

Lancaster Farming

The Meat Inspection Takeover

State Charges Chicanery

Eric L. Fairchild is a chief without a tribe. As head of Pennsylvania's meat inspection program, he had the misfortune of watching helplessly while the federal government smashed his department to nothing.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the move was prompted by a concern for the quality of meat in the state of Pennsylvania. Fairchild claims the USDA's motives were purely political. He says further that Pennsylvania's meat inspection standards were at least equal to federal standards and probably better. And he feels that Pennsylvania's program was at least as good, if not better, than the programs in surrounding states.

Fairchild explained his feelings in an interview this week with Lancaster Farming.

"I have been in this job since late November of last year. I'm a layman, not a veterinarian or a doctor. I was picked because of my administrative ability. Before this, I was an administrative officer with the Bureau of Animal Industries.

"Now, when I came to this job, I saw that the

program was in trouble. There was definitely problems. I saw my mission as one of trying to accomplish a job with whatever tools were available.

"I'm convinced that we were on the right track. I know we came a long way in a short time. But the more I got into it, the more I realized that this was a lot more political than I had first imagined.

"The whole thing goes back a few years, to when Congress passed the Wholesome Meat Act in 1967. Guidelines were established in the act for the inspection of meat. States were allowed to set up their own programs for intrastate meat operations, provided the state programs were equal to federal meat inspection. If the states followed the guidelines, then the federal government would pay 50 percent of the cost of state meat inspection.

"In December of 1970, nearly every state meat inspection program was certified as being equal to the federal government's programs. One month later, in January of 1971, the USDA began attacking Pennsylvania meat inspection. Just

one month after those same people at USDA had certified our program as being equal-to.

"I'd like to know how they could say our program was perfect one month, and grossly deficient the next. I've asked this question on a number of people, and I can never get an answer. But I think I know.

"In 1970, one veterinarian certified the entire state. He did it by inspecting 50 processing and slaughter plants and 20 custom exempt plants. These plants were supposed to be selected on a random basis. But the names of the plants were leaked to state officials.

"The Republicans who were in office at the time made sure that those plants were in perfect shape for the inspection. If they couldn't shape them up, they closed them down.

"So then the Democrats came into office, and the USDA started attacking. The alleged deficiencies revolved around personnel. They said we didn't have enough people, and the people we did have didn't have enough training.

"In March of 1971, the chief of inspection and

(Continued on Page 27)



Winning prizes in this week's annual FFA Hog show were, left to right: Russell Kline, Reinholds, senior fitter; Nelson Messner, East Earl, junior fitter; Gerald Musser, Ephrata, senior showman, and Kerry Boyd, Ephrata, junior showman.

Champion FFA Hog Goes for \$1.12 lb.

The grand champion hog at this year's 10th annual Lancaster County FFA Market Hog Show and Sale was sold for \$1.12 a pound this past Tuesday. Marlin Smoker, Stevens R1, and Richard Bollinger, Lititz R4, were co-owners of the hog.

Penn Packing, Philadelphia, was the successful bidder, paying \$229.60 for the 205-pound crossbreed. The champion was the first of over 200 show hogs to be auctioned off in the small sale arena at the Lancaster Stock Yards.

The reserve grand champion of the show was a 220-pound Hampshire shown by Joseph

Lefever, Manheim R4, an FFA student at Manheim Central High School.

Lefever's hog sold to Garden Spot Meats at Bridgeport for 60 cents a pound, paying his owner \$132.

Lefever also showed the reserve champion Hampshire which sold to Garden Spot for 31½ cents a pound. Showing still another hog, Lefever took the reserve breeder-exhibitor award. This hog sold to Kunzler Meats of Lancaster for 31½ cents a pound.

Roger Leaman, of the Pequea Valley FFA chapter, was named the champion breeder-exhibitor of the show. His 225-pound hog

sold to Kunzler for 31 cents a pound.

The champion pen of 10 hogs was shown by Barry Wissler, an Ephrata High School FFA member. Wissler's hogs averaged 222 pounds each and were sold to Penn Packing for 31½ cents a pound.

One hog in Wissler's prize winning pen was also the Yorkshire breed champion and sold individually to Garden Spot Meats for 32 cents a pound.

The open class breed championship went to a hog shown by Dwight Martin of Manheim Central High School FFA, with

(Continued On Page 27)

Slave Auction Nets \$565

"Sold for \$6.25!" the auctioneer said, closing his fist and banging in on the podium. Robert Hess, 17-year-old son of J. Robert Hess, Strasburg, had just sold himself into slavery, but only for a day. And he wasn't alone. There were 25 other young people who sold themselves into voluntary servitude last Friday night, for the benefit of the Farm and Home Center. The \$6.25-per-hour paid for Hess was the highest sale of the evening.

Auctioneer Everett Kreider shook his head as Hess stepped down from the auction block. At

\$6.25 an hour, a young fellow could make a good day's wages. But Kreider wasn't shaking his head at the amount. After all, last year's high was over \$8.00 an hour — and that for a girl. Young Hess, it turned out, had been sold to another slave — Darryl Bollinger.

Bollinger, 16, is the son of Elam Bollinger, Manheim R1. "What are you going to do with your slave?" the auctioneer asked the bidder.

"He's going to bale hay," Bollinger replied.

Bollinger's services were sold to Muncie Chief Hybrid Seed Co., Muncie, Pa. for a mere \$3.40 per hour. Muncie Chief was the biggest buyer of the evening, snapping up the services of 11 young volunteers.

Muncie Chief and 11 other

bidders altogether agreed to pay \$565 to the Farm and Home Center for the services of the volunteers. Bids for an hour's labor ranged from \$1.50 to \$6.25, and averaged about \$2.75.

Mike Peifer commanded the second-highest rate of \$5.10 per hour. Mervin Peifer, Manheim R1, was the bidder who captured Mike Mervin as Mike's father.

This year's highest rate for a girl was \$2.10, and three girls got it — Nancy and Cathy Henkel and Suzanne Irwin.

Successful bidders will pay for their volunteers' services by sending a check to the Farm and Home Center. As in other years, the money will be used to reduce the Center's mortgage.

All bids were for an eight-hour day, with the work to be done sometime in August.



Darryl Bollinger, left, gave a muscle power demonstration last Friday night at the Farm and Home Center Volunteer Slave Auction. He convinced a buyer from Muncie Chief Hybrid Seed Co. that he was worth \$3.40 an hour. Everett Kreider was auctioneer for the sale.

In The Issue

Classified Ads	33, 34, 35
Editorial Page	10
Market Section	2, 3, 4
Women Pages	22, 23, 24, 25
Farm Calendar	33