



Lancaster Farming

SECOND SECTION

But Conditions Can Change Fast

USDA Reports World Pork Shortage

Pork was in short supply in 1969 throughout most of the meat-eating world. The situation continues in 1970, producing some strange twists in world

8 Local Youths Named To Summer Institute

Eight local boys and girls have been selected to represent this area at the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives Summer Institute at Bloomsburg State College July 12-16.

The eight are the winners of the Youth Institute on Cooperative Business program at the Farm and Home Center April 14. The cooperative education program was sponsored by the Lancaster Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Those chosen to attend the Institute are Ruth Brubaker, New Holland RD2; Gerald Martin, Lititz RD1; Jamce Weaver, New Holland RD1; Jeff Risser, Leola RD1; Clark Stauffer, Ephrata RD1; Clair Witwer, 617 Strasburg Pike, Lancaster; Kenneth Grube, 917 Pine Hill Road, Lititz; and Nelson Weaver, New Holland RD1.

Winners were selected on the basis of a quiz on the cooperative way of doing business and an activities report filled out by the participants identifying them with school, community, church, and youth organizations.

Judging the activities reports were Henry Givler, Vocational Agriculture Consultant, Jay W. Irwin, Associate County Agent, Robert Barger and C. P. Brantly, Cooperative Council Officers.

Irwin will accompany the young leaders to Bloomsburg and act as chaperone and resource person for the delegation.

Massachusetts Poultrymen Inspect Lancaster Farms

By Jay W. Irwin
Associate Agricultural Agent

Two poultry specialists from the University of Massachusetts and 10 poultrymen from the Worcester, Massachusetts area recently visited three poultry farms and a poultry processing plant in Lancaster County.

Louis Ruggles, specialist and leader of the group said they chose Lancaster County because of the large poultry industry, the progressive farmers and the different types of housing used in the county. They visited a cage operation where hand and belt gathering are used, a sloping wire floor house with birds at 5 square foot per bird, and a cage operation using an automatic cleaning and drying system.

They were interested in making comparisons of the efficiencies of each type of housing. They were most interested in the automatic cleaning and dry-

ing system to help destroy the odor producing bacteria in poultry manure.

This system was developed by Dr. Glenn Bressler, Professor of Poultry Science, Penn State University.

The theory involves the circulation of warm air, heated by the bodies of the birds, over the manure pit. Ordinary fans, under the cages, circulate the air as an agitator powered by electricity, stirs the contents and shoves a portion out one end of the building.

The heated air reduces the moisture content of the manure to about 30 per cent and in the process kills the odor making organisms. Chicken droppings are about 75 per cent moisture.

Mr. Ruggles and his group were impressed with the clean, neat and well kept farm buildings. They could easily see why tourists are attracted to the Lancaster County farming community.

World Outlet Stable
World pork production for

Penn State Third In Flower Judging

Pennsylvania State University students won third place recently in the National Intercollegiate Flower Judging Contest at Blacksburg, Virginia.

This marked the fourth time that Penn State placed among the top three teams in the past seven years. Teams from University Park were the champions in 1966 and 1968 and placed second in 1964.

National champion at Blacksburg was Michael Mackiewicz of Philadelphia, senior in floriculture. Mackiewicz scored 1836 out of a possible 2000 points. Penn State team members have been individual national champions in 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968, and again this year.

The team included Alice Ann Roemer of Tamaqua and George M. Albright, Jr., of Camp Hill, both seniors in floriculture. The alternate was Nancy N. Cherok of Bentleyville, a junior in floriculture.

1970 is not expected to change much from the 50.5 billion estimated for 1969.

The world's pork traders caught largely unprepared by the current shortage, offer various explanations for its occurrence.

Some observers call it a normal situation — the historical cyclical trend that has existed throughout livestock history and still reoccurs despite man's technical advances in animal husbandry.

Some Shortage Factors

Others point to more current reasons for the pork shortage: disturbances in breeding programs caused by the severe winter of 1968-69 in the United States and Europe; high feed costs in the European Community forcing hog producers out of business; lack of farm labor in the United States; the high cost of capital, animal disease problems, and other factors.

Whatever the reason, the shortage has caused some curious disruptions in the traditional world pork trade pattern.

The United Kingdom normally buys 650,000 tons of pork a year under its Bacon Market-Sharing Understanding, designed to apportion this top market fairly among exporters. Neither the Netherlands nor Denmark, the principal suppliers, could fill its quota in 1969.

Denmark Embarrassed

Denmark found itself in a particularly embarrassing situation since it had cut back pork production for 1969 following several years of difficulty finding export outlets. There were many attractive outlets in 1969 which it could not supply.

