

Farm Commentary

HOGS AND PIGS: FARROWINGS SEEN OFF SHARPLY

Hogs and pigs on farms in the 14 major States on Sept. 1 seen at 50.2 million head. That's down 4 pct. from a year earlier, according to USDA's Crop Reporting Board. The number kept for breeding, at 6.8 million head, down 10 pct.; market hogs, at 43.4 million, down 3 pct. from a year earlier.

A closer look shows hogs and pigs on farms in the 10 Corn Belt States totaled 44.4 million head, a figure that was down 3 pct. from a year ago and the lowest Sept. 1 total since 1965.

A review of the June - August pig crop showed it totaled 17.2 million in the 14 States, down 4 pct. from a year earlier. Intended farrowings for Sept. - Nov. are seen at 2.3 million. The Dec. - Feb. total is seen at 2.0 million. Both the Sept. - Nov. and Dec. - Feb. intentions are down 10 pct. from year earlier totals, and 11 pct. below totals of two years ago. (Hogs and Pigs).

SOYBEAN STOCKS SHARPLY ABOVE A YEAR AGO

U.S. carryover of old crop soybeans estimated by USDA's Crop Reporting Board at 172 million bu. That's nearly 3 times that of a year ago and the third largest on record.

Off farm stocks, at 106 million bu., more than double the Sept. 1, 1973 total; farm stocks, at 65.4 million bu., nearly 7-times that of a year ago. Sept. 1973 - Aug. 1974 disappearances estimated at just under 1.5 billion bu., up 13 pct. from a year earlier.

NOT YOUR USUAL GOV'T PUBLICATION

Beliefs and Values in American Farming, issued by USDA's Economic

Research Service last week, is not your usual government publication. Which may be the understatement of the year.

This report, written by former USDA ag. economist James L. Gulley, discusses such things as technology, and its habit of marching faster than beliefs and values can respond; the Protestant ethic of the virtue of work; the influence of the frontier psychology; the freedom and independence of the family farm, and rugged individualism.

As pointed out in the foreword, it's "basically an essay intended to stimulate dialogue on the subject." It undoubtedly will do that.

FLUID MILK HEARING SET

USDA's public hearing on setting a minimum "floor" price for computing prices paid to farmers for fluid (Class I) milk in all federal milk marketing orders will be held Oct. 8. The hearing will get under way at 9 a.m. at the Camelot Inn, Rosemont, Ill. (near O'Hare Airport).

NOW, IT'S THE BEEF SURPLUS

The European Community has banned beef and cattle imports in face of a beef surplus that could continue through 1976, according to an article in the current (Sept. 23) issue of USDA's Foreign Ag. magazine.

CHICK, POULT HATCHES DOWN

U.S. chick, poult hatches continue down. But, August declines were the sharpest of the year. Broiler-type hatch off for the 5th straight month . . . Poult hatch below a corresponding month of a year ago for the 4th straight month . . . Egg-type hatch ran below a year ago for the 8th straight month.

Letters to the Editor

Baby Beef Club Sale

The New Holland Baby Beef Club would like to thank the buyers of New Holland and surrounding areas for making last year's sale a success. A big thanks to last year's buyers: Grand Champion - Norman Kolb; reserve champion - Gordon Fritz and buyers: Intercourse Bank, C. B. Hoover and Sons, Gale Sensenicks Store, Frankie Fillippo, Bobby Groff's Trucking, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland Supply, Guernsey Farm Restaurant, New Holland Farmers Bank, Harry Haldeman, Bob Seemmy, J. J. Hooper Seed, Weaver-Martin Trucking Earl Sauder's Feed, Amos Stoltzfus Meat, Whiteford Sales Co., Steller and Martin Auctioneers Service.

We would like to invite the buyers back again and welcome new buyers. This year we have 11 herefords, 10 cross and 6 Angus. The show will be held Thursday, Oct. 3rd at 1 p.m. at ABC's Groff's Lot. Sale at 4 p.m. at the New Holland Sales Stables.

New Holland
Baby Beef Club

Editor:

As Chester County dairy farmers, we are expressing our extreme concern over the latest decrease in the price we are receiving for milk.

During the past year, we have experienced rising costs for our basic supplies such as:

Supplies	1973	1974
Fertilizer (per ton)		
45 percent Nitrogen Urea	\$104	\$395
33 1-3 percent Nitrogen	98	235
16-8-8	76	154
10-20-20	98	187
50 lb. alfalfa seed	42	120
Baler twine	7.60	35

In one recent three-week period, soybean meal rose from \$168 a ton to \$265.

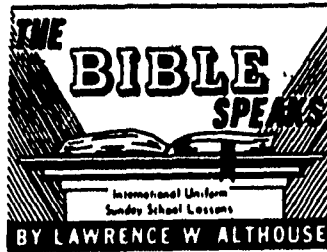
Overall, considering electricity, taxes, supplies, and other necessities, our costs have risen 75 percent to 85 percent. During this same time, milk prices have decreased by 30 percent to 35 percent. This creates a very unfavorable economic situation for us.

At the current rate, the milk prices will reach its lowest level sometime in late August and September. Ironically, when our milk price is at its lowest point is when our seasonal production costs begin to increase.

