

## Best Food Buys High Prices Returning To Normal

It's more often true of foods than of other consumer items that 'what goes up, will come down'. In one sentence, that's a quick summary of the price situation on perishable food commodities this week. Weather conditions have permitted resumption of normal harvesting and shipping activities and surveys of the freeze damage indicate less harm done than first anticipated, reports Tom Piper, Penn State Extension Marketing Agent.

Many produce items will be priced substantially lower than a week ago, namely cabbage, endive, radishes, celery, peppers and Chinese cabbage. Tomatoes will be much cheaper too as large supplies of vine-ripes and green-ripened tomatoes will compete for a place in your shopping cart. Lettuce prices continue to fluctuate with small heads offering best value on a weight basis.

Florida sweet corn was one of the crops damaged badly by the recent cold. This item is expected to share a high price position with escarole, parsley, carrots, onions, spinach, green onions and cucumbers. Texas crops have been severely damaged and items supplied in large volume by that state will remain higher in price for several weeks to come.

First shipments of rhubarb are arriving from the hot-houses of Ohio. Potatoes and sweet potatoes remain plentiful and economical.

Apple movement continues to set new records with over 12 million bushels entering marketing channels from cold storages in December. This item is the value leader among fruits just now. Citrus quality and color is reported excellent with small sizes a better buy for the money. Tangerines received extensive freeze damage but grapefruit and oranges less

so and supplies of these were not materially reduced.

Since the seasons are reversed in our southern hemisphere, many foodmarkets display peaches, plums, nectarines and honey dew melons imported from South America. First-of-season strawberries and watermelons are arriving from Florida but, like the Emperor grapes, D'Anjou and Bosc pears, supplies are rather short and prices on the high side.

Livestock shipments have been rather large in the past week and retailers are well stocked to feature a variety of good buys this weekend. Pork loins, hams and bacon are expected to share the value position with round and sirloin steaks, chuck roasts and ground beef. Large size eggs are in plentiful supply and another good source of protein.

When shopping for meat, consider the cost per serving of various cuts. This is a bet-

ter guide to economy than price per pound because some cuts contain bone and fat waste. Such cuts have fewer servings per pound.

### Soil Conservation

(From page 1)

Richards, president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

At the start of 1955 Pennsylvania had 30 counties with soil conservation districts. Today 58 of the 67 counties have districts.

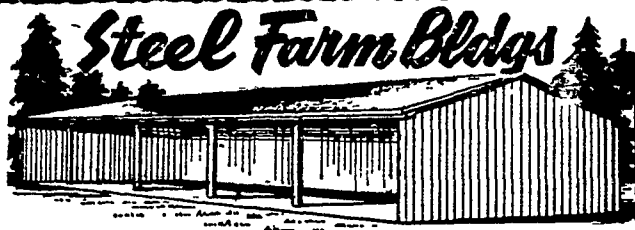
The spectacular progress in this field of agriculture was a factor in bringing the convention to Pennsylvania for the first time.

### Civil Defense

(From page 1)

Unit Conservationist, Paul Anderson and Abner Houseknecht, Conservation Aids and Henry Mellott, Soil Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service office in Lancaster.

At the 2½ day workshop, the conversationists received training in the use of all Geiger counters for detecting radioactive material in the soil. Intensive training was



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### Casserole

(From page 7)

puree, sugar, Worcestershire Sauce, simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat; add mushrooms, cheese. Place cooked spaghetti in casserole; pour hot meat mixture over spaghetti. Sprinkle top with bread crumbs. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees, remove from oven. Sprinkle chopped almonds over top; return to oven 5 minutes.

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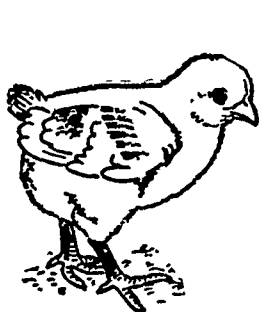
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also given in the methods which farmers can use to minimize injuries from the radioactive material to livestock and farm products used for animal and human consumption.

The Soil Conservation Service personnel received instructions which will enable them to be of valuable assistance to Civil Defense officials during an emergency.

## Rabies Cases Lowest Ever

Harrisburg — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture reports a new all-time record low of 14 officially recognized cases of rabies for the entire state during the year 1961. The total includes only two rabid dogs, another record low.

The 1961 figure compares

with 18 cases reported in '60, 167 in 1955, and 241 in 1951.

No incident of the disease was found in cattle last year. The 14 cases were confined to nine counties. Infected bats were found in six counties as follows: Lycoming, 3; Chester, Dauphin, Lehigh, Northumberland and Perry, each one; one dog each in Greene and Lycoming Counties, Westmoreland, one cat and one squirrel; and one skunk each in Crawford and Northumberland Counties.

State Secretary of Agriculture William L. Henning attributed the highly encouraging report to the intensive enforcement work carried on by State Dog Law agents. He emphasized that the annual statewide county-by-county campaigns to eliminate stray dogs, conducted with the cooperation of local and municipal officials, are the most effective effort in the control of the disease.

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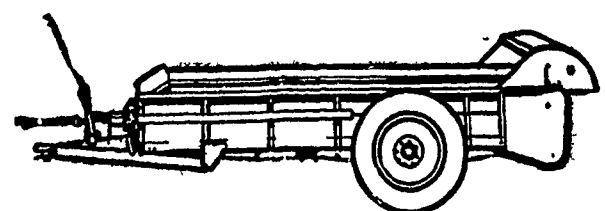
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