

## State Livestock Numbers Show Little Change From Year Ago

HARRISBURG — Inventory numbers of all livestock on Pennsylvania farms, as of Jan. 1, totaled 2,838,000 head, down less than one per cent from a year earlier, but better than the 10-year 1946-

55 average, the State Department of Agriculture reports.

While numbers of horses and hogs declined during 1956, the numbs of cows and heifers two years old and older kept for milk production was the highest in 90 years, according to federal-state surveys. The total of 1,049,000 head was 10,000 above Jan. 1, 1956. Their value increased from \$191 million to a Jan. 1, 1957 total of 208 million.

Beef steers over one year old totaled 165,000 head, up 10,000 from a year earlier. Bulls over one year leveled off at 31,000 head.

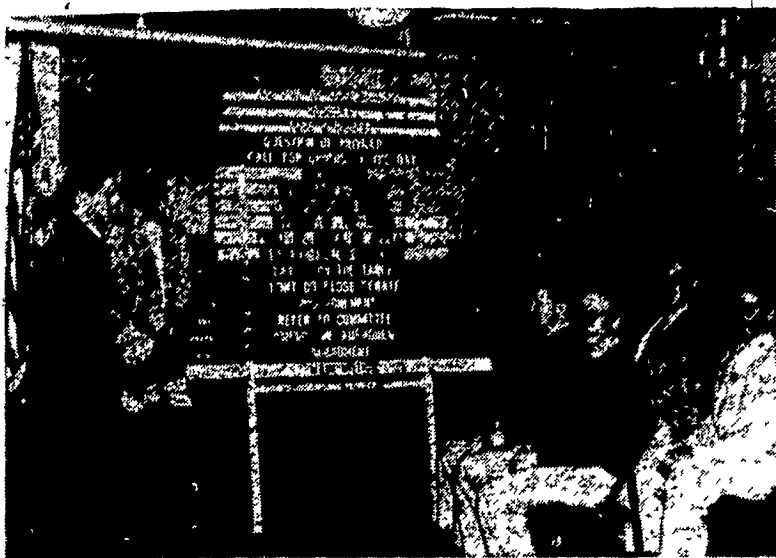
Total value of all cattle, horses, hogs and sheep on Pennsylvania farms this January was placed at \$302.7 million and compares with \$306.3 million a year earlier and the average of \$319 million.

All cattle and calves now total 1,915,000 head compared with 1,196,000 head on Jan. 1, and the average of 1,773,000 head. The all-time high cattle numbers occurred in 1880 when 1,975,000 head were on Pennsylvania farms.

Giving way to increasing numbers of tractors and trucks, horses and mules continued the decreasing trend of work stock numbers. The combined total of 58,000 head compares with 63,000 last year and the average of 132,000 head. The total value is \$5 million.

Hogs totaled 603,000 head, six per cent below a year previous and 11 per cent below average of 679,000 head. Current numbers have a value of \$14.4 million.

The 1957 sheep and lamb inventory of 262,000 head was one per cent larger than the preceding year, 10 per cent above average, and the largest total since the 264,000 head on Pennsylvania farms on Jan. 1, 1946. Present



### Cocalico FFA Demonstrates Business Procedure

Members of the Cocalico chapter of FFA demonstrate correct business meeting procedure and conduct embracing the 18 most commonly used parliamentary practices at the Denver Lions Club Agricultural Night. The chapter undertook this project in observance of National FFA week. Those participating from left to right are Marvin Bennetch, president and G. R. Drumn, advisor. In the front row is Harold Noll, secretary, and Barry Noll, reporter. Back row, Robert Good, vice president, and Theodore Buohl, sentinel. Also on the program was Ronald Fahrenbach, winner of the Cocalico FFA Public Speaking Contest with a speech on "Small Game Conservation" (Cocalico FFA Photo)

numbers have a value of \$35 million

Excluding commercial broilers, chickens on Pennsylvania farms this Jan 1 totaled 23.5 million birds, up one per cent from a year earlier while the value decreased two per cent to 34 million. Turkey numbers increased three per cent to 180,000 head but value at \$1 million was two per cent below Jan. 1, 1956.

The department said more than 75 per cent of all Pennsylvania farm cash income is from livestock and poultry, including milk and eggs. The current investment in all livestock and poultry comes to 338 million, a drop of 4 million from Jan. 1, 1956.

### Sec. Benson Tells Consumers Of Egg Values

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson Sunday urged consumers to take advantage of current plentiful supplies of eggs by buying and serving them often.

"This spring, while supplies are particularly generous, consumers have an opportunity to help themselves, as well as to help the poultry industry, by making full use of eggs in their family meals," the Secretary said. Eggs provide important nutritive value for the family, and can be served in a great variety of attractive ways.

Egg production throughout the last half of 1956 made more eggs available to consumers than ever before, the Secretary noted. High levels of production are expected to continue during the first six months of this year.

The Nation's laying flock showed a 3 per cent increase over last year in USDA's Feb 14 report of livestock and poultry inventories. Egg production per bird this year also will be higher than in 1956 as a result of steadily increasing efficiency in production techniques.

The poultry industry has developed an intensive merchandising and promotional campaign to sell more eggs through regular marketing channels. Calling the drive "March Is Egg Month," they seek increased demand to absorb current large egg supplies.

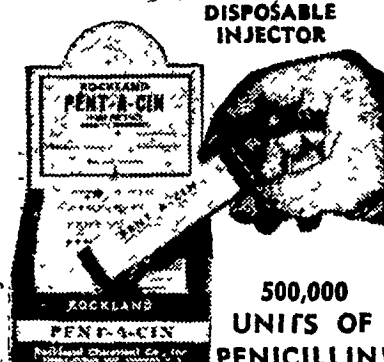
Sec. Benson praised poultrymen for the excellent job they have done in making abundant supplies of high-quality eggs available to consumers, and for their efforts to expand their markets through merchandising and promotional activities.

"This kind of program helps put America's abundance where it belongs — on America's table," declared Secretary Benson. "The department is happy to support the poultry industry in its efforts to put plentiful supplies to their best possible use."

USDA will conduct a Special Plentiful Foods Program on eggs during March, in support of the poultry industry's "March Is Egg Month" drive. Under the special program, the Department will intensify its work with the food trades, enlisting their merchandising support for eggs. USDA's informational and educational services are carrying the story of the campaign to newspapers, radio, television and other public information media, seeking their cooperation in passing it along to consumers.

Tangerines and tangelos of good quality should be heavy for their size, good in color and free from soft bruises.

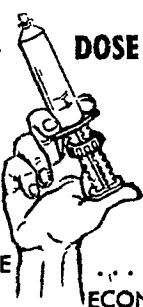
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