

## Price Up Slightly, a Victim of Inflation, Not a Cause, Meyer Says

# Beef Costly? Compared With What?

If live cattle prices had gone up as much as wages since 1952, American housewives would be paying about \$3.00 a pound for steak.

"Some people want to blame beef prices for the inflationary trend that has hit every area of the American economy," says Amos R. Meyer, Department of Markets, University of Maryland.

Cattlemen in general Meyer goes on, feel it is time to "Tell it like it is" — to tell the consumer that the price of beef, like the price of a new car, is the by-product of inflation, not its cause.

When a cattleman hears someone say, "Beef prices sure are high," he might well respond, "Compared with what?" Meyer points out that:

1. Live cattle prices are about the same as they were in 1951 — while the cost of operating a cattle ranch or farm has more than doubled during the same period.

2. Retail prices of beef are about the same as they were in 1951 — while the average take-home pay has increased about 150 per cent. Beef prices on the average have not increased more than 15 per cent at their highest peak in the last 19 years.

3. The American housewife spends only 16½ per cent of her disposable income for food — the lowest in the history of the United States. In Europe the

housewife spends 30 per cent, while in Russia it is about 50 per cent.

4. Beef prices have gone up for the same reasons prices have increased in every other industry in the country — inflation and labor; but beef prices have not gone up as

### Lancaster Pony Club Elects Executive Body

Members of Lancaster Pony Club and their parents recently attended the annual meeting and picnic at Pony Club headquarters on the John Gibson farm near Drumore.

Elected to the executive committee for the coming year were Mr. and Mrs. George Hassler, II, Quarryville; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Little, Quarryville; Mr. and Mrs. John Waters, Retton; Mr. and Mrs. George C. Young, Atglen; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lane, Elkton, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wallace, Downingtown; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Myer, Kirkwood; Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Rankin, New Providence; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hill, Lincoln University; and Mr. and Mrs. Jere Bunting, Willow Street.

Mrs. Hassler and Little are district commissioners for the Lancaster Pony Club. Waters is president of the executive committee, Rankin is vice president, Mrs. Waters, secretary, and Mrs. Young, treasurer.

much as most other things you buy.

5. One hour of labor in 1970 will buy seven pounds of ground beef; in 1951, it bought slightly more than 4 pounds.

Meyer went on to explain that cattlemen and farmers must make a profit or they can not stay in business. The production of food and fiber is essential to every citizen.

It is unfair to blame cattlemen and farmers for high prices. The cost of packaging, processing and retailing beef has skyrocketed because of inflation and these costs represent a major portion of retail beef prices.

Beef provides one of the highest forms of protein which every healthy person must have. Cattlemen offer no apology for their business. They pledge their best efforts to pro-

Lancaster Pony Club members are currently attending training sessions to learn how to work with handicapped children at the Middletown, Del., center, under the direction of Miss Maudie Hunter-Warfel, founder of the National Foundation for Happy Horsemanship for the Handicapped, Inc.

Plans are under way for the annual one-day event to be held at Pony Club Headquarters on October 31. Riders will be invited from pony clubs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware.

duce good wholesome beef in abundant supply — but they believe they are fair to expect a profit from their endeavor, Meyer continued.

Cattlemen receive — and ask — no special favors. They believe strongly in free enterprise, receive no government aid, and constantly fight any form of government controls other than those concerning

health and quality standards. Cattlemen believe strongly they can supply the country with an abundant supply of top grade beef at a reasonable price in keeping with the times.

All they ask is understanding and that the blame for beef prices be placed on inflation and not the blame for inflation on the price of beef, Meyer concluded.

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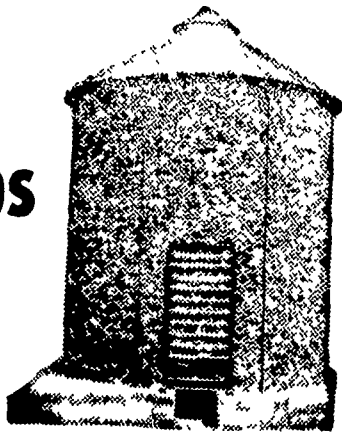
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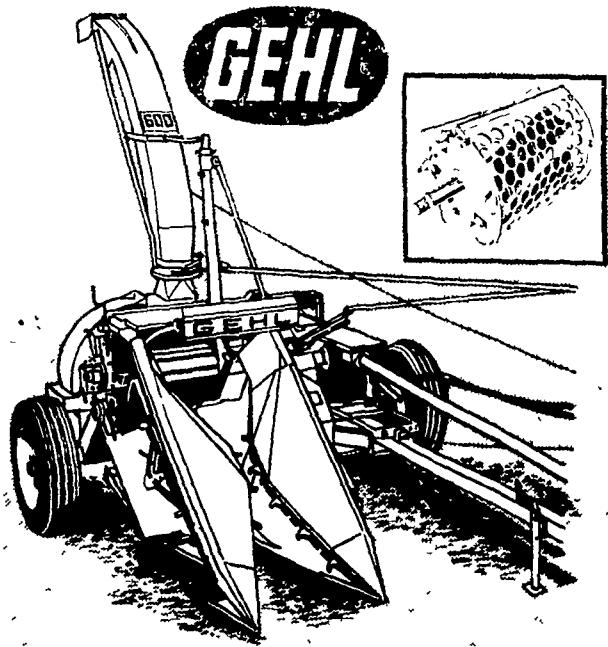
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