

Lancaster Farming

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How Does The 1960 Agriculture Picture Look To You?

County Agriculturalists Express Their Views

Lancaster Farming asked some of the agricultural leaders in the county to express their thoughts on the agricultural situation during the past year, and their predictions for the year ahead. The general trend seemed to be that agriculture did not fare too badly in 1959 and the picture looks about the same, or perhaps just a little bit brighter for 1960, but most agriculturalists cautioned that efficiency would be the watchword in the coming days.

Specialization and consolidation were mentioned by several of the contributors. Most felt that costs of production will be the controlling factor in the economic picture during the coming year. Following are the reports received.

M. M. SMITH, County Agricultural Extension Agent:

The year 1959 was a bit better than average for most farmers; weather conditions were average for a good growing season in some



MAX SMITH

of low sub-soil moisture. The yields from major gr-

owing crops were good and most barns and storage bins are filled with winter feed supplies. Most livestock enterprises returned dependable incomes while the poultry industry was a bit unsteady. The outlook for 1960 seems to contain no major changes but a trend toward higher production costs. Materials, supplies, and labor, are all expected to come at higher figures in 1960. Prices of major farm commodities are expected to remain steady which means slightly reduced net income to most producers.

The expansion of most farm enterprises will no doubt continue in order to reduce costs through greater production. I predict more specialization and less diversification on many more dairy and livestock farms in the next few years.

Labor-saving devices are only beginning to be established and many new developments and pieces of equipment will be introduced.

Generally, consumer demand will continue to be strong but government ag-

encies will continue to tighten up production regulations in order to protect the general public.

No doubt farming will continue to be successful in southeastern Pennsylvania for the coming year, but better management and greater efficiency on larger units will be essential to withstand the cost squeeze.

WAYNE B. RENTSCHLER, Membership Relations, Lancaster County Farm Bureau

In looking back over 1959 I feel a measure of pride and satisfaction over the many agricultural activities the youth achievements and



WAYNE B. RENTSCHLER

continued development of agricultural businesses. The year 1959 brought challenges now bearing down upon us — challenges of services, size of operations, financing, integration and etc.

We must meet these challenges in 1960 with courage

and good judgement. Both our urban and rural folks must take greater interest in and share responsibilities in the marketing and production of food and fibre, and the necessary tools needed to do the jobs in meeting the challenges.

In the days ahead we need the complete program of general understanding of economic, social factors, as well as the factors of quality, service, and price in order to keep pace with our countless achievements.

It is through "Togetherness" that we will go forward to preserve our Freedom of Choice, which is one of the basic pillars of our American economic system.

STANLEY MUSSELMAN, public relations, Lancaster County National Bank
Our bank has always look



STANLEY MUSSELMAN

of "tight money", we see no reason why the needs of farmers can not be met.

Unit costs of production vary in every business. This is no different in Farming. According to predictions we are approaching a period during which the margin between the efficient operator and the submarginal operator is going to widen.

We must recognize that the credit pattern in our country's agriculture has changed in the past few years. The capital and credit requirements per farm and per man have increased. We feel that for this reason the farmer should make the best use possible of his finances whether they be his own capital or in the form of credit.

WILLIS ESBENSHADE, Agricultural Extension Service, Executive Committee

The Lancaster County farmer has had a good growing



WILLIS ESBENSHADE

ed upon Agriculture as an outstanding industry in our county. Even in these times

season in 1959. There was under normal rainfall during the year. (Turn to page 10)

The staff of Lancaster Farming would like to take this opportunity to wish to each of our friends, A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

For Cattle Health

Ventilate Dairy Barn

The proper ventilation of the dairy barn contributes many things to the success of the enterprise; however, two major advantages stand out toward making this practice quite profitable: (1) More efficient production of the herd and (2) Greater preservation of the farm structure. Both of these items are very important if the dairyman is to stay in business.

At the present time nearly all dairy barns are filled to capacity since the trend is toward larger herds; unless some system of forced ventilation is established, many herd owners will experience additional management problems. The manual control of doors and win-

dows during the winter months is unsatisfactory and risky under the best attention and management.

We recommend that dairy men install an electric fan exhaust system to remove the foul, moisture-laden, warm air from the barn; this is especially true in the winter. (Turn to Page 5)

FIVE - DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Saturday - Wednesday

Temperatures during the next five days will average 2 to 5 degrees below normal. Normal temperatures for this area range from a low of 25 at night to a high of 40 in the afternoon. Slightly warmer over the week end, but continued rather cold. Some light snow ending sometime Saturday is expected. Chance of snow again about Monday. Temperature early Wednesday morning was the coldest of the season to date, when thermometers read 8 degrees in the county. Precipitation during the week was the 2 inches of snow on Monday.

EARLY PAPER

In order to give the staff a holiday, Lancaster Farming will be printed on Thursday instead of Friday this week and next. For this reason, some of the markets normally carried will be omitted from these two issues. After the issue of January 2, the paper will again go to press on Friday and the regular markets will be carried.



COWS AND OTHER MAJURE CATTLE give off considerable heat from their bodies all the time. Small calves give off much less heat, and for this reason need to be kept in a place that does not rob them of too much of their body heat. Ventilation fans may be of many different kinds, shapes and sizes, but all of them should be installed with the young stock in mind. If the calves are kept in the barn where the cows are stabled, it is a good plan to locate the fan over or near the calf pens. This will cause the warmer air to be drawn from the rest of the barn over the backs of the calves, as in this picture. If the fan is located over the calves, extra caution must be exercised to make sure that there are no openings in the building near the calf pens to cause a draft on the young animals. The fan here is a double model controlled by a thermostat. One half of the unit is in continuous operation while the other half is controlled by the barn temperature. — L. F. PHOTO