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FARM TRENDS

A summary of market
and commodity news
for the past week

by Dick Wanner

Fertilizer — A Status Report

"The fertilizer situation in Lancaster County looks bleak for at least a year," we were told Friday morning by John Hoffman of Lancaster Bone Fertilizer. "My suppliers have cut back 40 percent on the amount of phosphate I can buy. It looks like I'm going to have to ration fertilizer sales to my customers."

Urbanites and metropolitan newspapers may soon be discussing the price of fertilizer as vigorously as they were once discussing the price of beef. A consumer boycott of lawn fertilizers would probably be welcomed by farmers, however.

Shortages of fuel, raw materials, electricity and transportation are all working to compound the aggravation felt by the industry from Phase 4 price controls. Hoffman said Phase 4 is hurting U.S. farmers by keeping the domestic price of fertilizer pegged at a level far below the world market.

"Our selling price for super phosphate here in the U.S. is limited to \$60 a ton," Hoffman said. "Foreign buyers are willing to pay \$85. Naturally the big companies are going to sell as much as they can on the export market."

One solution to the price problem would seem to be eliminating exports, but Washington is very reluctant to do that. This country's reputation as a reliable trading partner was considerably tarnished this year when soybean exports were cut off. The administration doesn't want U.S. goods to lose any more of their lustre on world markets.

Lifting price controls to free movement on domestic markets seems the more likely course of action. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz has told the Cost of Living Council that he wants price controls on fertilizer lifted promptly. "Otherwise," he warned, "I fear the crop yields and production will be reduced in 1974 relative to that which is needed."

A fertilizer shortage would increase domestic food costs again, and probably result in curtailed food exports. One of the keystones in the administration's foreign policy is to lower our balance of payments deficit with food sales abroad

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Ephrata, Lampeter-Strasburg . . .

Competition Keen At 2 Local Fairs

Clear skies and warm temperatures helped draw crowds of spectators to both Lancaster County fairs which opened this week, Ephrata and Lampeter-Strasburg. The crowd of 75,000 who gathered Wednesday night to watch the parade in Ephrata was said to be the biggest in the 55-year history of that event.

Lampeter-Strasburg Results
The first winner in the Lampeter fair was 10-year-old Tim Hess, Lancaster RD2, who took grand champion honors in the Baby Beef Show on Wednesday. Tim's steer was a three-way Angus - Charolais - Shorthorn cross. Tim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hess.

The reserve champion steer was shown by Joanne Shank 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. David Shank.

Joanne was also named senior showman for the event, receiving an additional trophy.

Joanne's sister, Cindy Shank, captured the junior showmanship trophy

Winners in the various 4-H and FFA steer events are listed as follows by breed.

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Ralene Harbold accepted congratulations and prizes from Harry T. Kauffman Wednesday night during the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant. Ralene received a pewter pitcher for being named Miss Congeniality by her 32 fellow contestants, and a check for \$100 for placing second runner-up in the contest.

Ralene is Miss Congeniality

Lancaster County's own dairy princess, Ralene Harbold, was named Miss Congeniality Wednesday night at the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant held during the Pennsylvania All American Dairy Show in Harrisburg.

Wearing a red gown and flashing Pennsylvania's cheeriest smile and biggest dimples, the 19-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harbold,

Elizabethtown RD3, also came home with the trophy for second runner-up in the contest.

Marcia Gnagey, a senior at Somerset County's Salisbury Elk Lick High School was crowned the state's new Dairy Princess. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Gnagey. First runner-up was Ellen Mae Hershberger, 18, RD1, Martinsburg, Bedford County, daughter of Mr.

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Lancaster Farming Photo

Russell Kline, Reinholds, captured top honors in Holstein competition on Monday during the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy

Show. The 18-year-old Ephrata High School graduate also took reserve honors in showman-fitter competition.

Winners Named at Pa. All American

Russell Kline spent a lot of time this past week in the winner's circle, and he was still going strong as this issue of Lancaster Farming was going to press.

On Monday in Harrisburg, the 18-year-old Reinholds youth did a lot to preserve Lancaster County's reputation for outstanding dairy cows by capturing the grand champion ribbon for Holsteins in the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show. He followed that feat with a reserve champion showmanship ribbon.

On Thursday night, Kline picked up another first place ribbon when he won grand champion honors at the Ephrata Fair Hog Show. And he had yet to compete in the dairy show.

Chester County was the big winner at the Junior Dairy Show, with two of the seven grand champion ribbons going there.

Kennard Henley, III, just four years older than his eight-year-old cow, "Ardrossan G L R Minerva," took top honors in the

Ayrshire classes. It was the third straight year that Kennard and "Minerva" were the top winning combination in their breed. His older sister, Sharon, 15, showed the junior champion, "Tower-view Kelly's Beth," a junior yearling. Sharon was also reserve grand champion fitter-showman. The Henleys live at RD1, Cochranville.

The other Chester County winner was Catherine Wollaston, 16, Toughkenamon, grand champion with a four-year-old Jersey, "Liberator Maple Lawn Cindy."

The biggest winner on a family basis were three children of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Yoder, Shoemakersville. Of the six titles available in the Milking Shorthorn classes, the Berks County youngsters won four. Fifteen-year-old Samuel, Jr., won both the grand and reserve grand championships. Respectively, they were "Pinesedge K Rose W

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