

# Lancaster Farming

Vol. II, No. 16

Quarryville (Lancaster County) Pa., Friday, Feb. 22, 1957

\$2 Per Year

## Egg Production Shows First Drop In Five Years

HARRISBURG — Egg production on Pennsylvania farms last year reached a total of 3,629,000,000 eggs, one per cent below output for 1955, the State Department of Agriculture reported Monday.

It was the first time since 1951 that annual production of eggs failed to exceed output of previous year, Federal-State surveys revealed.

Keystone State hens started the new year by producing an all-time January record of 328 million eggs, four per cent above January 1956. At 19,354,000, the number of layers was the lowest since 1951.

January milk production was up four per cent from December but the 510 million pounds was three per cent below the 524 million pounds for January 1955.

Low quality roughage due to extremely wet weather last summer continues to affect milk production in the state, the Department said. January was the third consecutive month with production of milk below the same period a year earlier.

Somewhat higher milk cow numbers failed to offset lowered production per cow. January numbers, estimated at 952,000 cows, totaled the same as in December but one per cent above January 1956.

Declines in Pennsylvania milk output in recent months have increased the proportion used for doorstep deliveries and other fluid sales. This condition has served to increase the price received by farmers for milk, averaging \$5.20 per hundred pounds wholesale on Jan. 15, or 55 cents above a year earlier.

Dairy feed costs increased to a lesser extent than milk prices and the relation between these costs and the price received for milk was the most favorable for the date since records began in 1938. However, this favorable aspect was offset by reduced quantities of milk for sale and adverse effects of low-quality feed on the health of producing animals, the survey report declared.

Pennsylvania farmers received an average of only 39 cents a dozen for eggs as of Jan. 15. This represented a 5-cent seasonal drop from mid-December and a 16-cent decline from Jan. 15 last year. Low prices encouraged severe culling of flocks and contributed to the record average of 17.05 eggs per layer.

Prices for liveweight farm chickens averaged 17.5 cents per pound, lowest January average since 1941. Broiler prices held steady in January but 3 cents a pound under a year earlier. Turkeys brought farmers an average of .35 cents a pound liveweight, within 1 cent of the record low of 34 cents in January and February of 1955.



THESE ARE the new directors of the Lancaster County Poultry Assn. They are (left to right) Arthur Graybill, John Herr and J. Richard Kreider. Herr was also named delegate to the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation. The new directors were elected Feb. 14 at the annual meeting of the association at the Poultry Center. (LF Photo)

## 'Operation Bootstrap' Planned To Reduce Surplus, Poultrymen Told

"Operation Bootstrap" went into effect yesterday in an effort to reduce the hatching egg supply. Under the plan, the poultry industry is planning to market a million more stewing chickens than would normally go to market at this time of year.

The drive will extend throughout the month of March.

Details of the heavy fowl selling program were outlined by Robert R. Parks, president of the Pennsylvania State Poultry Federation at the annual meeting of the Lancaster County Poultry Assn. at the Poultry Exchange Feb. 14.

Processors will have facilities ready to handle the double normal slaughter of hens. Stores and other outlets will actively promote consumption of stewing chickens by the public, according to Parks.

Breeders normally reduce their laying flocks by about 10 per cent at this time of year, Parks said. The program, instituted by poultry industry leaders and the food industry, will attempt to double the number of fowl sent to market.

It is hoped that this will have a double barreled effect — reduce the number of broilers hatched and reduce surplus egg production.

A similar program to reduce hatching over the Christmas holidays cut placings sharply and helped the market recover, he said.

Parks also indulged in some predictions for the future. He said that the use of atomic energy and anti-biotics to preserve food, and the influence of modern transportation will likely

change the marketing habits of the country. However, he said, the population of the United States is estimated to be 192 million in 1967, giving a much greater potential market for poultry.

He also predicted organized labor in processing plants and on the farm in the next few years.

In predicting the future of egg marketing and quality control, he said that the "big deal" operation in the Midwest is showing greater strength and acceptance. In these "big deals" a feed company contracts with a large food distributor and/or retailer to buy eggs.

The company then sets up the farm for egg production, including a plant with all the latest cooling and handling equipment. The operator contributes and is paid for little more than his time in tending the flock.

John H. Herr, R7 Lancaster; Arthur Graybill, R1 Stevens and J. Richard Kreider, R3 Manheim, were elected directors at the business meeting. Herr was named a delegate to the Pennsylvania State Poultry Federation.

