

# Farm Commentary

## MANHEIM BABY BEEF CLUB SALE

The Manheim FFA Baby Beef Club would like to thank the buyers of Manheim and surrounding areas for making this year's sale a big success. A big thanks to this year's buyers: Kunzler & Co. for purchasing the Grand Champion for 90c a pound; Manheim National Bank for purchasing the Reserve Champion for 85c a pound; Stonebridge Farm Butcher Shop, Groff's Home Dressed Meats, Frank Fillippo, Walter Heistand, Chemgro Fertilizer, Ruhl's Insurance, Fulton National Bank, Bomberger's Store, Emerson Knight and L. W. Kulp. The average price for the 12 steers was 65c a pound. A great big thanks to these buyers.

Manheim Baby Beef Club

## USDA'S OCTOBER CROP REPORT - CORN, SOYBEAN PROSPECTS OFF

Weather has continued to play havoc with the major 1974 crops. Early cold spells and frost in September cut corn production prospects by 277 million bushels, total feed grains by 5 percent, soybeans by 54 million bushels, cotton by 0.4 million bales, and wheat by 11 million bushels. Only rice prospects improved slightly.

These developments, combined with continued strong demand, are likely to keep wheat stocks next summer near the very low year-earlier level, plunge corn and total feed grain carryovers to the smallest volumes since 1948, and reduce soybean stocks again to minimum pipeline levels. In contrast, both cotton and rice supplies are ample.

September frosts cut corn production prospects to 47 billion bushels, 6 percent less than indicated on September 1 and 16 percent under production in each of the last 3 years. Sorghum production, hard hit by drought, is forecast at 632 million bushels, down a third from last year's record crop. These crop estimates do not include any possible effects of the early October frosts which extended to the Southern States and stopped plant growth in most areas.

The total feed grain production estimate is reduced to 168 million tons, 18 percent less than in 1973 and the lowest since the blight-shortened crop in 1970. With this fall's small carryover (estimated at 20 million tons), the feed grain supply for 1974-75 would total 189 million tons, 49 million below last year and the smallest since 1957-58.

The short supply means a substantial reduction in total disappearance from last year. Domestic use of feed grains is placed at 145-150 million tons, 14 to 17 percent below 1973-74 and down from last month's projection of 153-158 million. Experts are projected at 25 to 31 million tons, off 30 to 45 percent from last year but unchanged from last month's projection.

Production of all wheat as of October 1 was estimated at 1,781 million bushels, 11 million bushels less than last month but still a record. The decline in production occurred primarily in spring wheat (other than Durum) which was damaged by heavy freezes in late September. We have increased our estimate of exports by 50 million bushels since last

month because of reduced production prospects in other major exporting countries and continued strong worldwide demand, especially in the Middle East and South Asia. The July 1, 1975, carryover is likely to range from only 218 million to 268 million bushels.

Soybean production was estimated as of October 1 at 1,262 million bushels or 54 million less than on September 1. Frosts in September reduced estimated yield per acre from 25.1 to 24.0 bushels. Additional frosts in early October, reaching further South and East, may have further damaged the crop. Since much of the crop was planted late, the effect of these early frosts on quality as well as on quantity is very uncertain. In view of the tight supply situation, soybean export projections are reduced and estimated carryout is at a minimum level for 1974-75.

## MILK PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. milk production during September is estimated at 9,126 million lbs., 3 pct. above a year earlier but 3 pct. below September, 1972. Daily average output was 2 pct. less than August, compared with a 3 pct. drop between August and September of last year. September production provided 1.43 lbs. of milk per person daily for all uses, compared to 1.46 in August and 1.41 in September, 1973.

Milk production per cow was 820 lbs., during September, up 4 pct. from September 1973 and 1 pct. above the 809 lbs., recorded 2 years earlier. There were 11,132,000 milk cows on farms during September, down 2 pct. from a year ago. (Milk Production).

## U.S. FARM WORK FORCE DECLINES

The nation's farm labor force for the week of September 22-28 totaled 48 million workers, slightly smaller than last year. The work force consisted of 34 million farm operators and unpaid family members and 1.4 million hired workers, according to USDA.

All farm workers averaged 38.3 hours during the September survey week, the same as last month and compared to 38.5 hours last year. Farm operators worked an average of 43.3 hours while other unpaid family workers averaged 32.5 hours and hired workers averaged 34.2 hours.

