

# Lancaster Farming

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## Burgesses, Mayor Are Invited To Barbeque

### Poultrymen Plan Special Event For Broiler Week

The week of May 4 to 11 has been designated as Pennsylvania Broiler Week. This week is to kick-off the broiler season and acquaint more people with chicken as being a tasty and economical food.

In Lancaster County, the poultry association is staging an invitational broiler barbeque to be held on May 4 at the Lancaster Poultry Center.

The Mayor of Lancaster, the Burgesses of the County towns, press, radio and television representatives, and representatives of service clubs are invited.

Mayor Kendig C. Bare of Lancaster will proclaim this period as Broiler Week in the City of Lancaster.

The Chicken of Tomorrow contest is the highlight of the week on a statewide basis. Nearly 700 farm boys and girls are entered in the competition.

State Agricultural Secretary William L. Henning is to present a special prize to top place winners at the close of the statewide judging at the Farm Show Building on May 7.

The boy or girl winning the Grand Champion award for the highest quality nine and a half week old broiler will receive an engraved silver bowl. The same type award will go to the reserve champion. Entrants placing third to tenth will get special plaques from Henning. Each of the 23 regional winners whose birds reach the finals will receive \$50 U. S. Saving Bonds.

In addition, the top ten winners will be given a one day expense paid visit to the Northeastern Poultry Producers Exposition in the Farm Show Building next Oct. 3 to 10.

A big broiler barbeque demonstration is scheduled for May 8 in Philadelphia. Preliminary arrangements have been completed for an outdoor chicken barbeque to be set up in Reyburn Square, center Philadelphia. The Mayor of Philadelphia, and other city officials will be entertained. Miss Elizabeth Erb, state poultry queen, will join in this observance.

City and County officials in the Scranton area will participate in a special barbeque on the Court House grounds in Scranton on May 9. Demonstration barbeque pits will be set up also on the Court House grounds to show the public various ways to barbeque chicken in their backyards.

Similar events are being planned for Pittsburg, Johnstown, Altoona and other cities across Pennsylvania.

Later in the month, a "Barbeque Clinic" is slated to be held at Camp Fred L. Rentz, New Castle. Sponsoring the May 22 event in the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council and the Poultry and Egg National Board.

The clinic actually is a one day school to train people to be able to put on a full scale chicken or turkey barbeque for groups of 19 or more persons.

Applications for the school should be sent to NEPPCO, 10 Rutgers Place, Trenton, N. J.



HOW WILL THESE little pigs go to market from the farm? As finished slaughter hogs or as feeder pigs? In line with growing interest in Lancaster and other Pennsylvania Counties on production and

sales of feeder pigs, see the article in this issue on how Missouri farmers found a new market and new source of income through farmer owned and operated sales.

## Missouri Feeder Pig Sales Provide Market Outlet To Small Producer Raising Limited Numbers of Swine

By RICHARD LEE  
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When a group of Ripley County, Mo., hog producers got together and held an organized feeder pig sale at Doniphan in the spring of 1950, they started a movement that has been adopted by many other South Missouri and out-state localities.

Why did these Ripley County farmers want to sell their 562 feeder pigs in an auction they would supervise themselves?

Primarily because they wanted a better price. The Missouri Agricultural Extension Service recognized an opportunity for this to be a demonstration sale to show in dollars and cents that good breeding and good feeding pay. It would be a valuable teaching tool for the extension program in livestock production and marketing, particularly in a swine improvement program.

Many producers had failed to get full and equitable prices for their feeder pigs because of the small number produced by most farmers, lack of adequate sorting and weighing facilities, distance from central markets, lack of familiarity with other available markets, and lack of knowledge of grades and current values.

Also inherent in this situation were the higher procurement costs and less uniformity in the feeder pigs that feeder buyers obtained.

Each year since the first sale in 1950, more counties have organized feeder pig sales patterned after Missouri's now widely-known feeder cattle sales held each fall. The sale pens and facilities in counties often serve a dual purpose since both feeder pig and calf sales are held there. The county livestock association is incorporated under the

Missouri Statutes for Non-Profit Agricultural Marketing Associations, with charter and bylaws. Each association elects a board of directors and officers annually and every consignor to the sale is an active member. The county extension agent acts as an ex-officio member in an advisory capacity.

