

FARM TRENDS

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February 1973, veal 14 percent less and lamb and mutton 13 percent less while pork production was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. Farm Prices Dip 4 pct.

Lower prices for livestock, wheat, eggs and tomatoes were instrumental in bringing about a 4 pct. (9 point) decrease in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers for the month ended March 15. At 194 (pct. of its Jan.-Dec. 1967 average) index was 35 points (22 pct.) above a year earlier.

Beef cattle prices, at \$40.70 per cwt., were down \$2.80 from a month earlier, while calf prices dropped \$3.80 to average \$49.40. Hogs were off \$4.40 to average \$35.00. Lambs were off \$3.70 to \$35.80. Wheat was down 10 pct. to \$4.96 per bu., egg prices were down 7.5 cents per doz. 56.6 cents. Tomatoes were down 1-3 to \$14.30 cwt.

Meanwhile, the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services moved up 2 points (1½ pct.) to a record high 161. It was 23 points (17 pct.) above a year earlier.

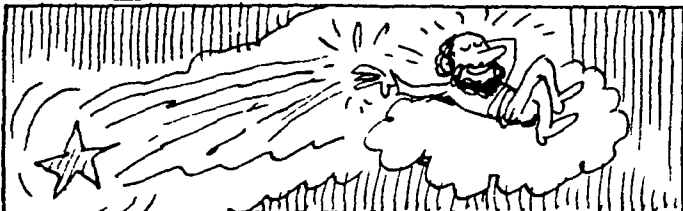
And, with Prices Received down and Prices Paid up, the Ratio declined 8 points to 120. It was 115 a year ago.

Under the old 1910-14 formulas, Prices Received declined 23 points to 493, Prices Paid advanced 4 points to 459; and the Parity Ratio declined 5 points to 90. It had stood at 86 a year earlier.

Vegetable Crop Planting Intentions

Pennsylvania's prospective planted acreage of three principal vegetables for processing in 1974 are as follows: snap beans at 8,800 acres, are up 26 percent, sweet corn at 7,700 acres -- up 13 percent, tomatoes at 6,300 acres, are down 5 percent from last year.

The prospective planted acreage of 8 principal vegetables for processing in the United States in 1974 totals 1,897,860 acres. Crops with more acres in prospect compared with last year and their percentage increases are as follows: green lima beans, 3 percent; snap beans, 6 percent; beets, 9 percent; sweet corn, 2 percent; cucumbers for pickles, 1 percent; green peas, 7 percent, and tomatoes, 19 percent. In addition, prospective tonnage for cabbage contracted or to be contracted for kraut is 36 percent above last year. Preliminary planted acreage for winter spinach is 2 percent below a year ago.



The Mayans believed that shooting stars came from a lot of little bearded men who sat in the sixth heaven and tossed away their cigarette butts. You never know who's going to be a litterbug!

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Bass

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new post, Bass said he expects to encounter many of the same problems he's faced locally. Like Lancaster, Columbia, home of the University of Missouri, is an urban area in the midst of a farming region. Boone County has a diversity of soil types, many of them similar to local soils, and virtually the same amount of annual rainfall.

The move will bring both Bass and his wife, Miriam, closer to their original homes. Bass is a Nebraska native and a graduate of the University of Nebraska, while Mrs. Bass hails from Iowa.

"We've really enjoyed our stay in Lancaster County," Bass said. "We've made lots and lots of friends here. We thought you Dutchmen were pretty friendly."

James Olsen, area conservationist, said a replacement for the departing Bass would arrive as soon as possible.

While one familiar face will soon be gone from the local SCS office, there is a new face there in the person of Dale Burns. Burns is a new soil conservationist in the county, coming here from a two year SCS tour in Centre County. The Armstrong County native and Penn State graduate has been working for the SCS full-time since 1971, and was a student trainee for three summers before that.

Burns and his wife, Nancy, have been living in Willow Street since he started his job on March 18. The Lancaster County Conservation District is cost-sharing Burns' salary with the Federal government.

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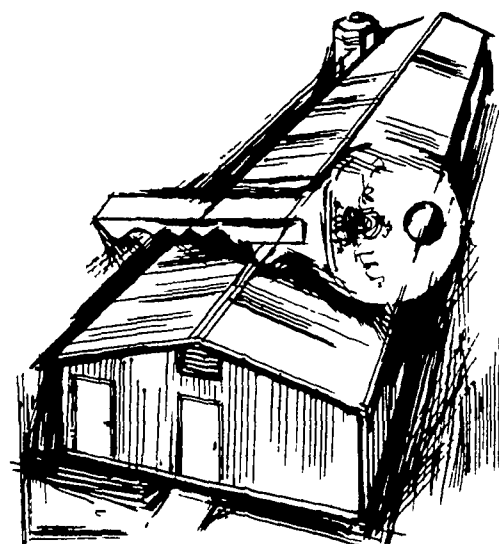
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