

Statistical Barometer

Item	1970	1971	1972—latest available data
Prices:			
All prices received by farmers (1967=100)	110	112	130 November
Crops (1967=100)	100	107	120 November
Livestock (1967=100)	118	116	138 November
All prices paid by farmers (1967=100)	114	120	130 November
Ratio ¹ (1967=100)	96	94	100 November
Consumer price index, all items (1967=100)	116	121	127 October
Food (1967=100)	115	118	125 October
Farm Income:			
Volume of farm marketings (1967=100)	108	111	98 Jan.-Sept.
Cash receipts from farm marketings (\$bil.)	50.5	53.1	38.5 Jan.-Sept.
Crops (\$bil.)	20.9	22.6	13.6 Jan.-Sept.
Livestock (\$bil.)	29.6	30.5	24.9 Jan.-Sept.
Realized gross farm income (\$bil.)	57.9	60.1	66.1 (2)
Production expenses (\$bil.)	41.1	44.0	47.3 (2)
Realized net farm income (\$bil.)	16.8	16.1	18.8 (2)
Income and Spending:			
Disposable personal income, total (\$bil.)	689.5	744.4	798.7 (2)
Expenditures for food (\$bil.)	114.2	117.3	125.2 (2)
Share of income spent for food (percent)	16.6	15.8	15.7 (2)
Farm Food Market Basket:²			
Retail cost (\$)	1,223	1,244	1,320 September
Farm value (\$)	476	477	539 September
Farmers' share of retail cost (percent)	39	38	41 September
Farm Production and Efficiency:			
Farm output, total (1967=100)	102	111	113 November
Livestock (1967=100)	105	108	109 November
Crops (1967=100)	100	112	114 November
Balance Sheet of the Farming Sector:			
Assets, total (\$bil.)	305.8	314.9	339.2 (4)
Real estate (\$bil.)	207.1	213.0	228.6 (4)
Non-real estate (\$bil.)	75.9	78.3	85.8 (4)
Livestock and poultry (\$bil.)	23.5	23.7	27.3 (4)
Machinery and motor vehicles (\$bil.)	31.8	33.8	36.4 (4)
Crop inventories	10.9	10.7	11.8 (4)
Household equipment and furnishings (\$bil.)	9.7	10.1	10.3 (4)
Financial assets (\$bil.)	15.6	16.0	16.8 (4)
Investments in cooperatives (\$bil.)	7.2	7.6	8.0 (4)
Debt, total (\$bil.)	58.1	61.1	66.9 (4)
Real estate (\$bil.)	28.4	29.5	31.3 (4)
Non-real estate (\$bil.)	29.7	31.6	35.6 (4)
Proprietors' equities	247.7	253.8	272.3 (4)
Debt to asset ratio (percent)	19.0	19.4	19.7 (4)

¹Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.
²Average quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.
³Annual rate, seasonally adjusted third quarter.
⁴As of January 1, 1972.

Shropshire Breeders Meet Will Feature New Test

Ivan L. Lindahl from the Ruminant Nutrition Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland will demonstrate a new method for determining pregnancy in ewes to the Penn-Mar Shropshire Breeders' Club on April 14th. Prior to this recent development which Dr. Lindahl will demonstrate, no reliable method has been found to diagnose ovine pregnancy.

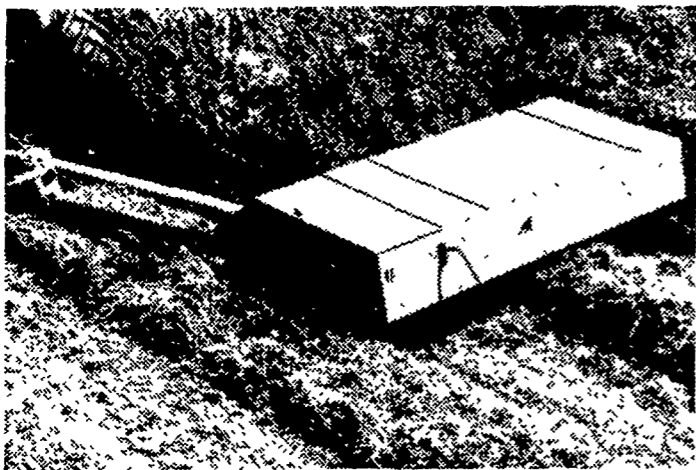
Lindahl will show the Shropshire breeders the rectal palpation method. To make the diagnosis, ewes are restrained in a dorsal position and a probe stick is used. Lindahl will bring ewes from the Agricultural Center at Beltsville for the

demonstration and also will use colored slides.

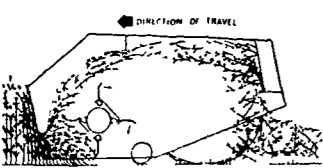
Knowledge of whether a ewe is pregnant or not is of great economic importance to the sheepman. In every flock there are animals which are carried for months on heavy feed because it was erroneously thought they were pregnant. The extra feed not only costs the shepherd an unnecessary amount of feed, but impairs the ewes future ability to breed.

The Shropshire Club meeting will be held at Micar Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Johnston, on Route 851 about a half mile east of Stewartstown in York County. The meeting will begin at 10:30. A covered dish lunch will be served.

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High Producer

A senior two-year-old Registered Guernsey cow owned by Church Farm School, Paoli, has completed an official DHIR actual production record according to The American Guernsey Cattle Club. Andrews Millie of C F S produced 10,600 pounds of milk and 503 pounds of butterfat in 305 days, two times a day milking. The testing was supervised by Penn State University.

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