows. The balance was mainly stocker and feeder steers except for about three loads of bulls.

Bulk choice fed steers 1,000-1,312 lbs. \$20.50-22, a few lots high choice and prime 1,047-1,198 lb steers \$23-24. One part load prime 1,000 lb. weights \$24.25. Good and low choice steers and yearlings \$18.50-21. A few small lots standard to low choice heifers \$15-19.50. Utility and commercial cows \$12-14, canners and cutters \$9.50-12.75. Utility and commercial bulls \$14.75-17.50, a few commercial and good \$18-19.50, cutter bulls down to \$13.50.

Bulk medium and good stocker and feeder steers and light yearlings 535-1,000 lbs. \$16.50-19.50, common stock steers \$13-15. A few mostly medium and good

stock steer calves 425-475 lbs. \$19-22.

CALVES: Three days 705, week ago 750. Veal fully steady with last Wednesday. Bulk good and choice \$24-32, a few prime \$34-36, individual head to \$37. Utility and standard grades \$15-22.50.

HOGS: Three days 1,820, week ago 1,427. Supply mainly barrows and gilts, mixed U. S. 1-3, 180-250 lbs Sows scarce. Compared with last Wednesday, barrows and gilts 75 cents to \$1 lower, sows steady to weak. Bulk barrows and gilts mixed U. S. 1-3, 190-230 lbs. in Wednesday market \$18-18.50, a few small lots mostly No. 1, 200-220 lbs. \$19. Weights 240-270 lbs. \$17-18 and some around 160 lbs. down to \$17.25. Sows mixed U. S. 1-3, 270-550 lbs. \$13.50-16.

SHEEP: 150, week ago 230. Supply was mainly woolled slaughter lambs grading utility and good. Slaughter lambs mostly steady with last Wednesday. Bulk good grade slaughter woolled lambs \$19-21, a few choice to \$23, utility and low good \$14-18.50. Culls as low as \$12.00.

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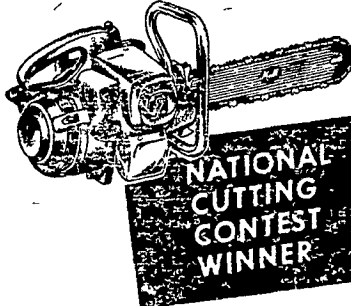
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