

Now's the Time to Feed Cheap Corn to Hogs, Farmers Are Told

Under current market conditions, feeder pigs are selling at bargain prices, Lancaster County farmers were told this week.

The statement was made by H. Louis Moore, Penn State University farm economist, to Lancaster County farmers attending Moore's annual livestock review and forecast at the Farm and Home Center.

Moore said feeder pigs recently have been selling for \$10 a head in

the area around Penn State University. At these prices, hog producers can make good returns at recent \$22 to \$23 per hundred market hog prices, he said.

Even at recently depressed prices of \$18 to \$19 a head, the farmer stands to hold his own if he can get the feeder pigs at \$10, he said.

He explained that when farmers were losing money at \$18, it was largely because they had

paid much more for their feeder pigs and corn prices were high.

When local farmers protested that feeder pigs in this area are going for \$12 to \$15, Moore said hog producers should still be able to profit, using corn which is expected to be below \$1 a bushel.

The situation is not as favorable for beef cattle producers, it was explained, because feeder cattle are selling

at fairly high prices in relation to the market prices for the finished animal.

Moore explained that in spite of the threat of Southern corn leaf blight hanging over this year's corn crop, the nation as a whole will probably harvest one of the largest crops ever.

Corn blight, while a serious problem in Lancaster County and this corner of the state during the past growing season, was not a problem in the large corn growing states of the mid-west, Moore said.

Not only will corn be plentiful enough to drive the price down and keep it down, he said, but the nation also produced bumper crops of wheat, barley and sorghum, suitable substitutions for corn as a cattle feed.

Moore said United States grain corn should be more competitive on the world market but, he added, other countries have also had good grain crops this year.

He cited lengthy dock strikes as killing farm export trade for the U.S.

He said farmers could expect to realize a larger return for their corn by feeding it to livestock in the coming year.

There is no danger in feeding blight damaged corn to hogs, he said, and recommended doing so rather than taking a loss trying to sell poor quality grain on an already poor market.

Turning to the beef business, Moore said he looks forward to some weakening in the beef market with more animals coming on the market.

Even though people are expected to eat more beef in spite of the price freeze, Moore said he sees a negative margin in feeding beef.

Sticking with his recommendation on hogs, he said that "Most guys who don't buy now will wonder why they didn't." The first alternative to a bad corn crop, he said, is to feed hogs.

Balmer Wins Tractor Contest

Jesse Balmer, Lititz RD4, was the winner of the adult tractor driving contest at the Ephrata Fair last week.

Other winners were: Glenn Martin, Ephrata RD1, second; Paul Bucher, Lititz RD4, third, and Aaron Stauffer, Ephrata RD1, fourth.

Tom Zartman, contest chairman, awarded trophies to Balmer and Martin, and plaques to Bucher and Stauffer.

Judges were Charles Hackman, Farmersville Equipment Company; Richard Buch, Roy Buch Farm Machinery, Inc., Akron; Kenneth Spade and Lloyd Grubb, International Harvester, Ephrata and Robert Groff, A.B.C. Groff, Inc., New Holland. These machinery dealers also provided tractors for the contest.

Annual Poultry Banquet Slated

The annual banquet meeting of the Lancaster County Poultry Association will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 14, at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant, Bird-in-Hand RD1.

Besides election of four directors, the program will include special music.

The speaker is Enos Heisey, field manager, member and public relations, Agway, Inc. Heisey will give a colored slide presentation on agriculture in Africa.

Tickets are available from any Association director at \$3.50 per person or from Irvin Musser, Mount Joy RD1, and Mrs. Paul F. McGarvey, 379 W. Roseville Road, Lancaster.

League's Life

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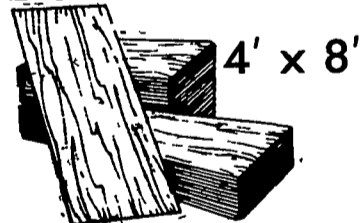
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