

Near Record Year Eyed For U.S. Meat Industry

Enough meat is being produced this year to provide each person in this nation with 157.5 pounds of beef, veal, pork and lamb, according to Carl F. Neumann, Chicago, secretary-general manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Neumann summarized the

Pa. July Egg Output Shows Slight Drop

The State Crop Reporting Service has tabulated total egg production for July in the state at 288 million eggs, a slight seasonal decrease from June and two per cent below July, 1958.

Estimated number of layers on farms was up one per cent from June, but down four per cent from last year.

Price ratios for the poultry industry for July were Chicken-feed — 3.1; compared with 5.0 for July, 1958, Turkey-feed — 6.5, compared with 8.5, Egg-feed — 8.8, compared with 10.8, and Broiler-feed — 3.3, compared with 4.6.

U. S. Total

U. S. totals came to 4,938 million eggs, up one per cent from July, 1958. Increases of 14 per cent in the South Atlantic and four per cent in the South Central and the West, more than offset decreases of four per cent in the North Central and three per cent in the West North Central.

In the East North Central, July egg production was about the same as a year earlier.

Total U. S. egg production for January through July, was four per cent above the same period last year.

Penna. Peach Time Is Here

Harrisburg—With the main crop of peaches being picked in southern and central Pa. and early varieties being marketed in the northern counties, the State Department of Agriculture notes "Pennsylvania Peach Time" started Aug 13.

The 18-day fruit festival proclaimed by Governor David L. Lawrence will run through Aug 31. It is during this period that most Pennsylvania freestone peaches are harvested, the Agriculture Department said.

Peaches on the market this year are colorful and well ripened Golden Jubilee and Red Haven varieties are available in southern and central counties.

The crop this year in Pennsylvania is estimated to total 2,800,000 bushels, down a little from the excellent harvest of last year, but still well above average.

This means that peaches should be priced within the reach of anyone wanting to use them fresh as dessert, cereal topping and with ice cream or frozen or canned.

The Department of Agriculture cautioned buyers of tree-ripened fruit to take care in handling the peaches so that they are not bruised. The Department said that peaches will keep well at home if they are kept cool and unbruised.

To prevent sliced peaches from browning, they should be sprinkled with ascorbic acid. This acid is available in most supermarkets and grocery stores. Label directions should be followed.

To prevent browning when canning peaches, temperatures and time of processing should be controlled accurately.

current meat situation in opening the 36th annual meeting of the Meat Board at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago. More than 400 representatives of all branches of the livestock and meat industry attended the meeting.

Neumann stated that per capita consumption of meat will be up 5½ pounds over last year, due mainly to increased supplies of pork. Beef supplies will show very little change from last year, although beef will continue in larger supply than any of the other meats.

He said Americans are eating 30 more pounds of meat per person today than they did 20 years ago.

Meat production in 1959 has been estimated at 27 billion, 200 million pounds, the second highest on record. The top year was 1956, with 28 billion pounds.

One of the reasons more money is being spent for meat today is because people

have more money to spend for everything," Neumann said.

"In terms of purchasing power, factory workers can earn the price of a pound in 20 minutes today, compared with 47 minutes 40 years ago.

"Many people are preoccupied with meat in the grocery bill because this is a regular and essential part of their purchases. It comes to their attention more often, so they are more conscious of it.

You don't buy a car, or a television set, or a roomful of furniture, or a college education every few days.

"Our standard of living has moved up far and away ahead of any time in our history. What bothers many people in this country isn't so much the high cost of living as the cost of high living.

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Larger Litters, Faster Gains Result From Crossbred Hogs

Crossbreeding of swine produces more pigs per litter and better growth rates from the litters—with high quality carcasses — studies of purebred and crossbred swine reveal in Pennsylvania.

Crossbred gilts produced 21 more pigs than purebred gilts farrowing, weaned 2.6 more pigs, and had litters weighing 102.5 pounds more than purebred litters at weaning, report livestock researchers at the Pennsylvania State University.

Pigs from crossbred gilts were 185 pounds heavier at 140 days of age than the purebred pigs and gained one-tenth of a pound more per day from weaning to market weight.

Careful selection of breeding animals is extremely important in a crossbreeding program, declares Grant W.

Sherritt, swine breeder the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

The less related the strains, the better the performance of the cross.

Sherritt was assisted the project by J. L. P. T. Ziegler, and R. L.

Purebreds used in Pennsylvania studies were Berkshire, Chester, Hampshire, and Poland.

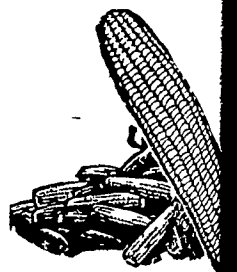
The crossbreds were a combination of these and one of seven strains developed by the Agricultural Research of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

There were no significant differences in carcasses between the crossbred and purebred swine.

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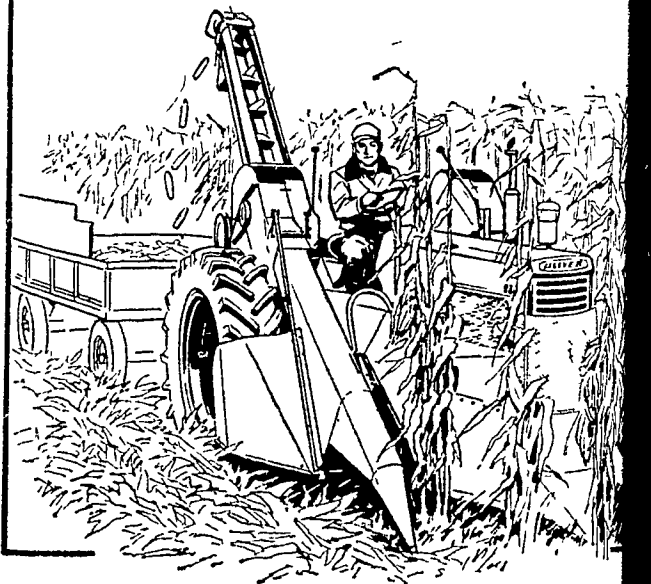
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