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# Lancaster Farming

VOL. 15 NO. 19

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 4, 1970

\$2.00 Per Year

## Official Thinks Market Should Hold

# Egg Prices Drop 12 Cents

Egg prices to producers collapsed over the Easter holiday weekend.

Prices dropped about 25 per cent, from 49 cents just before Easter to 37-38 cents through Friday this week.

A leading national egg marketing official told Lancaster Farming late this week that price stabilization efforts are underway and current prices should hold. He thinks demand will be sufficient to clear the market at the new price levels.

(News analysis, a Lancaster Farming exclusive.)

But both the national official and local egg producers said the new price puts egg income for the average producer at the "break even" level and inefficient producers or producers with older flocks are probably losing money.

### Delano Discusses

Ray Delano, general manager of the Northeast Egg Marketing Association and a nationally re-

cognized authority on egg marketing, discussed the present egg market with Lancaster Farming by telephone from his New Hampshire office Thursday. Delano had just finished conferring with other egg marketing officials across the country.

While producers with young flocks laying at an 80 per cent rate can still make a profit at current prices and average producing flocks will about "break even," the older flocks are now money losers, according to Delano.

As a result, Northeast Egg Mar-

keting early this week sent letters to more than 70 of its biggest producers with flocks of more than 150,000 birds telling them to cull and sell the older flocks.

Sale of these older birds, besides eliminating money losers for egg producers, will help reduce the supply of eggs and hopefully help stabilize egg prices, Delano said.

Other price stabilizing efforts are underway.

### Surplus Removal

Arrangements are being made to sell 14,000 cases of eggs over the next three weeks to institu-

tions as "breakers or frozen and liquid eggs. "We have a surplus removal program underway now," he said.

At the same time, Delano anticipates "a lot of promotions and retail sales" and "retail sales should really pick up."

"Our organization feels that with the market at 37 to 38 cents, eggs should be sold at retail for not more than 55 to 56 cents."

At this price, which compares to recent sales in the 79 cent area, normal consumer demand should pick up and retailers can be expected to feature eggs more.

The combination of culled flocks, lower consumer prices and increased retail promotion should stabilize prices at about the present level according to Delano, who feels the market can absorb the available eggs at the lower prices.

### Market Unstable

But will the market hold? He's not sure.

He said producers need from

seven to ten days for the new market situation to clear and to see if the egg surplus which brought on the price drop will move.

But Delano indicated he's not sure if the present price will hold long enough — the seven to ten days — to see if the eggs can be sold.

While Delano feels the present market situation should stabilize and that present prices possibly can hold, he's openly concerned about long term trends toward bigger flocks.

Lancaster Farming recently released USDA figures showing January layer hatch was up 21 per cent. More recent figures show February hatch was up 17 per cent over a year ago. These figures represent potential increases in lower flock number several months in the future show February potential increases in layer flocks number several months in the future.

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## Guernsey Breeders To Tour York, Adams Farms April 10

The Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders' Tour will feature visits to farms in York and Adams Counties from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Friday, April 10.

Cost is \$3.50 per person. Visitors are asked to bring lunch. Reservations can be made by contacting Melvin R. Stoltzfus, 687-7340, Jesse G. Balmer, 626-8055, or Raymond F. Witmer, 786-3526 by noon April 9.

The tour schedule is as follows: leave Conestoga Transportation Company bus barns at 825 E. Chestnut St., Lancaster at 8:15 sharp, and visit the Harry Blessing farm, Wrightsville at 9. The 90 cow stall barn has a dumping station.

The Lehman Bios farm is next at 9:45 at York RD11. The stall barn built in 1963 for 86 cows, features panel side walls, pipeline, and chain conveyor for silage feeding.

At 11:30, the Lester Van Ars

dale farm at Biglerville RD2 will show a 68 cow operation with pipeline milker, a new controlled environment free stall barn with bunk feeder and chain conveyor for manure loading. The herd is divided into two groups which alternate between free stall and stall barn.

At 2 p.m., a tour of the Harold Good farm at Airville RD will feature a 130 cow operation with loose housing, stall barn, pipeline milker and bunk feeder.

The 2:45 p.m. tour of the Melvin Wessel farm at Airville RD will show 150 cow operation with two picture window milking parlors, free stalls with liquid manure and a heated calf barn. Animals from this herd have been shown at the National Show.

The group will return by way of the Norman Wood Bridge, arriving at the Buck by 4 p.m. and Lancaster by 4:45 p.m.

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, April 4

9:00 a.m. - 4:40 p.m. — District 10 Youth Conference of Grange, Red Hill, Montgomery Co.

### Monday, April 6

Annual Meat Packers and Processors Seminar at Penn State.

6:30 p.m. — Fruit Growers and Honey Producers, annual banquet, Meadow Hills Dining House.

7:30 p.m. — Elm-Penryn 4-H Club, Penryn Fire Hall.  
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## Center To Hold Youth Coop Meeting Apr. 14

The Youth Institute on Cooperative Business will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, at the Farm and Home Center.

The annual institute sponsored by the Lancaster County Council of Farmer Cooperatives is primarily geared to explaining and encouraging farm cooperatives.

Chaired by Henry Givler, vocational agriculture consultant, the morning program is as follows:

9. get acquainted, refreshments, 9:15, introductions; 9:25, "Careers in Agriculture," a tele-lecture by William Matson, manager of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, Harrisburg.

9:45, "What Farm Cooperatives Are," jointly by the Lancaster County Cooperative Council, Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives, and American Institute of Cooperation. Also on the program is Boyd Gantley of the Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative.

10:10 Youth Questions the Cooperative Panel Management from Cooperatives Youth Members, 11, As We Saw It, Linford D. Martin, AIC Scholar, and Ruth K. Biubaker, PAFCA Scholar.

Lunch is scheduled for 11:30, followed by a film at 12:15 p.m. "Rewarding Careers in a Dynamic Industry," Hal F. Doran, Penn State agriculture business advisor, will speak.

A cooperative quiz will be given farm youth at 1:15 and winners will be announced at 2:10,

following a wrap up by Jay W. Irwin, associate County agent, and Mrs. Mary Erikson, FHA vocational consultant.

Lancaster County Cooperative Council officers are, C. P. Brantley, chairman, Atlantic Breeders Cooperative branch manager, and Charles Cowan, vice chairman, field representative of Inter-State Milk Producers Coop.

Cooperative Council member businesses are Agway, Inc.; Atlantic Breeders Cooperative; Farm Credit Association; Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative; Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative, and Producers Cooperative Exchange of Coatesville.

## Kreider Farm's 'Copter Featured

The helicopter pictured on the front page of the March 1970 issue of "Nation's Agriculture" was photographed while spraying potatoes on the Noah Kreider farm near Manheim.

Kreider, who farms in a three-way partnership with his sons, Noah Jr. and Richard, has one of Lancaster County's larger farming operations.

Page 10 of the issue explains that use of helicopters for agricultural purposes is growing.

The particular helicopter was operated by Dr. Carrol M. Voss, who emphasized that properly trained pilots are "of greater importance" for helicopter farm work.



Lancaster County vocational agriculture officials are shown this week planning year-end FFA contests and programs at a 4:30 p.m. meeting Wednesday at Warwick High School.

They are: Jim Kerr, Warwick High School vo-ag teacher; Mark Campbell, Manheim Central High School vo-ag teacher and county vo-ag teacher president, and Henry Givler, district FFA leader.