

# Retail Meat Prices Seen Down in Fall

Livestock and retail meat prices are expected to rise this summer as meat production declines from the spring level. But larger supplies and lower prices are again in prospect for the fall. And retail meat prices are expected to remain below year-earlier levels for most of the last half of 1974.

Demand for red meats will continue relatively strong. While gains in consumer income will be smaller this year than in 1973, they may still rise nearly 8 percent. Meat consumption is expected to exceed 1973's 175 pounds per capita but will not likely reach the 189 pounds consumed in 1972. Consumption during January-June was larger than a year ago. Beef and pork use rose over 2 pounds per person and more than offset a small decline in veal and lamb.

Hog prices fell into the mid-\$20's per 100 pounds in early June before the seasonally declining slaughter turned the market up. Prices are expected to run in the mid-\$30's this summer before beginning the usual fall decline. Hog slaughter should continue larger than a year earlier in the second half. Normal seasonal patterns are likely, with smaller summer output

followed by an increase in the fall. Farrowing intentions suggest that slaughter in early 1975 will be down from both the fall and year-earlier levels.

Cattle prices dropped to the mid-\$30's in June before showing any signs of advancing. Market prices this spring worsened the financial position of cattle feeders. In a \$35 cattle market, losses above \$100 per head were characteristic. An unusually heavy rate of slaughter during the spring that included many very heavy cattle accounted for most of the price weakness.

Cattle slaughter this summer likely will decline some from the high spring level and prices could rise to the mid-\$40's. Fall slaughter is expected to increase and prices to decline again. Much of the increase in fall slaughter over last fall will continue to be in cows and non-fed steers and heifers.

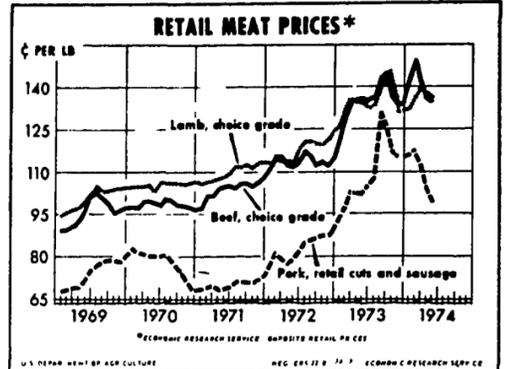
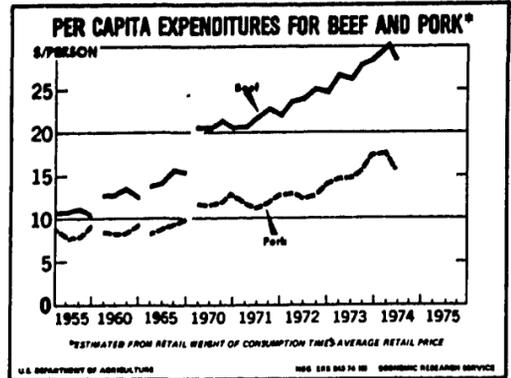
A stronger summer fed cattle market would ease the financial stress of the cattle feeding industry, but prices may not rise enough to eliminate losses for many feeders. The general profit situation may improve by fall as cattle bought on the lower spring and summer feeder cattle markets are slaughtered. This would tend to encourage the feeding industry to increase placements.

Feeder cattle prices have generally declined since last summer's record highs. In June, yearling feeder cattle sold mostly in the \$30 to \$35 range. Downward pressure on the feeder cattle market is expected to continue although prices may gain strength during the summer from upturns in the fed cattle market.

Slaughter cow prices have dropped this year. Utility grade cows at Omaha averaged near \$26.60 in June, nearly \$3.50 below a year earlier. Continued heavier culling rates are expected to maintain downward pressure on cow prices in the second half.

Sheep and lamb slaughter dropped sharply in the spring and prices advanced to the highest levels on

record in spite of weaker cattle and hog prices. However, lamb prices are expected to run seasonally lower this summer and fall.



