

Custom Work Rates Guide Is Compiled

Farmers who hire custom operators to do their plowing, cultivating and harvesting can determine going average rate charges by use of the 1962 issue of "Machinery Custom Rates," compiled by the State Crop Reporting Service.

The publication shows differentials between mountain and valley sections in the two geographical regions of the Commonwealth. The regions were selected largely because of topography, field size and crop yields.

Custom rates vary sharply within each of the two regions, according to the report. In fact, they show a wide change within a single area within a region. Local conditions by surveying a cross-section generally account for the variations.

The rates indicated in the publication were determined of custom operators throughout the state.

Copies are available without charge by writing to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg.

State Vets Alerted For Screw Worms

HARRISBURG — Veterinarians in Pennsylvania have been alerted to watch out for infestations of screwworms in livestock and to report cases promptly.

Warm weather in the southwestern United States has brought ideal conditions for the spread of this destructive pest, according to reports received by the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association.

Screw worm flies, no longer confined to southern areas by cold weather, can be expected to head north, west and east seeking wounded animals in which to lay their eggs.

They normally spread northward from overwintering areas as spring & summer progress. During warm weather, they become established northward in the midwestern states and cause serious injuries or death to livestock.

In recent years, they have been found as far north as southeastern Pennsylvania.

Early detection and reporting of such infestations are essential to the success of the Federal-State-farmer eradication effort.

Pennsylvania veterinarians have been urged to follow these precautions:

(1) Thoroughly inspect animals immediately upon arrival from southern and southwestern states.

(2) If maggot-infested wounds are found, send at least 10 maggots in a container of alcohol or water to the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, 39th and Pine Streets, Philadelphia.

(3) If the maggots are identified as screwworms cooperate with Federal-State officials in spraying all livestock in the area with recommended insecticides.

One reason the courts don't handle more drunken driving cases — the undertaker gets them first.

—Paul Holdcraft

Dressed Meats At High Level Report Shows

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania slaughter plants dressed out 72 million pounds of red meat in April, according to the State Crop Reporting Service.

Production for the month indicated a 3 percent increase over April of last year. However, a seasonal decline reduced output to 11 percent less than the 81 million

pounds in March.

Beef and Pork production were up during April but a 10 percent reduction in veal slaughter offset the increase. Lamb and mutton rose 8 percent over the previous month, but were unchanged from a year ago.

Average liveweights for all species except hogs were lower than those of last month and last year.

A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

—Clifton Fadiman

Milk Production Hits Record During May

HARRISBURG -- Milk production on Pennsylvania farms during May shattered all previous records for any month, the State Crop Reporting Service said today.

A new monthly high of 700 million pounds was produced by 870,000 milk cows -- the lowest number since January 1941. Output per cow at 805 pounds also was the highest of record.

Seasonally, production per

cow reaches a peak during May and gradually tapers off until about December when it again starts on the upward trend.

The cost of milk cow replacements and mixed dairy feeds remained relatively steady during May, but dairymen received an average of 15 cents per hundredweight less for milk. Thus, the milk-feed ratio dropped to 1.24 compared to 1.27 a year ago.

Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run.

—Mark Twain

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