

Lancaster Farming

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Feed - A Crisis Situation

Farmers and feed dealers are facing the most serious feed cost situation since the last world war. Soybean meal, the prime source of the protein that goes into dairy and feeder cattle rations, has more than doubled in price since March of this year.

One Lancaster County feed dealer reported that he was buying soybean meal for about \$75 a ton earlier this year. On Thursday of this week, it was up to \$210 a ton. What happened? And what's the outlook? To answer those questions, LANCASTER FARMING contacted farmers, feed dealers and other who've been keeping a wary eye on the soaring price of feed ingredients and supplements.

Generally, the feeling is that it's not going to

get any worse, simply because ingredient prices have hit the roof. They can't go any higher without forcing a lot of feed dealers and farmers out of business.

Dealers at the moment are more acutely aware of the price increases than their farmer customers. Many are using up their existing ingredient stocks to manufacture feed. And many of them aren't replacing those stocks.

PennAg Industries Association, Pennsylvania's largest feed dealer organization, reports that their phones have been ringing all week. Here are some of the things Pennsylvania feed dealers are saying:

- "For the first time in my business life, I've

told my ingredients supplier to get me the stuff and tell me what it costs later"

- "Anyone who did not book meal ahead is having trouble finding it, let alone getting it delivered, even if he can afford it"

- "We've had two farmers disperse their herds this week because of feed prices. Others are culling real hard"

- "Decisions are being made now on winter stables of steers, and on hog and poultry contracts, and the price of feed is discouraging. This will affect the retail price of meat in three or four months. When the housewife sees the cost of meat as a result, there's going to be the biggest rhubarb ever."

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Eshelman To Visit Farmers

The Lancaster County Farmers Association has announced that Congressman Edwin D. Eshelman will tour county farms next Thursday, December 21, to discuss agricultural prospects and problems with area farmers. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Eshelman.

A spokesman for Representative Eshelman said he hopes to meet with farmers and their wives at a number of locations. During the day, he will be at these farms at the following times:

8:30 a.m. - John Myer, Quarryville RD2; 9:30 a.m. - Harold Rohrer, Book Rd., Lampeter; 10:45 - Clyde Martin, East Earl RD1; 12:45 - Ried Wissler, Ephrata RD1; 1:45 - Donald Hershey, Manheim RD2; 3:15 - Circle Creek Farm, Columbia RD1.

Farm Calendar

Sunday, December 17

1 p.m. - Special News Conference on Hog Cholera, 1580 Radio (WHEX).

Monday, December 18

8 p.m. - 4-H County Council Christmas party, Farm and Home Center.

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 p.m. - Ephrata Young Farmers family Christmas party, Ephrata Junior High School Auditorium.

7:45 p.m. - Garden Spot Young Farmers monthly meeting, vo-ag department, Garden Spot High School.

Thursday, December 21

Farm Tours by Congressman and Mrs. Ed Eshelman; see page 1 for details.



Lancaster Farming Photo

Zimhaven Astronaut Douglas, shown here with consignor Loren Zimmerman, was one of the young bulls auctioned off during Thursday's 10th annual Golden Harvest Sale at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion. Zimmerman is a dairy farmer from East Earl R2.

\$1426 Average In Dairy Sale

Average price for the first 50 Holstein cows sold at the 10th Annual Golden Harvest Sale was \$1426, according to a spokesman for R. Austin Backus, Inc.

The sale was held Thursday at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion. This year, as in past years, the sale was sponsored by the Backus organization from Mexico, N.Y.

The highest price of the day was \$3300 for a cow consigned by Penn-Octo, a New York dairy

farm. In all, 122 animals went under the auctioneer's gavel for a total of about \$115,000. A crowd of 500 people were on hand to witness the sale and to buy.

About half the cows were consigned from southeastern Pennsylvania, although some came from New York, New Jersey and other parts of Pennsylvania. Most of the animals were bought by farmers in Lancaster and surrounding areas.

Red Rose FFA Officers

The Red Rose County Chapter FFA officers for 1973 were selected Thursday night during a meeting at the Garden Spot vo-ag department.

Richard Hess, Lampeter Strasburg was named president. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Hess, Strasburg R1.

Ray Martin, Garden Spot, was named vice-president. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Martin, New Holland R1.

Other officers are:

Treasurer - Donald Miller, Pequea Valley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn G. Miller, Gap R1.

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Milk Referendum Slated for State

Pennsylvania dairymen will decide this winter whether they wish to participate in a statewide promotion program designed to increase the demand for dairy products

If one-half of the state's dairy farmers voting in a referendum favor the deduction program, all producers will be assessed to support a program of market development, which would include advertising, promotion, new product research and education.

Producers making advertising contributions under any federal order program will be exempt from paying into the proposed state program. They will, however, be eligible to vote in the referendum. A deduction of 5 cents per hundredweight would be collected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to

finance a promotion program if approved. The detailed use of money collected would be in the hands of an advisory committee of dairymen, selected by cooperatives and independent dairy farmers.

This referendum differs from the usual vote by dairy farmers in that cooperative may vote its entire membership as a bloc. However, each dairyman will receive a ballot. If the co-op member wishes to cast his ballot individually, it will be deducted from the total votes cast by his cooperative. The individual vote will take precedent over the organizational ballot.

Every dairy farmer should receive a ballot from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture about January 12th. All ballots must be received in Harrisburg by January 28th to qualify for the referendum.

Hog Cholera Found In Two State Herds

On Friday, December 8th, hog cholera was confirmed by laboratory diagnosis in a herd of swine in Montgomery County, says County Agent M.M. Smith. The disease had its origin in New Jersey where hog cholera has forced Federal quarantine of the entire state.

On Monday of this week, the disease was reported in a Cumberland County herd near Carlisle. This instance of the disease was believed to have sprung from feeding uncooked offal from a slaughter house.

Hog cholera danger is very real in Pennsylvania, says Dr. Sam B. Guss, Extension veterinarian at The Pennsylvania State University, because it is known that nearly 80 herds in southeastern Pennsylvania have had direct or indirect exposure to New Jersey swine since the first of October.

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Animal Industry and the U.S.

Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have a team of veterinarians and inspectors tracing back all contacts with New Jersey swine. Their efforts and the "stop movement order" of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture may have already saved the Pennsylvania swine industry from a multi-million dollar outbreak.

Pennsylvania swine are extremely susceptible to hog cholera because their vaccination has been prohibited for several years. All swine owners who have purchased swine in the past month should watch the animals closely several times daily, and report any signs of sickness to a veterinarian. Those who feed any garbage to swine should be especially careful to cook it thoroughly. (At least 30 minutes) Hog cholera does not affect humans.