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# Lancaster Farming

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## FARM TRENDS

A summary of market  
and commodity news  
for the past week

by Dick Wanner

### What to do if You Encounter Fuel Shortage

Farmers faced with a shortage of gasoline, diesel fuel, liquid propane or fertilizer might be able to get relief by calling the local office of the Agricultural and Conservation Stabilization Service. Dorothy Neel, local ASCS director, told Lancaster Farming her office would do everything they could to keep farmers from running out of fuel. Miss Neel said alleviating any temporary shortage of fuel might be easier than getting fertilizer.

If your dealer can't deliver enough for your needs, call the ASCS office at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, or the local office in other counties. The number in Lancaster is 394-0681. Miss Neel will then ask your dealer to complete a form stating the nature of the problem, that form will be sent to Washington, and in all likelihood you'll get your fuel.

### Grain Market in a Tizzy - Again

Record harvests in the Midwest should mean lower prices for feed grains, but so far the numbers aren't going down. Apparently, buyers have been holding back on their orders, waiting for price declines. These declines haven't materialized, though, because the Midwesterners are holding onto their harvests until after January 1. The reason? They don't want to make any more money this year because they'll be giving too much to Uncle Sam. Prices are expected to stay very strong until at least Christmas, then come down a bit after the start of the new year.

### Milk Output - Lowest Since 1952?

Keep a sharp eye on those U.S. milk production figures. Output is really on a toboggan. October production, at 9.015 billion lbs., was off 4.7 pct. from a year earlier. It also marked the 12th straight month that production has been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

Decline was sharpest in Georgia (down 17 pct.), Tennessee (down 12 pct.) and Wisconsin (down 9 pct.) from a year earlier.

Reasons for the cutback: High feed costs resulting in lower output per cow, plus a decline in cow numbers.

October milk-feed price ratio, at 1.46, was down 18 pct. from a year ago and the lowest for the month since 1963. Output per cow during October was 797 lbs., compared to 810 lbs. a year earlier. This marks the 5th straight month it's been below a corresponding month a year earlier. Milk cows on farms during October totaled 11.3 million, down 3 pct. from a year ago.



Winners in the Elizabethtown-Donegal 4-H Capon Roundup Tuesday were Jim Sauder, center, grand champion, and Ron Nolt, with the reserve champion entry. Congratulating the winners here is contest judge Herb Jordan, Penn State poultry specialist.

## Streeter Tells Farm-City Group . . .

# Feeding the World-Tough but Possible

"Farmers can produce enough food for everybody, but they can only do it if society lets them," Carroll Streeter told an audience of several hundred people Tuesday night at the Farm and Home Center. Streeter, retired editor of Farm Journal, was speaking at the annual Farm-City Week banquet sponsored by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

Streeter pointed out that conditions for agriculture have changed drastically in recent years. "We no longer have the

huge grain surpluses we once had, and the demand from overseas buyers has increased tremendously because of their new prosperity," he said.

"People in the Northern Hemisphere - Europe, Japan, Russia and China - want more meat. They need more soybeans and corn and they have the cash to pay for them. And we need the foreign exchange, so a good world market will put pressure on our production capacity. Social programs here at home will help boost the demand for food, too. School lunches, food stamps and social security hikes will all result in higher demands for food. These programs will pump \$14 billion more into the economy this year than last."

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Carroll P. Streeter

## Lebanon Co. Holds Yearly DHIA Meet

The annual meeting of the Lebanon County DHIA held Tuesday night at the Tulpehocken Church near Myerstown was attended by 250 members and guests. Featured on the program, was Herbert Gilmore, Penn State, director of the state DHIA program. He reported on the many changes that have taken place in the DHIA program over the past few years. Gilmore also discussed possible improvements presently under consideration by the state DHIA board.

Newton Bair, assistant Lebanon County agent, reported that there were 5183 cows in the county on test last year. This

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## PFA Calls for Pa. Milk Law Changes

Voting delegates attending the Pennsylvania Farmers Association annual meeting in Harrisburg this week, suggested some major changes in the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing law, including revisions in the retail price-making authority of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.

"We still support the Penn-

sylvania Milk Marketing Law," said association president, John R. Pitzer, "but we are suggesting some constructive changes to meet the needs of the dairy industry today."

A year-long study by a special committee preceded the action of the farmer delegates. The committee had been created by the action of the organization's delegate body in 1972. It was instructed to report at the 1973 annual business meeting. PFA is suggesting that the resale price on a gallon container should be one minimum price for out-of-store, home delivery, schools, and state institutions for each of the milk marketing areas around the state.

Retail prices would not be set for jug milk purchases under the new policy adopted by the organization.

"It is intended that this price should initially be set through the hearing process based upon the average cost of dealers marketing milk in the area," Pitzer said. "The price would serve as a floor and, in practice, be lower than the actual prices being generated by market forces."

The organization spelled out the components to be considered in the floor price - cost of the raw product, cost of processing, a return of profit to the dealer, and the cost of delivering the product to the point of purchase by the consumer. A procedure, or formula, would be established for the producer and retail price to be automatically adjusted as the raw product cost changes, according to the PFA position, and there should be opportunities for

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## Capon Winners At E-Town, Donegal

The Elizabethtown-Donegal 4-H Club held its annual Capon Roundup Tuesday at Hostetter's Banquet Hall in Mount Joy. The event is sponsored each year by the Mount Joy Rotary Club. The Rotarians put up the prize money awarded to the contestants, and this year, they also bought 50 capons.

Judge Herb Jordan, Penn State poultry specialist, pinned the championship ribbon on the dressed birds entered by Jim Sauder, Mount Joy RD2. Other winners, all from the Mount Joy area, were: Ronald Nolt, reserve champion, Glen Nolt, third prize, Linda Stoltzfus, fourth, and Gary Good, fifth.

Other exhibiting were: Mary and Richard Yunginger, Marietta, Barbara Miller, Mount Joy, Ronald Kreider, Manheim, David Sweigart, Elizabethtown, Phil and Beverly Garber, Mount Joy, Earl Knipe, Mount Joy, and Pam Wizell, Columbia.

## Farm Calendar

Sunday, November 25  
National 4-H Congress, Chicago  
November 25 - 29.

Monday, November 26  
7:30 p.m. -- Fulton Grange meeting, Calvert Grange, Md; Meet, Fulton Grange Hall.

DHIA Quarterly Directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

4-H Sheep Awards program, State and National, Chicago.  
Wednesday, November 28

7:30 p.m. -- Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer tobacco meeting, Hinkletown Elementary School, Jerry Skoog, speaker.

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