

Dairy Profits Increase With Outlook Favorable

Dairy farmers have come paid to farmers for milk have upon better times. While prices increased about one-fourth since

1965, costs for feed and other items have gone up less, according to William Pierce, professor of agricultural economics at The Pennsylvania State University.

The result is an abrupt turnaround in the financial condition of dairy farmers within the past five years, Dr. Pierce says in the Fall issue of "Science in Agriculture," the quarterly magazine of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. Until 1964 and 1965, prices farmers received for milk declined slowly while feed costs were steady or moved gradually upward.

Dr. Pierce indicates that the farm price for milk improved because milk production went down. This change to less milk production was influenced by good prices for cull dairy cows and unusually good opportunities for nonfarm employment. He says these conditions are continuing.

In the United States, the gain in the farm price for milk went up from \$4.23 per hundred pounds in 1965 to \$5.25 in 1968, an increase of \$1.02 or nearly one-fourth. In Pennsylvania, the average price for milk sold to dealers rose \$1.15 per hundred-weight, also an increase of nearly one-fourth. Prices have continued upward in 1969 but the gain over last year is slowing down.

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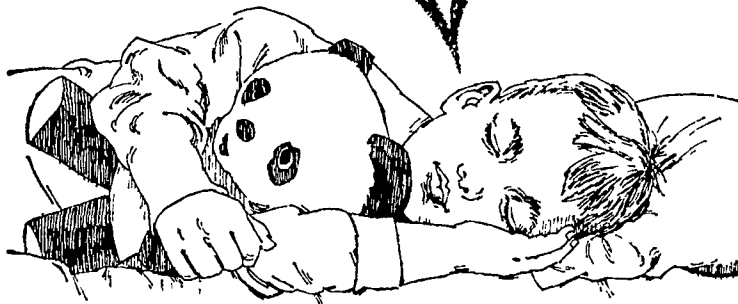
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Hunters Advised On Hog Cholera Spread

Hunters, fishermen and other outdoor sportsmen are urged to help prevent spread of Hog Cholera virus.

The virus, which does not affect humans, is highly contagious and destructive to swine. It can be carried on shoes, clothing, auto tires, and on animals, such as hunting dogs.

The disease is a serious threat to the state's large and economically important swine industry. Since July, 72 swine herds, totaling 13,000 head, valued at more than a half-million dollars, have been destroyed.

Cold weather has no effect on the virus, and persons or animals moving thru a farm or other area where the virus is can readily spread it over a wide area.

Maryland Livestock Sanitary Service director, Dr. T. A. Ladson, says it is vital that the following precautions be observed:

Do not hunt on or allow dogs near hogs or hot lots.

Avoid farms that have swine and keep away from fields or any areas where swine are seen.

Report any dead swine you see to the Game Warden or any veterinarian.

The lower portion of the Eastern Shore, an area popular with outdoorsmen, has been especially hard hit by the swine disease. A quarantine on swine is still in force in parts of Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties.

Farmers and those involved in the swine industry are aware of the problem and are cooperating fully in the effort to control the disease.

"But now we have an entirely new group of people — many of them from urban and suburban areas — moving into the countryside completely unaware of the situation," Dr. Ladson points out.

"I hope we can make people understand the threat, and help us prevent any spread of this very destructive swine disease."

Dr. Ladson emphasizes that hog cholera has no effect on humans, and that "it does not in any way have any effect whatsoever on pork or pork products for human consumption."

Pork-Barrel Legislation

By "pork-barrel legislation" is meant bills enacted to provide appropriations for political purposes to a special group or re-