

# Agricultural Report from "The Land Down Under"

**Editor's Note:** Amos Hively, former Lancaster County resident, has been corresponding with Lancaster Farming readers from time to time, sharing the conditions and experiences he and his family find as Australian residents. His most recent letter was mailed March 16.

It must be at least a year since I last wrote to you from "the land down-under". Many things have happened since then and I shall relate some of them.

I quit my job selling feed as of June 1, 1971, and am spending a good part of my time managing a small export business which I think I made mention of in my last letter. The business is known as the Queensland Serum Company and we purchase, from various meat works, the blood from the unborn calves which we

Milk is the best source of calcium available. Calcium is a mineral that helps form bones and teeth and keeps them strong. Two eight-ounce glasses of whole milk supply nearly three-fourths of the calcium recommended daily for an adult.



**Carl Brandt  
Hershey, Pa.**

"I couldn't have expanded into a 500 head per year hog operation without Harvestores and automated feeding..."

I had all I could do just grinding feed for dairy cows. Now I can handle more land, more cows, plus the hogs. My hogs are finishing sooner and my dairy butterfat test is at least .2% better than on dry corn. They carry a 3.8% test even through hot weather and go as high as 4.2%. There's no other way to handle corn."

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process and make our serum from.

Our business is jointly owned by a Lancaster County firm and a large firm with headquarters near Washington, D.C. We ship all our serum to a branch of this large firm in Scotland, and we haven't been able to supply near the quantity they are needing.

Much of this serum is used for Cancer Research as well as other biological uses.

We expect to open another laboratory to process serum in Northern Queensland very soon. They only kill cattle during the fall and winter months up there, so their season is just starting.

The kill here in Southern Queensland is somewhat seasonal but they do keep the meat works operating all year around.

We have had an excellent summer season, with good rains, and modest heat, so the crops are above average.

The fall harvest has started and sorghum (milo) is yielding about two tons per acre average. Sunflowers and millet crops also look good.

Our hay crop at the farm has been a "bumper" one also. We must have had 12,000 bales so far. We are nearly finished with the fifth cutting and may get a light sixth cutting. I have the barn full (about 700 bales) and have sold the balance. The price of hay has only been about \$20 a ton but it should go higher during the winter.

There were good dry periods between the rains and most of the hay was made without any rain damage. Last year it rained almost continually, for about three months, and much of the hay was heavily damaged.

I have 18 first-cross Charolais calves, the oldest of which is six months, and most of them are growing well. There are 10 heifers and eight bulls.

There are a few Charolais being brought in from New Zealand and selling at rather high prices at auctions. A three-fourths Charolais bull brought \$3,500 at a sale I attended a few weeks ago. Half breed heifers, bred back to pure-bred Charolais were selling from \$600 to \$1,000.

The beef market has been quite buoyant here, and Japan is increasing its purchases of meat very sharply this year.

It has just been announced that the U.S. will increase its meat purchases from Australia this year by 7.2 per cent.

In recent months wool prices have shown some improvement, but the sheep men are still in great financial trouble.

Large sheep properties are selling for about half the price they would have sold for 10 years ago. Within about 100 miles of Toowoomba there is almost no sheep raising, so prices of land here are depressed but not nearly as bad as in the far West sheep country.

I heard on the news yesterday that the applications of hundreds of Americans wanting to migrate to Australia are being refused. It said that only those that already have jobs here will be given assisted passage.

Even those who are willing to pay their own passage are being discouraged coming unless they have assurance of employment. Our unemployment rate is still only about 1.5 per cent but this is higher than it has been for many years.

Wages are going up but at a

much slower rate than in the U.S. Sixty dollars a week here is considered quite high wages.

I have never been very happy with any of the Australians I have had working my farm and if I could be absolutely certain of getting a good farmer from Lancaster, York or Chester County, I think I would be willing

to offer them a job if they desire to migrate to Australia. It could take considerable correspondence to work out the arrangements, but I would be open to some applicants.

Amos Hively  
26 Leslie St.  
Toowoomba,  
Queensland

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