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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

A tight supply and demand situation dominates the outlook for feed grains, according to a seed situation report issued yesterday (Friday) by the USDA. The supply for 1973-74 totals 240 million tons, 3 percent below 1972-73. Production, forecast at 208 million tons, is 8 million more than last year, but carryover of old grain into the marketing year was down a third to 32 million tons.

A further decline in carryover is likely at the end of 1973-74. Total disappearance, projected at 212 million tons, will exceed production. Domestic use may not quite match last year's 173 million tons if high feed costs reduce feeding rates and offset an expected 2 percent increase in livestock numbers. Foreign demand, projected at 40 million (short) tons, continues exceptionally strong.

Corn production is forecast at a record 5.7 billion bushels. Plus carryover of old crop corn, this gives a supply of 6.4 billion bushels, 4 percent smaller than last year. Production is short of expected use, for the second consecutive year, causing another probable reduction in the carryover to about 625 million bushels next October. The tight supply plus high prices, strong exports, and some shift back to soybean meal feeding probably will bring a modest drop in domestic use. Export demand is projected at 1.1 billion bushels, down about 10 percent from the 1972-73 record.

Corn prices (Chicago) in mid-November were around \$2.50 a bushel, about \$1.20 above a year earlier. With tight supplies and strong demand, farmers' prices into next spring may average about \$1 a bushel above the \$1.32 national average for that period last year. However, prices next spring will be influenced by acreage prospects, weather, and the world supply-demand situation.

Despite a record soybean crop nearly a fourth above last year's record, domestic feeding of high-protein feeds in 1973-74 likely will make only a 6 percent gain to around 19.7 million tons. An 8 percent increase is forecast for domestic feeding of soybean meal; prices could average about a third below last season's \$230 per ton at Decatur. Combined supplies of other proteins may be down slightly.

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### Some Yeas, Some Nays . . .

## Are Whole Beans Good for Bossy?

One thing you can say for certain about extruded soybeans is that they smell good coming out of the extruder. It's a warm, early-morning, farm kitchen smell, a cross between cooking mush and frying scrapple. Steaming soybean flakes don't taste bad, either, especially if you're fortunate enough to get a handful without grit.

Except for the smell, though, and the fact that the extruded bean can be used for a dairy seed, there aren't too many things you can say for certain. Exponents of feeding the whole bean say their dairy programs are more efficient and profitable than they'd be with soybean meal. Others aren't so sure.

And many farmers find a certain appeal in being able to grow and feed their own soy protein. "After all," the usual

logic goes, "why should I sell my soybeans to a dealer, who sells them to a processor, who takes the oil out, and then sells the bean meal back to a dealer, who sells it back to me? Why not eliminate the middle men and keep their profits for myself?"

Why not, indeed. In an attempt to learn more about the pros and cons of feeding processed whole soybeans, Lancaster Farming talked to a number of farmers and feedmen. We've tried to recap - as objectively as possible - the results of that inquiry. We concentrated on dairy feeds for this article, and hope to deal with the experiences of local hog and beef producers in future articles.

A local grain broker, when queried on the economics of growing beans, sending them away for processing then buying

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Winners in this year's conservation photography contest, announced Thursday at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, are pictured above. Front row, left to right,

are Rick Ramsdell, Heidi J. Linn, and Stephen Kessler. Back row, Jon Ebersole, Brad Brubaker and Brad Morris. (Story appears on page 11)

### Conservation Case History No. 1 . . .

## Conservation Pays For Cliff Holloway

(Editor's Note: This begins the first in a series of Conservation Case Histories to be presented monthly in the pages of Lancaster Farming. We'll be taking a look at farm operations with intensive conservation

programs. State law requires that by 1977, all Pennsylvania farms must have implemented conservation plans. We hope this series will give some insight into how conservation plans have been used to good advantage by local farmers.)

One of the first moves Clifford Holloway Jr., made when he bought his farm at Peach Bottom RD1 was to get a conservation plan. "I've been interested in conservation ever since I was a vo-ag student in Maryland," Holloway said when we visited on Wednesday. "We had an awful gully wash on our farm, and we just never did anything about it until my vo-ag teacher brought the class over to the farm one day for a tour. He asked my dad if he'd ever thought of getting rid of that gully, and that started the wheels turning. It wasn't too long before Dad had called the SCS for a plan and we soon had the whole farm in strips."

Today, Cliff Holloway farms some 440 acres of rolling farmland just south of Wakefield,

near the Maryland line. He bought the 105-acre home farm from his father-in-law in 1959. He grows alfalfa hay and corn there on alternating strips. Holloway said he laid out the strips himself on a topographic map which he got from the Soil and Conservation Service at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

The strips have eliminated most of the erosion problem that existed when he took over the farm, "Although we still have some problems," he said. "Agnes didn't seem to take away any

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### State to Host National Food Policy Meet

Plans for the upcoming National Food Policy Conference scheduled Dec. 6-7 Hershey were solidified Tuesday in Washington at a pre-conference meeting between participants and Pennsylvania Agriculture, Secretary Jim McHale.

The conference, which aims to lay the groundwork for a cohesive national food policy, will feature workshops and presentations by economists, food experts and several Congressmen and Senators.

McHale met with members of international food agencies and USDA and land grant college officials who will moderate a series of workshops on food policy development scheduled for Dec. 6 from 2 to 6 p.m.

Topics include, Population and Food Requirements. Production

### Farm Calendar

Saturday, December 1  
 Fulton Grange Youth go to Ice Follies, Hershey.

Monday, December 3  
 National Young Farmer Institute, Indianapolis, Ind., December 2-5.

Tuesday, December 4  
 4:30 p.m. - Lancaster County Vo-Ag Teachers Association meeting, Mt. Joy.

7:30 p.m. - Ephrata Adult Farmer meeting, "Raising Dairy Beef", Ephrata Vo-Ag Department.

7:45 p.m. - Young Farmers Officer's meeting, Garden Spot High School.

Lancaster County Farmers Association meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Wednesday, December 5  
 7:30 p.m. - Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer tobacco meeting, Hinkletown Elementary School.

7:30 p.m. - Lancaster County Conservation District meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Thursday, December 6  
 Food Policy Conference, Hotel Hershey, December 6 and 7.

Friday, December 7  
 8 p.m. - Lancaster County Senior Extension Club Alumni party at Mount Joy Vo-Tech School. Square dancing with Paul Andrews and other entertainment

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