

Farm Commentary

No More "Farm Trends"

Seems that every week, we get more and more things that should go on the front page of Lancaster Farming. To keep things from getting too crowded there, we've decided to move the "Farm Trends" column here to page 10. And, while we were at it, it seemed to be a good time to change the name of the column, too. Some of the things we report on here aren't so much comments on trends as they are comments on people and events. Like the next item.

Aimez Vous "Heinz Tomato Ketchup"?

A flock of Frenchmen descended this week on the John Galebach farm, near Penryn in Lancaster County, to film a ketchup commercial for H. J. Heinz. We aren't exactly sure how everything fell into place, but we understand the Heinz New York advertising agency, Young & Rubicam, was looking for a photogenic farm. So, where else but here would they look for one. A New Yorker named Leech found the farm after driving around all day with Ike Geib, a Manheim farmer who works part-time for Grant Heilman, the well-known agricultural photographer. Geib and his wife also did duty as models in the photos, as did ten other more or less local people. The French crew of photographers took over 700 pictures of the 12 people and a bottle of ketchup.

Pa. Cow Numbers, Milk Output Both Up

Milk production in Pennsylvania during June was 612 million pounds, 5 percent more than a year ago, according to a report this week from the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The number of milk cows in the Commonwealth during June was 665,000, the same as last month, but 3,000 more than a year ago.

Milk production per cow averaged 920 pounds in June, compared with 950 pounds in May and 880 pounds in June last year.

United States milk production during June is estimated at 10,505 million pounds, 1 percent less than June a year ago. The U.S. average milk production per cow was 942 pounds during June, up 16 pounds from last year and the largest monthly increase from the previous year since September 1972. There were 11.1 million milk cows on farms during June, down 2 percent from the same month last year.

Wheat Prospects Decline 8 Percent in Past Month

Combination of drought in some areas, excessive moisture in others, and disease cut winter wheat prospects during June, USDA reported last week. As a result, output is now forecast at 1,403 million (1 billion, 403 million) bu., down 8 pct. from a month earlier, but still 10 pct. above last year's previous high and 18 pct. above the 1972 total.

Production of spring wheat other than durum seen at 422 million bu., 18 pct. above a year ago, durum wheat output seen at 100 million bu., up 10 pct. from a year ago. And, production of all wheat is seen at

1,925 million (1 billion, 925 million) bu., up 12 pct. from a year ago, though about 175 million bu. below earlier forecasts.

Acres Seen Below March Intentions

Corn, cotton acreage above a year ago, soybean, sorghum acreage down from 1973 levels, and acreage for each of the four below March intentions, according to USDA's Crop Production Report issued last week.

Corn for grain harvest seen at 67.6 million acres, up 9 pct. (5.8 million acres) from last year, 18 pct. above that for 1972 and the highest since 1960. But, it's 1 pct. below March intentions.

Soybean acreage to be harvested for beans seen at 52.5 million acres, down 7 pct. from last year, and 3 pct. below March intentions, but still 15 pct. above the 1972 total and second highest on record. This also marks the first time acreage has not increased in 15 years.

Sorghum acreage seen at 14.6 million acres, down 8 pct. (1.4 million acres) from last year, 6 pct. below March intentions.

Milk Production Down for 21st Straight Month

U.S. milk production, estimated at 10.5 billion lbs. during June, down 6-10 of 1 pct. from a year earlier. This also was the 21st consecutive month that output has been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

June output brought production for the first six months to 59.4 billion lbs., down 2.2 pct. from a year earlier.

Main reason for the June decline: Lower cow numbers. Milk production per cow, at 942 lbs. for the month, was up 16 lbs. from a year earlier -- the largest monthly increase from a previous year since Sept. 1972. But, the number of milk cows on farms, at 11,149,000, was down 2 pct. from a year earlier (Milk Production).

Farm Work Force Down

U.S. farm labor force, at 5.1 million during June, down 2 pct. from a year ago, USDA reported last week. Farm operators and family workers numbered 3.5 million, hired workers number 1.6 million. Each was 2 pct. below a year earlier.

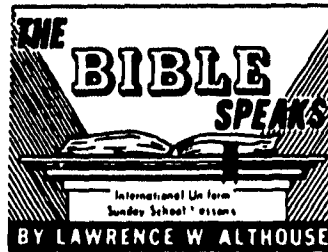
World Totals:

Red Meat Output Down, Livestock Numbers Up in '73

World red meat production was down slightly last year, but livestock numbers were up, according to USDA reports issued last week. Red meat output totaled 65.6 million metric tons, down 1/2 of 1 pct. from the 1972 record high (of 66.0 million tons).

A breakdown shows that the decline came despite record high beef and veal output. At 34.4 million tons, beef and veal production was up fractionally from the previous high set in 1972. But, pork production, at 26.4 million tons, was down 6-10 of 1 pct. from 1972's record high; and mutton and lamb (termed sheepmeat in the report), declined 4.2 pct. -- to 4.5 million tons.

Meanwhile, the livestock report, based on Jan. 1, 1974 totals, showed world cattle numbers at a record 1.3 billion head, up nearly 2 pct. from a year earlier, hog numbers, at 672 million head, up 3 pct., and sheep numbers, at 1.0 billion head, up 1.3 pct. (Foreign Agriculture Circulars FLM 7 Livestock, and FLM 8 Meat).



