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Lancaster Farming

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PENN-DEL FARM operator Raymond Witmer, Willow Street, knows that the safest way to handle a bull is by not handling him at all. But if the animal must be handled,

a bull staff should be used to keep the animal under control. A bull, no matter how tame or how long you've had him, is a dangerous animal. (LF Photo)

Warm Air, Sunny Skies Remove Bulk of Snow with Little Damage

A week of "just the right kind of weather" removed much of the record snowfall during the past week without danger of flood or much damage to crops.

Lancaster Countians were still nervous last week with the Weather Bureau holding out a promise of more snow over the week-end. Fortunately the promise failed to materialize.

Warm sunny days that started many people thinking of spring in the first part of the week hastened the departure of the snow. Authorities at Harrisburg, nervous over flood possibilities from a rapid melt, breathed easier.

The run-off into streams was so gradual that no danger of flooding was or is seen.

And the fair sky also helped thaw frozen soil letting some of the water that has become so precious go into the ground. A layer of frozen under a muddy surface still hampers the intake of water into the soil.

Road crews were still working as late as Monday in opening some

little-used township roads. State roads were mostly clear with only a few one land spots by the week-end.

No cost has yet been estimated on the damage caused by the snow, although estimates are in the five to six figure brackets. Milk losses, as a whole, were not so high as expected. Bulk milk truck drivers rolled their rigs across fields and pushed through snow clogged lanes to get out most milk.

Canneries also managed to relieve the strain on the dairyman in many localities. Almost all types of vehicles were used to transport the cans from the farm to town, tractors and spreaders or wagons, sleighs, and horse drawn equipment.

Only in the southern end of the county were there reports of extensive milk dumping.

Just for the record, history shows that we are not out of the woods yet. One of the largest snows on record in the county fell in the month of April.

State Livestock Value Up \$34 million Although Numbers Drop 5.3 Per Cent

Value of all livestock inventoried on Pennsylvania farms as of Jan. 1 showed an increase of more than \$34 million last year, the State Department of Agriculture announced today.

The 11 per cent advance in value was accompanied by a 5.3 per cent decline in numbers between Jan. 1, 1957 and the same date this year according to the annual Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service Livestock survey.

This year's 2,677,000 head of horses, beef and dairy cattle, swine and sheep have a farm value of \$337,092,000 compared with the January 1957 total of 2,838,000 head valued at \$302,669,000, the statewide inventory showed. Nationally the farm livestock population last year decreased one per cent.

Cattle numbers move in "up and down" biological cycles over a period of 12 to 14 years and in Pennsylvania are now about half

way on the down-trend side. "Such cycles are the foundation of economic factors in meat and milk production are watched closely for up and down indications and trends," he added. Hogs can be traced by a five or six year trend.

The Jan. 1, 1958 Pennsylvania livestock inventory, compared with a year earlier, showed dairy and beef cattle at 1,858,000 head were down three per cent, 513,000 hogs, 15 per cent lower, 254,000 sheep, down three per cent and 21,881,000 chickens, off seven per cent. Horses and mules were estimated at 52,000 compared with 58,000 a year previous.

In citing the effect of the biological cycle on the livestock population, the report said a dairy heifer calf takes nearly two and a half years before reaching maturity and "paying her way" with adequate milk production. Breeding beef cattle can be measured by the same rule of thumb. The cycle for hogs can be cut in half, the report concluded.

Plambeck Lauds State's Plans For National Plowing Matches

Farmers of the United States can look forward to an ideal setup for the 16th annual National Plowing Contest and Conservation Exposition to be held at Hershey, next Aug. 21-22, according to the man who originated the national farm event 16 years ago.

Herbert Plambeck, Des Moines, Iowa, following a week-end conference with members of the Pennsylvania general contest committee headed by Leland H. Bull, state deputy secretary of agriculture, declared.

"In all my experience I have never seen such complete and thorough preliminary planning for a national plowing match and conservation demonstrations. The Hershey set-up is what the plowmen have always hoped for in accommodations and arrangements. It will definitely be a farmers' show, as it should be."

Plambeck said that in recent years the national plowing matches and the worldwide

matches last year in Ohio have required from two to four years to organize. The Pennsylvania committee received the go-ahead signal the early part of January and now has less than six months for completion of the hundreds of details required. Bull explained.

Chairman of major committees and many sub-committees are working toward making the national event a success. It is to be held during the annual Pennsylvania Dutch Days celebration at Hershey and will be preceded on Aug. 19 by matches to select Pennsylvania entrants in the national contests.

Plambeck, a radio farm editor, indicated that the Pennsylvania national contest should attract champion plowmen from upwards of 16 states. Entries usually run from 12 to 16. Ralph Patterson, Pennsylvania State University extension specialist who is chairman of the plowing contest division, said inquiries have been received to date from Maine and Georgia.

35 Gilts Average \$108 at First Producers Sale

Thirty-five spring gilts averaged \$108 at the first sale sponsored by the Lancaster Swine Producers Assn. Saturday.

Nine fall boars averaged \$55.83. The top price was \$150 paid by John J. Hess II, Intercourse, for an April gilt from George Cogley's Leacock Yorkshire Farm, R1 Fonks. She was bred to Brooks End Brunstance 1st in November.

A top of \$65 was paid for two boars. One was a Yorkshire consigned by Ira H. Dombach & Son, R2 Lancaster, and the other a Landrace consigned by Elmer Kopp, R1 Reinholds. Paying the price were David Eckery, R2 East Berlin, and Frank B. Sensenig, R2 Ephrata.

The high price paid for a Berkshire gilt was \$115 paid Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, by Clyde S. Mumma, Landisville. Other Berkshire gilts sold for \$112.5 and \$102.50.

Only two Chester White gilts were offered. The top was \$125 paid by Clyde S. Mumma, Landisville, to John E. Hastings, Kirkwood. The other gilt brought \$90.

In the Duroc-Jersey division prices were higher with a top of \$137.50 being paid for one of two gilts offered. W. S. Dreibelbus, Virginville, paid the top for a Masonic Homes consignment. The other gilt brought \$130.

Clarence D. Heller, R2 Willow Street paid the top price for a Hampshire gilt. Model Rosedale,

Eastern Soil Research Center Sought by State

An eastern United States research center to deal with soil and water conservation problems is being sought by the Pennsylvania Association of Soil Conservation District Directors, it was learned yesterday.

David G. Unger, soil conservation director in the State Department of Agriculture, said support for the proposed center was pledged by 11 other northeastern states at the recent annual convention of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A research center would encourage improvement of quality and efficiency of soil-saving practices in Pennsylvania, according to Robert Lott, Aspers, RD 2, Adams County, Pennsylvania association research committee chairman. Specialists at the center would study ways to more effectively match construction and design of conservation measures to northeastern soils, climatic and topographic conditions.

Research centers for soil and water conservation are not new, Lott explained. Development of similar centers is under way in Georgia, Mississippi and California. Other centers exist in several areas of the nation. All have been developed and staffed by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service through the Agricultural Research Service.

The Pennsylvania soil district directors attending the Minnesota meeting said they expect to encourage their Congressmen to seek federal appropriations for the research center.

registered boars, brought \$112.50 for three head, and \$117.50 paid H. B. Endsley & Sons, R1 Maricetta, by Glenn S. Burkholder, 345 Running Pump Rd., Lancaster. The top gilt was a Yorkshire-Chester White cross bred to a Berkshire boar.

The sale was held at Martin's Sale Barn, Blue Ball. Paul Z. Martin was auctioneer. This was his first purebred swine sale.

Four crossbred gilts, bred to