

● Ag Outlook  
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Milk Output  
at All Time  
High Level

Pennsylvania milk production for November was up three per cent from previous month and 24 per cent from May, but it is a record for the month as released by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service this week show.

The 518 million pounds overshadows the previous November record, set in '59, of 494 million pounds. Normally milk production hits a peak in November and increases slightly in December. The milk production increase from last year is due directly to increased output per cow as cow numbers have declined although the downward trend now seems to have leveled off, the Pa. Department of Agriculture report said.

Production per cow for November was estimated at 33 pounds compared with 28 for October and 550 lbs. November a year ago.

Dairymen who have decided not to expand are culling their poorer cows and sending them to slaughterhouses as their heifers freshen. Reports indicate that

many commercial Pennsylvania dairymen have purchased several fresh cows this fall; however, there is still a trend toward sale of small dairy herds.

The report says, in a capsule summary of the U. S. dairy outlook: commercial supplies of dairy products will be record high in 1961, although just slightly above levels of recent years. Commercial demand probably will again increase less than the population.

Prices to farmers and to consumers for dairy products will average above a year earlier through March 1961. Cash receipts from farmers' sale of milk in '61 are likely to increase slightly over 1960 to another record.

However, the report goes on, total costs for producing milk have been rising. Cash receipts at a record high level do not mean that net incomes for dairymen are also at a record high level.

Prices received for milk by farmers have changed less than prices for most other farm products during the last five years.

The downward drift in beef cattle prices is likely to continue through all of 1961. In view of this, and prospects for other factors affecting milk production, the

day afternoon, Hand said. If the economic conditions continue upward on their present trend he said, the price per hundredweight in the Philadelphia milkshed will average 10 cents above the 1960 price.

Slaughter cattle will likely be up several dollars per hundredweight until Easter and then weaken, is the judgment of Levi Brubaker, Lancaster County livestock farmer. Brubaker looks for greater movement of feeder cattle because of the abundance of cheap feed, but he does look for some increase in the price of protein in the new year.

Brubaker feels that the egg peak is past "It was too good to last," he said and pointed to the 10 million more replacement pullets as one reason for his statement.

He also cautioned poultrymen to watch the South for broiler production. Broiler producers can not go on increasing production to get more dollars indefinitely, he said.

Bankers do not look for any substantial increases in interest rates in the coming year, Stanley Musselman,

increase in output in 1961 probably will exceed the advance of 1.1 billion in 1960

Personnel Relations Director of the Lancaster County National Bank said. If there is any lessening of interest rates it probably will be on mortgage loans and not on short term credit.

Credit should be planned, Musselman said, and a farmer with a good set of farm records has a start toward a favorable credit rating. Farm credit in 1961 will not be a problem to the farmer who practices sound financial planning, he said.

William Poorbaugh, grain merchant, echoed the words of Brubaker when he said we now have larger stocks of grain on hand than at any other time. Most grains are available at lower prices.

The only grains not in oversupply at the present time are soybeans, because the oil can be used for export and domestic consumption of soft white winter wheat such as is grown in Pennsylvania.

The U. S. owns about one billion bushels of wheat — about one year's supply — on which it pays nearly a million dollars per day storage. This expense should not be considered a part of the Agriculture Dept. budget, he said, since farmers see none of this money.

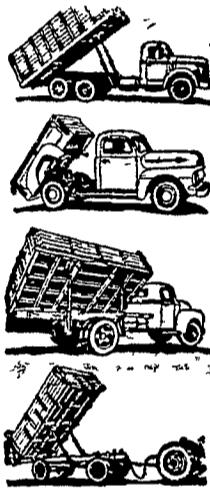
Paul Mount, president of the Lancaster County Farm Machine Dealers Assn., said concerning farm equipment, "It's available." He pointed out that many of the farm tractors on the market now are available with as many as 50 options. Certain options, not standard, may require as long as 90 days waiting period. He suggested that farmers survey their farm machinery needs now, while shops are slack, and have needed repairs made before the spring rush begins.

Alvin Voigt, Agriculture Economist from the Pennsylvania State University, reporting on the recent Agriculture Outlook conference in Washington, D. C. reported to the group that national economists do not expect the growth of the past few years to continue into the new year. Most economists agree, he said, there will be a slackening off in business as well as agriculture.

Tom Piper, Penn State Marketing Specialist injected one of the brightest notes into the whole discussion when he reported that the short supply of apples, the light harvest of citrus fruit, and the small processed reserves of fruit will likely cause higher prices on those commodities during the coming year.

Harry Sloat, associate county agent, was in charge of the meeting.

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