

## Ag Report Tells Of Farmer's Plight

The following editorial from the October issue of DOANE'S Agricultural Report calls attention to an often untold story about the rising cost of food, the consumer's dollar and the man at the foot of the "totem pole," the farm producer. Even with food prices going up . . . farmers' share of "dollars" goes down.

Glamorous these figures are not . . . but the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a fact sheet recently that helps establish trend relationships between food costs and farm operating expenses and income.

First, what has happened to farm production costs? The index of prices farmers pay for input items, interest, taxes and wage rates increased 28 percent from the 1957-59 period to mid 1969, ranging from as much as

106 percent for taxes to only 3 percent for feed and a decline of 6 percent for fertilizer. This compares with a rise of 17 percent in the overall consumer price index, and a retail price of food up 24 percent in the same period.

What share of the consumer's dollar does the farmer receive . . . and is he maintaining his percentage of this dollar over the years? The following figures substantiate an already common belief — the farmer is losing rather dramatically to "marketing" in the race to consume larger shares of the dollars spent for food.

Farmers receive an average of 40¢ of each dollar spent at retail for U.S. farm-produced food. This is 10¢ less than was the case 20 years ago. A farmer's "share" depends upon the price he receives and the costs of marketing the product sold. And this share is smaller for highly "serviced" products such as bread (14¢) than for unprocessed products such as eggs (65¢).

Since the 1947-49 period, dollars spent for food products in this country have climbed \$46.1 billion . . . to about \$90 billion today. Just 22 percent of this total dollar increase was realized by farmers.

In the past ten years, however, surprisingly little variation has occurred in the percentage farmers receive on a commodity or unit basis. In 1957-59, for example, farmers received 62¢ out of each dollar consumers spent for deer. In the first quarter of 1969 they received 61¢. Figures for other commodities are as follows: eggs, 64¢ in 1957-

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 15, 1969—33

59 compared to 65¢ this year (an increase of 1¢ in the past 10 years); bread, 16¢ compared to 14¢; Potatoes and butter, no change; canned corn, 13¢ compared to 12¢.

All of this can be simplified into a few words. Consumers pay less and less of total disposable income for food . . . consumers spend more total dollars, largely paying for services . . . farmers' share of total spending continues to go down

## Proper Care Of Game Urged

Several reports of game spoiling during warm weather have been received by the Game Commission this fall.

Hunters are advised to handle meat properly during warm days; otherwise, it can become tainted in a few hours.

Sportsmen should remove entrails of game immediately after killing, and the meat should be kept as cool as possible until it can be processed.



"BETTER-BILT"  
LIQUID MANURE SPREADER  
DISTRIBUTED AND SOLD BY

**S. M. MANUFACTURING Co., Inc.**

Owl Hill Road

R. D. 4, Lititz, Penna. Phone 717-626-8585  
Call or Write For Free Demonstration

Let a  
**CHECKING  
ACCOUNT**  
help you  
thru the  
holidays ahead

During the next few months your shopping schedule will be busier than ever . . . in addition to normal purchases you'll be holiday gift shopping, plus buying for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year entertaining. Then there's the matter of those year-end bills.

Now, more than ever, you need the solid security and the oh-so-easy convenience of a Conestoga National Bank Checking Account. It saves you footsteps, protects you against losses and provides positive proof of payments made.

Why delay? Open your Personal Checking Account today at any one of our eight convenient locations.

THE  
**Conestoga NATIONAL Bank**

HEADQUARTERS for MONEY MATTERS

LANCASTER/CENTERVILLE/EAST/LANDISVILLE/LITITZ,  
MANHEIM TOWNSHIP/MILLERSVILLE/ROHRERTOWN

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

A Trustee for The Lancaster County Foundation

## PUBLIC SALE BLACK & WHITE HOLSTEIN FARM

at Dairy Cow Sale Pavilion  
along Rt. 230 Bypass directly across from the Comet Outdoor Theatre, just west of Lancaster.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 1969**  
8:00 P. M.



50 Wisconsin and Canadian cattle. All fresh and right ready to fresh. HAND PICKED — GOOD YOUNG CATTLE. Many with records.

2 years credit terms. Credit can be arranged prior to sale.

**CHARLES C. MYERS, Owner**



Create A  
**HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT  
IN YOUR  
POULTRY HOUSES**

**"LITTER-LIFE"**

A MINERALIZED CULTURE

To "Treat" Built-Up Litter

An OLD concept made effective . . .

with NEW scientific techniques

Call or Write for Information and Literature.

**ZOOK & RANCK, INC.**

R.D. 1 Gap, Penna. 17527

Phone 717-442-4171