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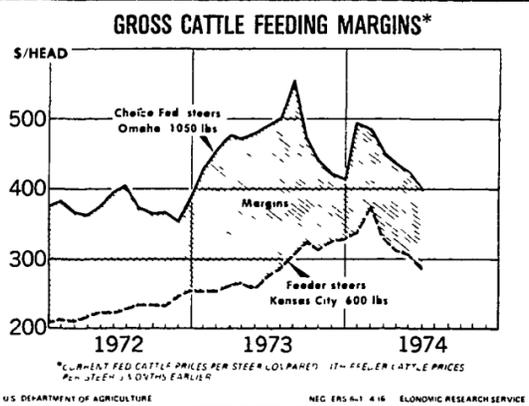
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## Buck Tractor Pull Results

Top three winners in each class at the Buck Tractor Pull contests last week are listed below. The events were held Friday and Saturday evenings at the Buck Track in southern Lancaster County.

### 12,000-lb. Farm Class

1 - Joseph Trimble, Quarryville, Farmall 806, 206.5 ft.; 2 - Ben Nolt, Manheim, JD 4020, 189.6; Fred Hess, Washington Boro, IH 856, 165.3.

### 9000-lb. Farm Class

1 - Ed Brenneman, Willow St., 806 IH, 240.11; 2 - Ed Harnish, Christiana, Case 870, 236.2; Craig Frey, Conestoga, 560 IH, 224.0.

### 7000-lb. Farm Class

1 - Norman Walker, Glen Rock, 560 Farmall, 143.9; 2 - Ken Musser, Mt. Joy, Massey 178, 130.2; 3 - Harold Frey, Conestoga, 1938 JD, 127.3.

### 5000-lb. Open

1 - Glenn Darnell, Laytonsville, Md., Farmall M, 240.7; 2 - Charles Welsh, Gap, Case 8000, 198.3; 3 - Elwood Flowers, Manheim, Farmall M, 178.3.

### 9000 Modified

1 - Lester Landis, Lititz, 55 Massey, 285.1; 2 - Richard Zimmerman, Elizabethtown, Cockshutt, 289.11; 3 - Glenn Darnell, Laytonsville, Md., Farmall M, 250.10.

### 9000-lb. Super Stock

1 - Donald Thomas, Boonsboro, Md., 4020 JD, FP-131.6; 2 - Ed Harman, Frederick, Md., Int. 1466, FP-119.5; 3 - Ray Brubaker,

Quarryville, AC D21, FP-119.2.

### 7000-lb. Open

1 - Lester Landis, Lititz, 55 Massey, 300; 2 - Richard Zimmerman, Elizabethtown, Cockshutt, 289.11; 3 - Glenn Darnell, Laytonsville, Md., Farmall M, 250.10.

### 12,000-lb. Super Stock

1 - Alvin Martin, Akron, AC D21, 177.2; 2 - Ed Harman, Frederick, Md., Int. 1466, 158.11; 3 - Elvin Arment, Ephrata, Deutz 8006, 118.6.

### 7000-lb. Modified

1 - Keener Pulling Team, Manheim, F-20, 205.1; 2 - Lester Landis, Lititz, Massey 55, 177.6; 3 - Gary Mills, Fallston, Md., Massey 55, 130.7.

### 7000-lb. Super Stock

1 - Tim Stauffer, Ephrata, Deutz 9006, 289.4; 2 - Jim Brubaker, Quarryville, D21, 288.4; 3 - Elvin Arment, Ephrata, 8006 Deutz, 247.4.

### 9000-lb. Open

1 - Lester Landis, Lititz, 55 Massey, 275.4; 2 - Alvin Martin, Akron, AC D21, 234.00; Jim Brubaker, Quarryville, AC D21, 207.1.

### 15,000-lb. Farm Class

1 - Tim Robinson, Windsor, 1066 Farmall, 300; 2 - Tom Bedgar, Freeland, Md., 1066 IH, 175.0.

### 12,000-lb. Farm Class

1 - Tom Bedgar, Freeland, Md., 4430 JD, FP-152.8; 2 - Arthur Tracy, Freeland, Md., 1066 IH, FP-148.9; 3 - Amos N. Sauder, Manheim, Pa., Farmall 806, FP-122.3.

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