

## Farm Prices Dip 2 Per Cent In December

HARRISBURG — Prices received by commonwealth farmers in mid-December dropped 2 per cent from a month earlier and 3 per cent from last year, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Livestock and livestock products were responsible for

most of the decline, according to the PCRS.

Hogs, averaging \$15.10 per hundredweight, were 90 cents below mid-November prices and \$2.30 lower than those of a year earlier. Steers and heifers, at \$20 per hundredweight, were off \$1.10 from a month earlier and down \$4.40 from December 1962.

Broilers averaged 13.5 cents per pound, down three cents from mid-November and three cents below the previous December price. Egg prices were

the lowest for any December since 1957, averaging 38 cents a dozen, two cents less than a month earlier.

Sheep and lamb prices advanced slightly and prices received for field crops showed little change from mid-November.

Prices paid for alfalfa hay rose \$1.50 to \$49 per ton, the highest December price on record.

The index of prices received, a measure of the trend and change of prices received by

farmers for their products, was 226 per cent of the 1910-14 base of 100 per cent. It was 230 a month earlier and 233 a year ago.

The index of prices received in the nation declined 2 per cent from a month earlier, while the index of prices paid declined a third of one per cent.

## Census Bureau Asks Farmers To Keep Records

Every farmer and rancher will have need for records on his business in 1964 in order to provide accurate answers for the do-it-yourself questionnaire he will receive near the end of the year as part of the 1964 Census of Agriculture, according to the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Each farmer or rancher will receive a census form by mail in October or earlier, and will be asked to fill it out. A census taker will visit the farm during November or early December to review the filled-out form, make sure that all questions are answered, and send the form to Census headquarters.

The "do-it-yourself" plan is expected to save several million dollars compared with the method used in earlier farm censuses in which a census taker asked all the questions and wrote the answers on the census form.

For the first time, the 1964 Census of Agriculture will include questions about income received from recreation services, such as hunting or fishing privileges, board and room provided to sportsmen; and questions about chemical sprays or dusts used during the year to control pests and diseases of any kind. The bulk of questions will deal with crops and livestock produced and sold, use of farm land and amounts of farm expenditures.

"The most significant farm census since 1940" is the description by Ray Hurley, who has directed the Censuses of Agriculture at five-year intervals over the past quarter century. "American agriculture has been undergoing widespread and massive changes and the Census provides the only accurate measures of those changes," Mr. Hurley said.

The 1964 Census of Agriculture will provide the first count of the nation's farms since the Census of Agriculture in 1959 and the first count of people living on farms since the Census of Population in 1960. The number of farms in the nation decreased from its high point of 6.8 million in 1935 to 3.7 million in 1959. The number of people living on farms dropped from more than 30 million in 1940 to less than 14 million persons in 1960.

## Plan Clinic For Cattle Feeders

A Cooperative Extension Service livestock clinic for cattle feeders will be held Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and 13 in the Rohrerstown elementary school, Rohrerstown, according to an announcement made today by County Agent M. M. Smith.

Each clinic will consist of three evening classes, scheduled to start promptly at 7:30 p.m., at weekly intervals.

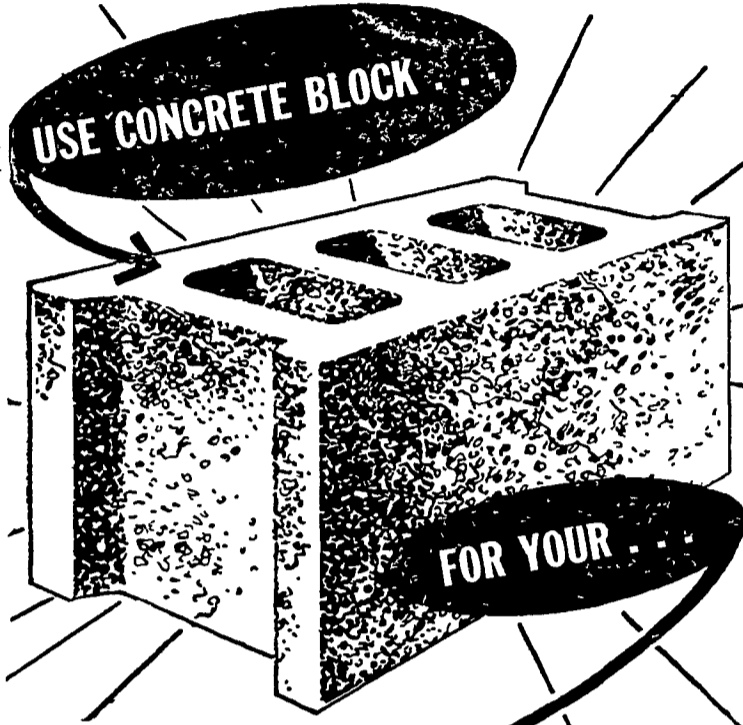
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S. O. TRUPE — East Earl, Pa.

Phone - A. C. 215-445-6128

JOHN HERR JR. — Annville, Pa.

Phone - UN 7-2244

NED SITLER JR. — Wrightsville, Pa.

Phone - Wrightsville 255-3391

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