

Lancaster Farming

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\$2.00 Per Year

No Price Relief in Sight...

Feed Costs Seen Staying High

The soybean market was edging up towards \$8 a bushel this week. Fields in many Midwestern soybean producing states were inundated by flood waters from the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. In other parts of the Midwest, rains forced farmers to keep their planters in the barns.

There's a definite shortage of soybean meal right now, as any farmer who buys protein feed knows. That shortage stems from soaring demand for soybeans at home and abroad, and terrible weather conditions last year in the biggest soybean states. If last year's weather patterns are repeated, feed prices will go up.

This year buyers thought feed prices went through the roof. Could be they just broke into the attic. Nobody wants to predict how high feed prices will go if the country has another bad growing season.

What happens if there's a normal year? Will protein supplement prices plummet downward as much as they skyrocketed

upward this year? What are the chances for a normal year?

To answer these questions, LANCASTER FARMING called on a number of soybean and feed experts. Questions were confined to the soybean situation, because beans have by far the biggest impact on local feed prices. Everyone we talked to agreed that there's not much hope for lower prices in the next four to five months. A shortage exists, and it will continue to exist until the next crop is harvested. Some price relief may appear after the harvest, but anyone who's continuing on a sharp price drop may be in for a big disappointment.

Donald Parkes, executive director of PennAg Industries, Ephrata, told us, "If the floods in the Midwest don't go down in the next week or so, it is possible that some land that would have been planted to cotton will be planted instead to soybeans. But there's such a high demand for beans, that even if we plant a whole lot more than last year, I don't think the price

will go down too much."

Ed Smith, a Philadelphia grain trader, employed by the Bunge Corporation, told us that the federal government has taken some steps to increase the supply of protein feeds in the U.S. "Idle acreage in the feed grains set-aside program have been reduced this year," Smith said, "and Public Law 480 sales of feed grains to foreign countries have been stopped. Barter trading has been halted, too, but I don't know of any other trading restrictions. All these are steps in the right direction. They may help to keep prices from going up, but the government hasn't done anything so far that would really pull prices down."

Albert Landis, a grain buyer with Lancaster's Pennfield Corp., said corn and other feed grain prices are up, too. He noted, though, that corn isn't in as short a supply as soybeans.

A spokesman for Reynolds Securities in Lancaster said that the prospects are for

(Continued On Page 32)

Milk Board Holds Hearing on Area 4

The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) was expected Friday afternoon to end its hearing into milk prices for PMMB marketing area 4. Area 4 covers the 10 south central counties of Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Juniata, Perry, Cumberland, York, Adams, Franklin and Fulton. A decision on whether or not farmers and dealers will be getting more for the milk they sell is expected to come 4 to 6 weeks after the close of the hearing.

The hearing came on the heels of a Commonwealth Court order overthrowing a price increase granted to dairy farmers throughout the state, effective March 12. The PMMB held hearings in early February to hear farmers' views on the mounting costs of milk production. Subsequent to those hearings, the board voted to grant a 92-cents per hundredweight price increase to farmers, but they did not grant a similar increase in the minimum retail price.

Dairies throughout the state criticized the board's action and took their complaints to court. The dairies said they agreed with the board that the farmers needed more money. Milk dealers, however, felt they couldn't afford to pay farmers more unless they got more money from consumers.

The court, in overruling the board's action, did not say whether or not they agreed with the milk dealers. They said that the entire hearing had been illegal, and any resultant action was, therefore, invalid. The state's milk marketing law says that milk hearings must be open to consumers and milk dealers as well as farmers.

There were no consumers represented at Monday's hearing, so board chairman Harry Kapleau started

Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 5
7 - 10 p.m. - York 4-H Council sponsoring dance, York County 4-H Center.

Monday, May 7
8 p.m. - Lancaster County Poultry Association Board of Directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Tuesday, May 8
7:30 p.m. - Farm and Home Foundation meeting, Farm and Home Center.
NEPPCO Board of Directors meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, May 8 and 9.

Friday, May 11
7 p.m. - Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meeting, Holiday Inn, Ephrata.



Leader awards were presented Tuesday night to seven people by the Good Use 4-H Club, sponsored by Lancaster's South Christian Mennonite Church. Receiving awards were, back row, left to right: David

Weaver, Dawn Weaver, LeAnne Lantz, Mervin Lantz. Front row: Tille Gibson, advisor, Sheron Gibson, Mary Jane Brubaker, Agnes Gibson.

W.M. Dunlap Dies at 92

It was learned just before presstime that Walter M. Dunlap died late Thursday evening at the age of 92. The veteran livestock marketer was a familiar figure for many years at the Lancaster Livestock Auction, and was long associated with Walter M. Dunlap & Sons, Inc., cattle dealers.

Good Use 4-H Club Presents Awards

Awards for outstanding accomplishment and leadership were presented to members, leaders and friends of the Good Use 4-H Club at a meeting Tuesday night in Lancaster's South Christian Street Mennonite Church.

Ted Gray received the club's 1973 achievement award for his work as a teen leader at Camp Blue Jay. The award also

recognized his other work with the club.

Leaders awards were presented to David Weaver, Dawn Weaver, LeAnne Lantz, Mervin Lantz, Sheron Gibson, Mary Jane Brubaker and Agnes Gibson.

Recognized with Friends of 4-H awards were Lloyd and Virginia Weaver, Lester and Helen Weaver and Walter and Martha

Shirk.

The Good Use 4-H'ers are all inner-city youth who've joined the club mainly through the Expanded Nutrition Education program launched in 1971 by the Lancaster County Extension office.

The ENEP program is designed for both young people and adults. The Good Use 4-H

(Continued On Page 9)