Japan's tight domestic pork situation began in late 1968 and led to wide-ranging purchases, including 5,000 tons from Australia which seldom exports pork. Japan's domestic pork situation has now improved and it expects no significant imports in 1970.

Canada, which is normally self-sufficient and has a small exportable surplus, also turned up short in 1969 and bought more than 60 million pounds from the United States.

Canada expects to turn some of its grain surplus of feedgrains and wheat into pork in 1970 and during the last half of the year will be on an export basis.

U.S. Pork Imports Drop

The United States, normally a net importer of pork in a ratio of about 4 to 1, dropped to a 2 to 1 net import ratio in 1969. Exports jumped substantially largely as the result of sales to Japan and Canada.

Imports of canned hams and picnic from Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, and Yugoslavia, which traditionally increase at the rate of about 10 per cent a year leveled off in 1969.

The European Community, which normally produces about 105 per cent of its own pork needs, was barely self-sufficient last year. With the aid of a large export subsidy, it maintained ex-

ports at about the 1968 level, but shorted the domestic market. The result, of course, was an advance in prices.

The situation in Eastern Europe is particularly interesting. This area is ordinarily about self sufficient in pork production and is well known for its exports of specialty items. Notably these come from Poland and Yugoslavia, with Romania and Hungary aspiring to join them.

Currently, the whole East European area appears to be short of meat, including pork.

Russia Imports Pork

To the surprise of the world pork trade, the Soviet Union, for instance, recently made a pork purchase in the United Kingdom, a transaction which led the United Kingdom to place pork under export licensing effective February 18.

The present situation can, of course, change rapidly, since the time from breeding through farrowing and fattening is only about nine months.

How soon it does, in fact, change depends basically on how world farmers respond to the several stimuli that influence a producer to enter hog production or expand operations.

Traditionally, strong prices with favorable prospects for profits have been the prime inducement. However, this situation has not yet provided the expected response in the United States.

The total level of trade in pork products for 1970 is not expected

to be affected greatly by the lower levels of pork production because trade is centered around specialty items — bacon, canned hams, and shoulders. It is possible, however, that trade in fresh, chilled, or frozen pork will be down from the 1969 levels.

Japan Imports More U.S. Pork

The growing Japanese appetite for meat has meant a very sharp rise in pork exports from the United States to that country.

In 1968, pressed by demand for more red meat from consumers with expanding billfolds, Japan raised its import quota for pork. What was the result?

In 1969, U.S. pork shipments to Japan leaped 11-fold to an all-time high, January-July, of 33.4 million pounds from 2.7 million pounds in those months a year earlier according to the USDA.

Shipments to Japan accounted for over one-third of all U.S. pork exports in the first 8 months of 1969, and shipments were expected to remain high through the year.

Total U.S. meat exports were two and a half times more than they were for a like period of 1968. Pork exports alone doubled, January-August, over those months of 1968 and represented four-fifths of all red meat exports in that period.

Penn State Offers Pesticide Course

Much of the air, soil, and water pollution caused by pesticides is initiated by misuse of approved chemicals or the use of wrong chemicals. This has resulted in various rules and regulations by local, state and federal governments, in an attempt to correct the situation. In some states, laws are being proposed which restrict the use of certain chemicals to individuals who are licensed by the state.

The College of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University, has offered the Pest Control Technicians Winter Course since 1964.

Graduates of the program receive information in the identification of insects and diseases, selection of pesticides, and application of pesticides. They are qualified for employment by commercial pest control operators by regulatory agencies or local and state government and commercial industries providing agriculture with pesticides or conducting counterfeit insect and disease control for farmers.

Any individual who has graduated from high school is eligible to enroll.

The course consists of two eight week terms a year in each of two years. The six month summer period between the

second and third terms is used as on-the-job training.

A brochure describing the program, individual courses, costs, and other pertinent information can be secured from the Director of Short Courses, 208 Armsby Building, College of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802.

Manbeck Sees Pesticide Law Being Enacted Soon

Commenting on proposed state farm legislation, State Senator Clarence F. Manbeck, vice chairman of the senate agriculture committee, said this week that the most important farm legislation before the committee this year is the "clean streams" proposal which "is really pushing to control pesticides and insecticides."

Under the proposal, he said, a farmer could be prosecuted if a heavy rain washed soil that contained pesticides into the stream. Manbeck expects the clean streams measure to be adopted shortly — with some amendments.

"I'm sure" that farmers will be able to live with the final version, he promised.

Manbeck represents the 48th Senatorial district, which includes Lebanon County and a section of northern Lancaster County.