Hog Prices Up 45 Per Cent; Supplies Down 16 Per Cent

Minneapolis Minnesota marketing specialist said today eral weeks in the summer the market supplies of hogs thus far | dressings of hogs will be only in 1957 have been about 16 per about half of the volume in the cent below a year ago, while hog | late fall and winter, and 80 per prices are up around 45 per cent. | cent of the year hog dressings are

nual Farm Forum at the Leam- peak volume. ington Hotel, J. Russell Ives, Associate Director of Marketing of ates most efficiently at its peak the American Meat Institue, Chic- capacity, a strong demand for ago, said, this change supply and livestock is created throughout price situation reflects the free most of the year, he added. play of supply and demand conditions. He added:

"One of the outstanding features of this industry is that it is highly competive. There are several reasons why this is true. There are nearly four thousand meat processing plants in this country, for example, and these figures do not include the several thousand additional small butchers and locker plants which are primarily local in character'

In addition he said, there is competition for the consumer's dollar from the many items for sale on the American market as well as from the different kinds of foods. He cited' a recent survey of 'consumer indebtedness which showed 71 per cent of the families had some indebtness, either for homes, cars, television sets, and so forth or to financing companies and other lending institutions

Another competitive phase of the industry is, he said, that meat packers have 'no control over the volume of raw materials which they process. Meat animals are produced for market by some four million farmers and ranchers, each operating independently with respect to the animals produced and the time when they are marketed '

He pointed out that the meat packing industry is set up to operate at the peak seasonal volume of marketings but that there are many weeks in a year when the capacity of the meat packing in- 'native markets," Ives stated. dustry greatly exceeds the keted.

- A | He pointed out that during sev-Speaking on the Eleventh An- less than three-fourths of the

Since the packing plant oper-

A further competitive factor is found in the perishability of meat, he noted, since it cannot be stored economically for a very long period and thus when the dressing process begins, the meat products must be moved steadily along the way into final consumption.

"This is quite different from other manufactured products which can be stored indefinitely without fear of spoilage," Ives emphasized.

In addition, the situation in the meat packing industry is made more competitive because of the freedom of new enterprises to start in the industry. He noted that in the first six months of last year there were about one hundred plant changes -- either new firms being formed or existing facilities being expanded

That farmers have freedom to market where they please tends also to make the livestock and meat industry competitive, with the packers and processors having to bid for their supplies where they can find them. More transportation and communication facilities permit the farmer to know with considerable certainty what his livestock are worth and to select the market which he will patronize on very short notice.

"A compilation which we made recently showed that in Iowa no farmer is more than two hours' drive by truck from several alter-

He added that more than forty volume of livestock being ar- radio stations blanket the state with market news reports.



Elvin M. Landis, R5 Lancaster, (left) holds the 25-year membership award which was presented to him at the annual meeting of the District Seven Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative Tuesday in Leola. Other Lancaster County farmers to receive the 25-year awards were Lester L. Groff, Leacock, (center) and Arthur C. Diem, R2 Ephrata. Landis and Groff have been members for the past 25 years while Diem is continuing membership began by his father, Oscar Diem.

Quarter of Timber Cut Unused, Foresters Say

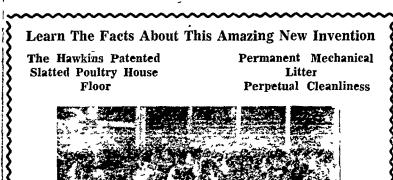
About a fourth of the timber cut each year in this country is not used for any purpose, accord-

cut for lumber, about 34 per cent logging and in wood manufacturis not used, either for fuel or any ing. However, although great other purpose.

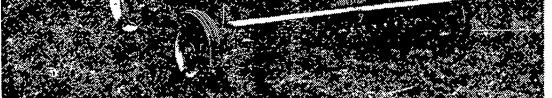
On the other hand, only four per cent of the timber cut for ing to the USDA's Forest Service. pulpwood is not used Some resi- woods and unused in the mill.

They point out that of the timber dues are of course inevitable in strides have been made in efficient use of the timber that is cut, too much is still being left in the









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