

Lancaster Farming

SECOND SECTION

Egg Production Up Eight Percent In May

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's laying flock produced an estimated 291 million eggs in May, up 3 percent from a year ago. The increase was attributed to a 6 percent increase in flock size from May, 1968.

Average price received by farms for all eggs declined 6 cents from April, but was 2 cents above a year ago. However, this was the second month to show a sizeable decrease in egg price, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Thin Vine Crops

Vine crops in the vegetable garden do best if thinned to 2 or 3 plants in the hill or to stand 12 to 15 inches apart in the row, reminds Robert F. Fletcher, extension vegetable specialist at The Pennsylvania State University. Pinch or cut off plants to be discarded.



If its "better profit" you want — these are the feeds to use!

USDA Reports Decline In Farm Mortgage Loan Volume

Farmers borrowed less mortgage money from major lending groups in 1968 than in 1967, and unless current high interest rates and competition from urban borrowers relax the downward trend will continue this year, according to a report released recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Volume of new farm mortgage money loaned by 19 life insurance firms, Federal land banks, and the Farmers Home Administration dipped 8 percent in 1968 to \$1.58 billion and was 21 percent under the high mark of 1965, USDA's Economic Research Service stated.

Interest rates for Federal land banks and life insurance farm mortgage loans climbed higher in the last half of 1968 and reached an all time peak by year's end. Most of the drop in loan volume in 1968 came in the second half of the year. The \$618 million loaned from July through December 1968 was 27 percent below the year earlier period, the report noted.

The total of farm mortgage loans outstanding December 31, 1968 was \$12.4 billion. Although this amount was about 6 percent above a year earlier, it was only 2 percent more than six months before. Rising interest rates and urban demand for money

had reduced borrowing by farm ers.

The report indicates the slackening in the volume of new farm mortgage loans is expected to continue through the first half of this year. Advance commitments by life insurance companies in the second half of 1968 were for loans of \$304 million, 37 percent below allocations in the comparable 1967 period and equal to the amount in the tight money period of late 1966.

In the last half of 1968, life insurance firm loans averaged \$69,040, a 26 percent rise over that period of 1967. Average loans made by land banks for second half 1968 were \$25,410, down about 6 percent.

Summer Heat Hard On Farm Equipment

While winter weather is damaging, summer sun and heat also shortens the life of farm equipment, say extension agricultural engineers at The Pennsylvania State University. As equipment becomes more "sophisticated" and expensive, it pays even more to keep it under cover when not in use.

The width of Africa is about the same as its length

Milk Production Up One Percent In May

HARRISBURG—Milk production on Pennsylvania farms totaled 664 million pounds in May, an increase of one percent from a year earlier, but down 4 percent from May, 1967.

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service estimated the number of cows in milking herds at 726,000 or 3,000 below a year earlier. Production per cow during May at 915 pounds showed the usual seasonal advance, but was up 15 pounds from the same month in 1963.

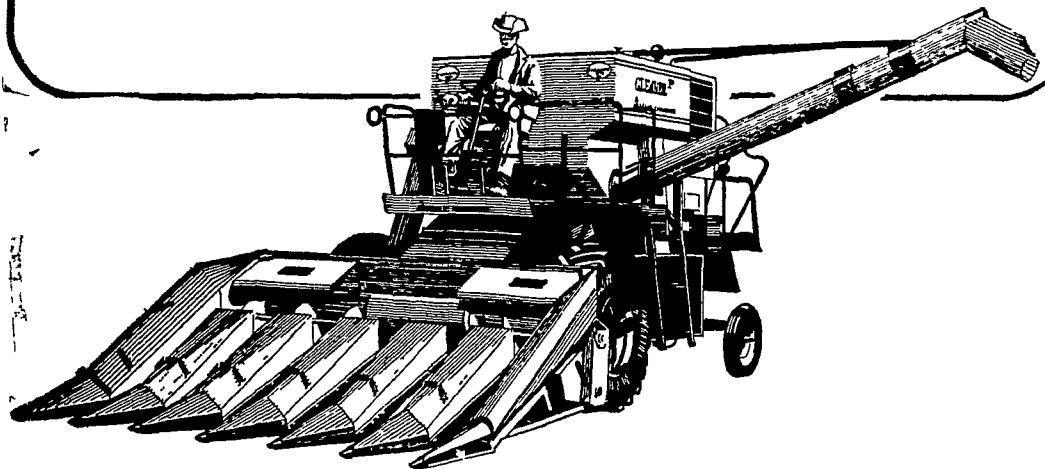
The average price received for milk during May was estimated at \$5.85 per hundredweight, 31 cents above a year earlier.

Consumption Of Pork At Highest Point Since 1959

Pork consumption in 1968, at 65.8 pounds per person in the United States, was at its highest point since 1959, according to David E. Noller, Sigourney, Iowa, retiring Chairman of the Pork Industry Committee of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. The Committee met Monday in conjunction with the 46th Annual Meeting of the Meat Board.

In an effort to keep consumption per person moving upward in response to strong consumer demand, the Pork Industry Committee, in cooperation with the (Continued on Page 20)

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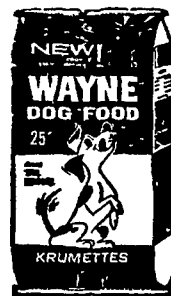
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