Jay Greider, vice president, and L. Howard Martin, treasurer, are the other delegates.

The financial report showed the net worth of the association as of Dec. 31 at \$23,467.98, including a cash balance of \$447.51. Major assets are the land for the Poultry Center valued at \$7,500 and the Center building, which at the end of the year cost \$32,896.

Contributions toward construction of the Center amounted to \$14,093 and a mortgage loan of \$16,000 was made.

The annual barbecue grossed \$8,990 and an additional \$1,496 was realized for the sale of barbecue equipment and supplies and the rental of equipment. Costs of the barbecue were \$7,096 while new equipment and supplies added another \$1,682.

## Spray Program To Be Explained By Specialists

Three specialists from Penn State will present the 1957 spray program at a meeting to be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday at Art's Diner on Route 72 south of Manheim.

Custom spray operators, fieldmen and dealers are invited to meet with growers at this special meeting, according to Harry S. Sloat, associate county agent.

"The Miller Bill and amendments which went into effect late last summer provides penalties when residue is over certain tolerances on food crops or products. The penalty comes on the grower, but the responsibility will fall on those who recommend or apply such chemicals to various crops," Sloat says.

"The kind, method, timing and amount of material used will be more important now than in the past," he said.

Dr. R. S. Kirby will discuss spray programs to control diseases on tomatoes, lima beans, carrots, cauliflower and potatoes.

The spray program to control insects on vegetable crops, legumes and potatoes will be covered by J. O. Pepper, and J. O. Dutt will discuss chemical weed control on vegetable crops.

Sloat has requested that all persons desiring to attend the meeting contact him today or tomorrow so that the proper amount of food can be ordered for a cold plate buffet luncheon at noon.

## USDA Buys 48,544

### Cases of Large Eggs

Last week the USDA bought 48,544 cases of large-size shell eggs to help stabilize producer prices. They will be delivered next week and will be distributed through the National School Lunch Program.

## Stock Exposition Members Honor Leader, Henning

HARRISBURG — Gov. George M. Leader and State Agriculture Sec. William L. Henning were named Monday as honorary members of the executive committee that is to conduct the first Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition in the State Farm Show Building here next Nov. 12-16.

Leon Falk, Jr., Pittsburgh civic leader, a breeder of beef cattle at Schellsburg, Bedford County, is chairman of the executive committee. He named 22 prominent breeders and agricultural leaders appointed to the committee which meets again on March 5 in Harrisburg.

The 1955 State Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to the State Department of Agriculture to develop and operate the livestock exposition which will be open for entries from all parts of the United States and from other countries.

The act provided that the Department could make allocations, as it deems appropriate to an incorporated association whose purposes are in accord with the intent of the act. The Pennsylvania Livestock and Allied Industries Association, Inc., has been designated to steer the show in cooperation with the Department.

The executive committee includes members of the livestock association, educators, breeders, meat packers and others. In addition to Falk as show chairman, N. L. Claiborne, Pittsburgh, is the show treasurer; L. H. Bull, Deputy State Secretary of Agriculture, is secretary, and Buff L. Coleman, Easton, is show manager with headquarters in Harrisburg. Other members are

Robert Aten, Macungie; Hiram P. Ball, Pittsburgh; John P. Bloom, Ebensburg; Ernest S. Burch, Harrisburg; Walter Dunlap, Jr., Lancaster; J. Raymond Henderson, Hickory, Edward A. Hummel, Harrisville; Neal D. Ivey, Malvern, Glenn R. Kean and Thomas B. King, University Park, Walter W. Krehs, Johnstown; John B. McCool, Harrisburg; William L. Medford, Chester; Herman R. Purdy, University Park; Dale M. Ritter, Harrisburg; Kenneth A. Rugh, Bolivar; Fred W. Smalstig, Pittsburgh; James F. Torrance, Export, and B. H. Wilson, Coatesville.

## Grades Proposed

### For Canned Onions

Issuance of United States standards for grades of canned onions — the first to be formulated for this product — was proposed Friday by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The proposed standards were developed at the request of industry to assist in marketing the product.

The proposal applies only to whole canned onions which are commonly prepared and served with a sauce or used in the preparation of pot roast or stews.

The proposed standards provide for classifying the product as "U. S. Grade A" or "U. S. Fancy," "U. S. Grade B" or "U. S. Extra Standard" and "Sub-standard." The quality is determined by the evaluation of color, uniformity of size and shape, defects, and character.