

Largest Spring Pig Crop In Penna. Since 1957

The Pennsylvania spring pig crop at 456,000 head was up 12,000 reported in the spring of 1965. All hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on June 1 were reported a record average litter size of 8 pigs. In just 4 years, Pennsylvania's spring pig crop increase reported by any state production has increased 45 per cent from the record low of 315,000 head reported in the spring of 1957. Farmers reported a record average litter size of 8 pigs. In just 4 years, Pennsylvania's spring pig crop increase reported by any state production has increased 45 per cent from the record low of 315,000 head reported in the spring of 1957.

farms were down 2 per cent

Several factors have changed Pennsylvania farmers' outlook toward the hog business (1) hog prices have been at profitable levels since May 1965, one of the longest periods on record. (2) hog production has become more specialized, and specialized farmers tend to be more efficient. (3) hog production is now more profitable in relation to selling feed grains; and (4) a great amount of publicity has been given the hog slaughter industry in Pennsylvania — now 5th among all states

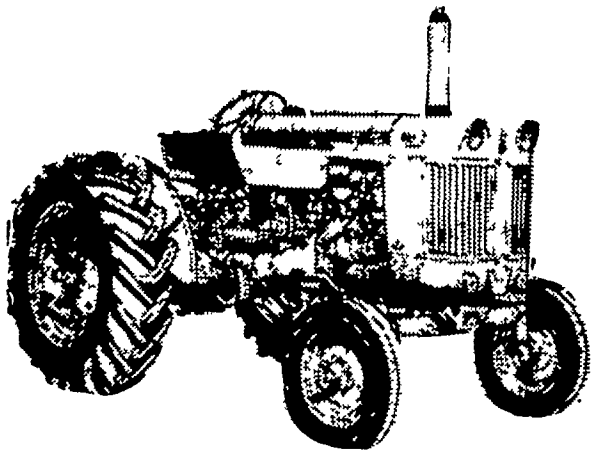
Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 23, 1969—21
nearly 55 per cent of the nation's total. Since 1965, hog slaughter in the Commonwealth has increased 49 per cent. Commonwealth hog producers raise less than 1 per cent of the nation's hogs, but feel there is great production potential since local plants use many more hogs than are available within Pennsylvania. In 1968, the Commonwealth's plants slaughtered about 3.5 million hogs from out-of-state farms.

Hog prices will decline seasonally in the next few months. There will also be some attempts

to curb inflation, which may restrict consumer buying power. Consumers may also show resistance to continually rising meat prices at retail which could curb demand

Prospects are excellent that hog prices will continue at profitable levels for another year. Continued favorable prices will probably encourage farmers to expand hog production this fall and in 1970. Pennsylvania hog producers have already announced their intention to increase the fall pig crop by 10 per cent, compared to 3 per cent increase expected nationally

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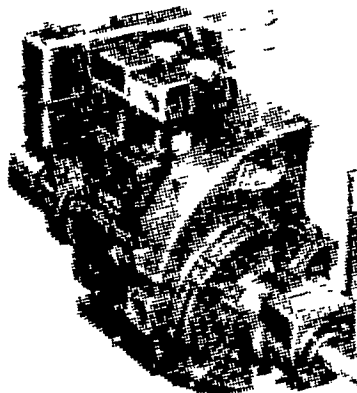
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MARKETING COSTS OF AUSTRALIAN CATTLE

Australia's west and north are developing areas, largely because of mining associated with what appears to be the largest reserves of iron ore in the world. The Kimberley area, about three times as large as England, is also being developed as a pastoral area for cattle. Except for mining, pasturing of cattle and sheep is the main basis of the economy.

Until recently, the cattle from the western area reached market only by driving over rough country. Only the fittest survived, and at journey's end were in such poor condition that they were hardly worth slaughtering.

Since 1960, dirt roads have been cut into the area and 3-unit cattle trucks carrying about 80 head of steers now travel closer to the stations. Cattle are now worth more than twice as much as they were in the days of driving, emphasizing the importance of the beef roads.

Isolation is one of the big problems in this area of Australia. Homesteads are 20 to 80 miles apart. There are an estimated 650,000 head of cattle, mostly Shorthorns, in the Kimberley region. The only fenced cattle station in the region is the 303,000 acre Kalyeeda on the Fitzroy River.

Cattle are shipped from Derby to Robb Jetty and from time to time are exported to the Philippines, Hong Kong, or Queensland on the hoof. Handling charges of cattle slaughtered at Robb Jetty are about \$33 a head, a little over one-third the value of the animal. Cattle sell for \$60.50 a head at Derby and Broome, and \$57.50 a head at Wynham. (Apparently there are no premiums for quality, no public livestock markets, little local demand, and astronomically high marketing charges.)

Ag Progress Days Set For Aug., 26-28

Agricultural Progress Days will be held August 26-28 at Fox Chase Farms, Towanda, Pa. on Route 220, near the airport.

The event is open to everyone. All persons—from producer to consumer—have a stake in agriculture. This is their opportunity to see interesting exhibits and demonstrations showing advancements made in agriculture and showing how farming provides food and fiber for nations around the world.

This educational program will feature 3 large dairy shows, the State Plowing Contest, grassland demonstration plots, numerous commercial and educational exhibits, displays of machinery and equipment and demonstrations of their use, demonstrations of harvesting and spraying techniques, tours, women's program, etc. The variety of activities should appeal to the whole family.

Agricultural Progress Days is sponsored by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with Cornell University Cooperative Extension Service.