

Best Food Buys Spring Vegetables Predominate

Signs of spring are more prevalent in retail food markets than in our Pennsylvania countryside, observes Tom Piper, Penn State Extension Marketing Agent. Produce counters are displaying certain sure signs of spring, even though production of these items may be rather far from home.

Green onions, spinach, broccoli, kale, turnip tops, dandelion, radishes and other salad items are appearing on local markets at reasonable prices. Asparagus is available in increasing volume. Although present sup-

plies are coming from California, shipments from New Jersey and Maryland can be expected very soon.

Good buys in vegetables this week include cabbage, lettuce, vine-ripened tomatoes, old crop potatoes, and pascal celery. The higher priced items include sweet corn, peppers, carrots, green beans, cucumbers, eggplant and green peas. If you desire a taste of summer, try a slice of watermelon or a Mexican cantaloupe but expect to pay the first-of-season high price.

The next few weeks will be a good time to look for

broilers and fryers for the freezer. USDA reports that supplies are 10 per cent greater than last year in April and in May they are expected to be 15 per cent larger than a year ago at that time.

Other retail meat prices are steady with a week ago with the exception of the customary weekend features on selected cuts. Look for values in hind-quarter beef cuts, lamb, veal and selected pork cuts. The type of cuts and prices promise to vary from store to store.

High quality beef is now coming to market. Much of it is from what is termed "fed cattle." This means they have spent a period of time in the feed lots before going to market. This special feeding produces a tender and more juicy meat than beef that has had little or no grain feeding. Special prices will include eggs, canned freestone peaches, peanuts and peanut products, canned ripe olives, milk and dairy products and cranberry products.

Weather Still Factor In Late Farm Work Throughout State

Harrisburg — Most farm work is now behind schedule and most farmers are ready and waiting to work fast when field conditions become suitable, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service said Tuesday in its weekly crop and weather summary.

The main outdoor activity of Pennsylvania farmers during the past week was stable cleaning and manure hauling, but not even much of that was possible due to muddy and snow-covered fields. Other farm activities were fence building and machinery maintenance, spring clean-up around farmsteads, barn chores and shoveling snow.

Fruit trees still are practically dormant in all areas of the State, although in the southeastern section the buds are swelling and twigs coloring. Pruning is generally completed and some growers have started their spray programs.

Crop growth is practically nil. Clover, alfalfa, and winter grains are just barely sprouting in most areas and some of the early-seeded oats have not emerged and the seed may have rotted in the cold, wet fields.

A few farmers in the extreme southern counties and in northwestern Pennsylvan-

ia did get in a few hours of plowing during the past week.

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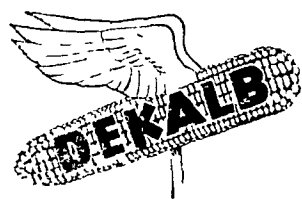


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