

Farm Prices Remain Steady

Prices received by Commonwealth farmers in mid-November for their agricultural products remained about the same as a month earlier but 1 percent below a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Offsetting lower prices received for meat animals were higher prices for most field crops and wholesale milk.

Hog prices continued their decline for the fourth consecutive month with cattle prices showing a decline for the fifth consecutive month. The price of cows for slaughter at \$12.70 per cwt was the lowest for any month since November 1957. Partially offsetting lower hog and cattle prices were a strengthening of lamb and sheep prices during the month.

Wholesale milk price averaging \$5.10 per cwt. during November was up 5 cents from a month earlier and a year ago. Prices received for poultry and eggs remained about the same but were 5 percent below a year ago.

Prices received for field crops showed improvement from a month earlier with the exception of corn which was off 6 cents a bushel. Generally, most field crop prices were above last year's level with the exception of wheat, rye, and oats. Hay prices advanced \$1.50 per ton and are well above last November's prices.

The Index of Prices Received, which is a measure of the

trend and change of prices received by farmers, was 230 percent of its 1910-14 — 100 base. This compares with 229 a month earlier and 233 a year ago.

U. S. Prices Received

During the month ended November 15, the Index of Prices Received by United States Farmers remained unchanged at 241 percent of its 1910-14 average. Lower prices for cattle and hogs were offset by price increases for tomatoes, oranges, and lettuce. The November 15 index was 1 percent below a year earlier. With the indexes of both prices received and prices paid by farmers unchanged from October, the Parity Ratio remained at 77. This was, however, the lowest for the month since 1933.

During the busy holiday season your family's apt to skip meals. Keep nourishing snack foods handy to supplement regular meals. Sandwiches prepared with enriched or whole grain breads and spread with protein-rich fillings of meat, fish, cheese, eggs or peanut butter are popular, quick-to-eat and highly nutritious choices.

Test Is Found For Hog Cholera

A rapid, accurate diagnostic test for hog cholera, a disease that costs producers \$50 million a year, has been developed by U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists at the National Animal Disease Laboratory, Ames, Iowa.

This relatively inexpensive and easily performed test, which must now be proved under practical conditions, may be of great help to hog cholera research programs and the Federal-State hog cholera eradication program.

The new 1-day test was developed by Dr. William L. Mengeling, Dr. Eugene C. Pirtle, and Dr. James P. Torrey of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Here, briefly, is how it works: A culture containing tissue from a suspect hog is treated with a combination of fluorescent dye and anti-hog-cholera serum. Infected cells retain the dye-serum and are readily distinguished from uninfected cells.

Symptoms of hog cholera vary, depending on the stage and acuteness of the disease, so it may be confused with certain other hog diseases such as influenza, anthrax, necrotic

enteritis, pneumonia, or erysipelas. Positive diagnosis therefore frequently requires several diagnostic aids, as well as the study of clinical symptoms by veterinarians.

At present, the most reliable single test for hog cholera is made by inoculating healthy young pigs, some susceptible and some immune to hog cholera, with a sample of blood or tissue taken from hogs suspected of having the disease. If hog cholera virus is present in the sample, the immune pigs will remain healthy, but the susceptible pigs will either sicken and die or recover and be immune to future exposures to virulent hog cholera virus.

The inoculation test is expensive and may take several weeks to complete. These marked disadvantages preclude its widespread use in the nationwide eradication program.

In contrast, the new dye-serum test takes less than a day. Using this test, the ARS scientists were able to detect hog cholera virus in samples of blood, serum, or spleen extracts obtained from 51 experimentally infected hogs.

Lesson From The Pin Its head keeps it from going too far.

Meat Production Is On Increase

HARRISBURG — Meat production in the commonwealth is rising sharply and may reach a record volume this year, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Livestock slaughter in the first 10 months totaled 1,498 million pounds liveweight, 71 million pounds more than in the same period last year, the PCRS said. The January-October total is up almost 5 percent from last year and 11 percent above the 1957-61 average for that period.

Hogs accounted for the biggest increase, 64.2 million pounds, with beef cattle up 19.6 million pounds. Sheep and lamb volume was down 9.7 million pounds, and calves were down 3.1 million pounds.

October slaughter volume of 174 million pounds liveweight was 7 percent ahead of last year.

After you've cleaned up your vegetable garden, sow a cover crop of ryegrass, oats or wheat to protect the soil from winter erosion and add organic matter next spring.

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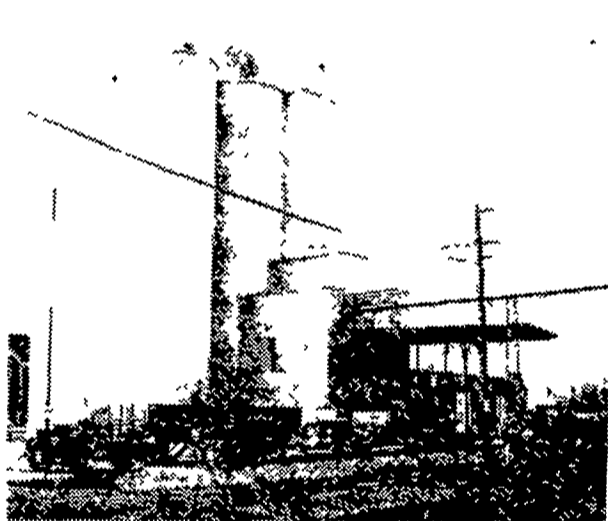
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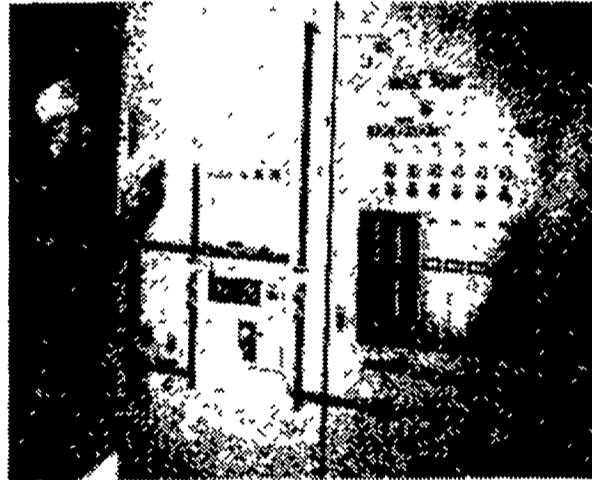
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