All feeder pigs consigned to the sales have been vaccinated for cholera at least 30 days prior to sale dates, are brought to the sale pens on the date of the sale, and are unloaded under a veterinarian's supervision.

Unsalable pigs, such as boars, cripples and unthrifty animals, are sent back to the farm.

Although there is a range in pig weights, the majority fall in the 40 to 60-pound class. Consignments to each of the farmer-owned and farmer-operated sales are graded into uniform lots by University extension specialists.

During the past year, 10 county associations held 25 sales with 1,474 producers consigning nearly 50,000 feeder pigs. These pigs were sold to some 450 buyers for a total of nearly \$630,000. Average weight of all pigs was 60 pounds and the average price per hundredweight was \$21.

It's important to note that the number of pigs consigned averaged 34 head to each producer. The sales have helped the small producer. He gets his pigs into uniform lots as to grade and quality and, in addition in size of lots desired by buyers.

Each producer can compare his pigs with others and see how his pigs grade and sell in comparison with his neighbors' pigs. He can witness first-hand the reward for following recommended practices such as vaccination and castration. He can see the quality and heavier weights of pigs raised on good pastures and a good ration.

And, most important, he can see the better type and quality pigs that result from the use of better breeding stock.

Missouri feeder calf sales are a medium through which college and extension personnel can be of service to cattle producers by passing on information in management, selection, feeding and pasture and marketing.

"We don't look on the sales as just a way to sell pigs," says Missouri Extension Service Director J. W. Burch. "We look on them as a demonstration and will work with producers as long as they are improving the quality of their pigs through the use of better breeding stock, better pasture management, and selection."

## Smaller Cattle Numbers Part Of Typical Cycle, Says Economist

The cattle population of the country appears to have entered a downward swing this year typical of cattle cycles, reports Jim Reynolds, midwestern extension livestock marketing specialist. But the downward drift is not expected to last as long as it has in most previous cycles.

Reynolds explains that the number of cattle on farms usually runs in cycles—with numbers falling over a period of years and then rising again to new heights.

The United States Department of Agriculture recently reported a reduction in cattle population for the first time this year after a seven-year upswing carried the total number to an all time high of almost 97 million head. The reduction applies all to classes of animals with milk cows down

## Farm Credit Shows Increase From Year Ago

### Production Loans Show Slight Rise; Money Not Tight

Agricultural production credit is both plentiful and in demand this year, according to a survey taken in Lancaster County this week by Lancaster Farming.

Lee R. Brobst, secretary treasurer of the Lancaster County Production Credit Assn and the National Farm Loan Assn., said that approximately \$50,000 more had been borrowed this spring than last year. However, the number of borrowers stayed about the same.

He said that approximately \$2½ million in loans are outstanding from the farmer owned cooperative lending association.

Most of the money has been borrowed for fertilizer, spray material and labor to be used in raising cash crops. These crops include tobacco, potatoes and tomatoes.

Other lending agencies and banks found the picture about the same with demand for operating capital about the same as last year.

The average rate of interest for production loans this year is five to five and a half per cent. This reflects the governments tight money policy and the current discount rate from the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of four and a half per cent.

The key word, it seemed in conversation with the credit supervisors, was management.

"It is becoming more important to look at management. It is becoming the key to profit," said Brobst.

He indicated that farm management practices are being watched more carefully by lending agencies now than ever before.

Sympathy for the young man getting started was expressed by many. In Lancaster County, with land prices well above the  
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one percent, calves down one percent, beef cattle down two percent and the number of steers reduced four percent.

Most of the decrease has occurred in the Great Plains region stretching from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande. Drouth that plagued this area explains much of the change but other influences also were at play, marking the downward trend as part of a cattle cycle.

In some areas cattle numbers had reached the limit of grazing capacity. And, in general, lower prices for cattle have discouraged producers, tending to reduce their cash expenditures for cattle production.

Cattle cycles usually continue  
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