PARTNERS

Lesson for July 21, 1974

Background Scripture: Philippians 1; 2:19-30; 4.

Devotional Reading: James 1:2-15.

"That is none of my affair."

That is frequently the response of people who feel that they should not become involved in something that seems primarily to concern or affect someone else. Another way of putting it is: "I mind my own business!" "No man is an island."

John Donne thought otherwise and we all know well his famous words: "No man is an island..." We may think of ourselves as being islands, we may isolate ourselves from the affairs of other people, yet, says Donne, this does not change us one bit. Whether or not we acknowledge it, we are linked together. When the bell of human concern is together. When the bell of human concern is tolled we must realize that it rings for us as well as others.

In Philippians, Paul speaks of our "partnership."

For one thing, he says we have a "partnership in the gospel..." (1:5). The "gospel," of course, is the good news of God's salvation. Therefore the sharing and witnessing of that news is the responsibility, not of a chosen few, but all disciples of Jesus Christ. Spreading the message of the gospel is "our affair," our responsibility.

We share the responsibility for the gospel because we have first shared the benefits of the gospel. Paul reminds the Philippians that they are "all partakers with me of grace" (1:7). If we share the grace of God in Jesus Christ, we must share his mission as well. So, because we are partners in grace, we are also partners in the gospel.

The secret

Paul speaks of still another king of partnership. Referring to his hardship in prison, Paul says: "...it was kind of you to share my trouble" (4:14). It is likely that the Philippian church had sent Paul some money during his imprisonment. Paul's imprisonment in the eyes of some may have seemed "none of our affair." Yet the Philippian church thought of itself as Paul's partner. Since he had shared so much of himself with them, they felt they should share themselves with him.

Paul goes on to speak of one more partnership: "I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (4:13). Christ shares his condition. If it is a condition of abundance, Christ shares that. If it is a condition of deprivation, Christ is partner with him in that too. In fact, this partnership, this sharing his life with Christ, is the secret of life for Paul: "I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want" (4:12). Because of this partnership with Christ, he has learned contentment "in whatever state I am."

No man is ever alone if he is in partnership with Christ.

NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



To Stress Farm Pond Safety

The farm pond is a very popular place these hot days and many youngsters will try to "beat the heat" by going swimming. Pond owners are urged to have some supervision over the swimmers to avoid serious accidents. Rescue equipment such as inflated inertubes, wooden ladder, or wooden planks should be at the pond in order to help a person in trouble. Also, no one should be permitted to swim alone in the pond. Special insurance should be carried by pond owners to protect them from any serious accidents. Ponds can be a place of pleasure for both summer and winter but proper safety measures should be established.

To Select Tested Sires

This is the time of the year when many producers of sheep and swine are selecting additional herd boars or rams; this is a big responsibility because the sire can have a very important bearing on the future of the herd or flock. Performance tested sires are strongly suggested in order to produce offspring of desirable market type and meat quality. Experience has revealed that many "cheap" sires when purchased have turned out to be very expensive to the new owner. Money invested in the proper sire should be a good investment and one that will return better dividends. Don't "pinch pennies" when buying herd sires.

To Segregate Animals
Two of the most important

practices in good livestock and dairy management are sanitation and segregation. Both contribute greatly to the health of the herd or flock. When new animals are purchased, they should be from disease-free sources with health papers, and then kept separate from the rest of the animals for at least 30 days. This practice may be difficult in some cases but should never be overlooked in good management. Many cases of health problems in the past would have been avoided if the owner had kept new animals segregated for the first month. Don't be guilty of not recognizing this very important management practice.

To Plan Maximum Production

Plans for the fall seeding of feed grains should now be made and it appears that maximum yields are again very much in order. One of the big items in the higher cost of livestock and dairy production during the past few years has been the extremely high price of grains purchased. In this area we do not nearly produce as much of feed grain as needed which means high purchases in order to meet the needs of livestock and poultry. If this can be grown on the home farm, it might be one more economical way to meet the cost squeeze situation. Both barley and wheat yields have been very good this year and growers with expanded acreage should benefit from not having to buy as much this fall and winter.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, July 20
Pennsylvania Natural Food Convention, 8:00 a.m. at the Susquehanna University Campus, Selinsgrove, Pa.

Monday, July 22
Annual Meeting Dairy Division National Assoc. State Depts. of Agr.,

Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg
Tuesday, July 23
4-H Round-up
Thursday, July 25
District Holstein Show, Guernsey Barn, East of Lancaster
25th-27th - Pa. State Grange Leadership School at Gettysburg College

Organic Food Group Slates Yearly Picnic

The Garden Spot Natural Food and Soil Association will hold its annual picnic today, Saturday, in the Manheim Community Park between Neffsville and East Petersburg. The group was started 20 years ago to promote organic farming methods.

It will be a covered dish picnic, with participants

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

invited to bring their own favorite organic food dish. Music and discussions will be a part of the picnic, which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Editor's Quote Book

We have no more right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it.
—George Bernard Shaw