



GREEN HANDS AT DONEGAL FFA Chapter at Mt Joy were initiated Monday night at a special meeting of the chapter. They are left to right, Kenneth Eshelman, 14, R2 Mt Joy; David Forney, 14, R1 Co-

lumbia, Clair Mumma, 14, R2 Mt Joy, Kenneth Young, Chapter President, Harold Kain, 16, R1 Marietta, Barry Stoner, 13, R1 Mt Joy, and Ronald Ober, 14, R1 Mt Joy (LF Photo)

State Price Index 9 Points Above August; Hay, Milk Prices Responsible

The index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for the products they sold, in mid-September was nine points above mid-August and 11 points above a year ago, the State Department of Agriculture said Wednesday following Federal-State surveys.

It was the fifth consecutive month that the index showed an advance over the previous month the survey showed.

September's gain came largely through sharp increases in prices received for hay and milk.

While the state index was 257 per cent of the 1910-14 base of prices received by farmers, the national index was 245 per cent or three points below a year ago. This decline marked the first time in six months that the national index went below the preceding month.

The prolonged drought in southeastern Pennsylvania con-

tributed to the higher Pennsylvania index of prices received. Farmers during the month ended Sept. 15 averaged \$29.60 a ton for haled hay, \$150 more than a month earlier. Milk at wholesale was up an average of 40 cents for 100 pounds.

Moderate gains in prices received for grain soybeans, calves, milk cows and eggs offset lower prices obtained for apples, hogs, potatoes, beef cattle, sheep, poultry and wool.

The meat index was down six points. Milk cow prices averaged \$10 more per hundredweight for the largest increase in meat animals. Lower prices were received for beef cattle, hogs and sheep.

The last time the Pennsylvania index of prices received was below the preceding month was in May of this year when it was 230 per cent of the 1910-14 base. In April the index was 237 per cent

Selective Breeding, Hard Culling Brought Ranck Herd to Fore.

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herd due to bovine tuberculosis. "Those heifers were real milk producers, but the test was low — only 33 to about 35 per cent," Ranck said.

"Lucifer" is given credit for raising the test of the offspring of these animals. The average test of the herd rose to about 41.3 to 43.3 consistently.

And it was a son of Lucifer out of one of the foundation cows of the herd that made a lot of the difference that exists in the herd today.

"This bull was out of a cow that had a beautiful udder.

"Although we have always bred for production rather than type, I thought that if we could get that udder in the daughters, we would be doing well. There was a fault to his dam. She was a small cow, and I was sort of afraid that this might be passed along to the daughters.

"So we didn't breed too much to him.

"Then his daughters started to come into milk and we found that we should have bred everything that we had to him. Those heifers not only had the size, but they were really milkers. They all made over 400 pounds of fat in the first year."

There is also a dominant strain on the female side of the herd. A Goldmaster daughter that stayed in the herd until she was 12 years old was the foundation cow. She was a big cow and her offspring still show the size that is so desirable in dairy animals. One of her daughters from Lucifer made a record of 861 pounds of butterfat on a mature basis.

Ranck has been growing and using his own foundation stock since 1949. But a heifer from a cow that has not made the 650 pound mark will never see the inside of the milking stable. She will be sold long before she is ever that age.

This hard selection combined with the use of bulls showing high productive capacity seems to work. The herd average climbed 47 pounds from last year to the new record average of 612 pounds of butterfat.

Second and third cutting alfalfa hay and corn silage are the basis of the feeding program.

The home mixed dairy feed consists of 500 pounds of corn, 100 pounds of barley, 300 pounds of oats, 200 pounds of bran, 200 pounds of 36 per cent supplement and 200 pounds of 32 per cent supplement. Minerals and salt are also added.

In the winter when it is available, a hundred pounds of soybean hay and molasses are added to the ration.

Dry cows are given a special "flushing" ration just before freshening to bring up the body weight and help correct any dietary deficiencies that might have been brought on by calving.

Parke H., 23, and Harry H. Jr., 21, Ranck's two sons, now assist in the operation of the farm. As a matter of fact, they now do most of the milking and caring for the dairy animals while their father devotes his attention to feeder cattle.

Normally about 40 head of feeders are kept on the farm. However

SELECT HERD SIRE

In selecting a good meat-type boar, the swine grower looks for length of body, good topline, trim underline, uniform width, well-sprung rib, and wide chest, says Dwight Younkin, Penn State extension livestock specialist.

this year due to the lack of feed, only 28 are being fed out. They are black Southern steers.

They will be kept on hay and silage over the winter and then fed out next year.

In addition to his two sons, Ranck has two daughters, Helen Mae, a student at Harrisonburg, Va., and Mrs. John Miller, Vineland, N. J.

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