In light of the predicted food shortage, it should be noted that once land in Chester County leaves agricultural production it seldom returns due to housing development pressures in the region.

If the milk pricing situation isn't remedied in the near future, our future in the dairy farming business will be in serious jeopardy.

The Oxford Area Advisory Council
to the Pa. Farmer's Assoc.
Box 68, Lincoln University, Pa.



SURVIVING CHANGE

Lesson for September 29, 1974

Background Scripture: 1 Samuel 8; 12.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 90:1-6.

We are fond of speaking of "the good old days." Of course, one man's "good old days" may be another's "hard times." Much depends upon your point of view.

For example, the people of Israel had quite a few periods of "good old days" to look back on. They could remember the nomadic days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as "golden years." Others might look back to the days and years spent in Egypt before the Pharaoh turned against them. Still others might look back with great nostalgia to the forty years in the wilderness under Moses and some might feel equally sentimental about the period of the Judges, when the twelve tribes took over the Promised Land from the Canaanites and Phillistines. A "New Fangled"

Leader

In 1 Samuel we find that once again the people of Israel are in the midst of changing times. The "good old days" when the twelve tribes lived side by side in a loosely connected federation with no central government were soon to be over. What had worked for many years no longer seemed to be equal to the challenge of changing times. The strength and capabilities of their enemies seemed to demand that they would need to come up with a new style of leadership and cooperation. The old voluntary, decentralized system was not adequate.

Still, the people of Israel were much divided over what they should do. Many feared establishing a monarchy. They could see the abuses and corruptions in the monarchies of their neighbors. They rightly feared that a centralized government would mean the loss of individual and tribal liberty. They correctly anticipated the tyranny that is possible in a centralized government. All the things they feared ultimately came true!

Call Upon The Lord

Yet, even though they were to radically change their way of life, even though the establishment of a monarchy would bring some hardships and call for some sacrifices, it was one of the facts of life they would have to face in the midst of changing times. Instead of wishing they could go back to Egypt or the wilderness, they had to face the fact that new days were demanding new ways.

How could they survive these changes that were taking place? The prophet Samuel showed them the way. Though they could not keep the world from changing around them, they could keep one thing constant and unchanging: their loyalty to God and their covenant: "Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart . . ."

NOW IS THE TIME . . .



Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

To Respect Pesticide Regulations

All types of pesticide treatments to animals and plants will often have certain regulations that should be followed. We have in mind the chemicals and antibiotics given to livestock. These treatments should be recorded and the withdrawal time for milking cows or the time until slaughter for meat animals should be followed. The quality of the product to the consumer is very important and it should not contain excess amounts of these materials. All producers are urged to follow regulations carefully and not take chances.

To Beware Of Silo Gas

This will be the final reminder of this danger in and around recently filled silos. There are several types of gases that may develop from one to 10 days after the silo is filled. Due to the recent cold weather, silo filling has accelerated and many tons of silage will be fermenting. These gases are heavier than air and will come down into the barn or feed rooms. All farm employees and youngsters should be firmly warned about this danger. Further details may be obtained by contacting our local Extension Office.

To Handle Frosted Crops Carefully

The recent early frost caught many crops of immature grain and forage crops. However, most of these can be utilized if handled properly. Un-ripe corn can be made into silage with good feeding results;

the same is true with soybeans that are green and may be made into either hay or silage but should be harvested before dead leaves fall off. Crops of sudan grass or the sudan-sorghum hybrids that have been frosted should not be used in the fresh state until at least a week has passed to permit drying of the plant. However, either of these crops may be made into silage after a frost, and after allowed to ferment for 30 days in the silo, are safe to feed to all types of livestock. Legumes such as clover or alfalfa may be used in the normal manner after a frost, except the animals should not be allowed to eat the legume when the frost is on the plant. Dry legumes are much safer for all animals to graze.

To Prepare Cribs And Bins

We are aware of some grain insects being found in old crops of corn; this is not unusual and requires that the old grain be used as soon as possible and the crib or bin thoroughly cleaned and sprayed to eliminate the insects. Malathion or Methoxychlor are materials to use in killing grain insects; spray all areas of the crib or bin several days before starting to store new grains. If the storage place is not rodent proof (rats and mice), then the use of galvanized materials, hardware cloth, and concrete might reduce the amount of damage. Feed grains are too valuable to permit rodents to destroy a single pound.

Farm Calendar

Monday, September 30

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

8:00 p.m. - Dairy Feeding Conference, Penn State's Dr. Richard Adams speaking, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Tuesday, October 1

9:00 a.m. - Noon Soybean Field Day at Southeast Field Research Farm, Landisville. Call John Yocum, 653-4728 for more information.

Wednesday, October 2

New Holland Farmer's Fair opens. Continues through October 5. Broiler Housing Seminar, University of Delaware

substation, Georgetown, Del.

Saturday, October 5

1:00 p.m. - Pennsylvania State tractor pulling championships, Somerset County Fairgrounds, Myersdale.

American Viewpoints



Your every voter, as surely as your chief magistrate, exercises a public trust.

— Grover Cleveland
Inaugural address, 1885

(12:24). If they would remain faithful, God would bring them through these trying times.

So, we find a message for our own changing times: we cannot stop the world from changing, but if we remain faithful in the midst of that change, God will bring us through with his love and grace.