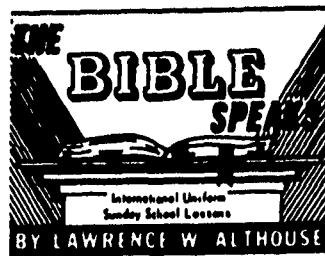
## WAGES TILL SHOW GAIN

The average cash rate per hour without board and room on October 1, 1974 was \$2.22, up 24 cents from last year and 40 cents greater than two years ago. Wages paid by the month, week or day were also higher. The seasonally adjusted index of Farm Wage Rates based on 1967 was 180 on October 1, 1974, and 12 pct. higher a year earlier. (Farm Labor).

## WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION INCREASING

World commercial meat production is growing again, reversing the sharp drop in 1973. Meat prices are steadying at levels below those to which they soared earlier but above those that existed before the current period of rapid price changes.

Estimated production increases over last year: Japan, 23 pct.; Western Europe, 10 pct.; United States, 6 pct.; Mexico, 5 pct.; Argentina, 4 pct. (World Agricultural Situation).



## IN EVERY PLACE

Lesson for October 20, 1974

**Background Scripture:** Proverbs 1: 1-10; 3:5-8, 13-14; 15:1-4; 23:19-21; 25:21-23.  
**Devotional Reading:** Proverbs 1: 1-10.

Although Jewish worship was centered in the Temple at Jerusalem, the faith of Israel was intended to be practiced in every corner of life.

The writer of Proverbs 15:3 tells us: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." In the Temple there was a special awareness of God's presence, but the people of Israel knew that God was not limited to that place.

In all your ways...

Furthermore, they knew that there was more to religion than worship. Although worship in the temple was one great facet of the faith of Israel, the exercise of religion in daily life was another. Both of these religious perspectives were regarded as essential to the Jewish faith.

One guide for daily living was to be found in the laws of Israel. The heart of this law was to be found in the Ten Commandments, but there were many laws in addition to these, all of them with the purpose of helping the Jew to live by God's daily guidance.

The laws gave specific guidance for particular situations in daily life, but beyond this there was felt a need for principles and ideas that could be utilized in many different situations. The Book of Proverbs was assembled as an answer to that need. These are short, terse sayings that are intended to instruct the Jew in all areas of life.

In fact, this is indicated in one of the proverbs: "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (3:6). This was a rather radical approach to religion, for the faiths of some of the neighbors of Israel emphasized worship and sacrifice. Religion was what these people practiced when they were in a temple or holy place. Often it was quite unrelated to how they related to their fellowman.

The key of moderation. The faith of Israel, however, was a faith for "every place" and the Jews were counseled to acknowledge God's presence and will in "all your ways." Key to this approach to daily living is the concept of moderation.

The wise practitioner of the faith will practice moderation in his relationships with other people, particularly in his speech with other people. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (15:1). One does not have to be brilliant to appreciate the truth of that proverb.

The understanding man will also be moderate in his personal habits, for example: eating and drinking. He will not be a "wine-bibber" or a "glutton," but will eat and drink in moderation.

NOW IS THE TIME...



Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 394-6851

## To Utilize Corn Fodder

Corn harvest season is at hand and soon many acres of corn will be picked or shelled; the corn stalks will remain in the field, and are a good source of organic matter to maintain soil fertility. However, they are also useful in the barn for many kinds of livestock bedding and then go back to the soil. Since straw prices continue to be high, livestock and dairy producers are urged to recognize this material as very good bedding. After the corn is picked or combined, the stalks are allowed to dry, then they can be shredded and either baled or stored for bedding purposes.

## To Eradicate Rodents

Rats and mice will soon be heading for buildings to get protection from the weather. When around the buildings they are not only a disease hazard but feed on valuable grains and other farm materials. Every property owner should try to prevent the reproduction of rats and mice by eliminating their nesting places. A good clean-up program is the place to start followed by cementing and pointing floors and walls where rodents can start housekeeping. Poison bait stations can be used to help reduce the population. With the high price of feed grains, every effort should be made to reduce the amount of damage from rodents this winter.

## To Protect Farm Machinery

Good farm managers will not permit their machinery

to stay out in the weather for any length of time. Since many pieces of equipment will not be used until next spring, and since weather conditions will include more rain and snow for the next several months, machinery should be put into the dry. Rust is the major enemy of longevity in farm machinery and excess moisture causes rusty machinery. Simple machinery storages might include only a good roof and two sides to the building; they do not have to be totally enclosed. Local barns are good machinery storage places but increase the amount of loss in case of a barn fire. Good farmers will not allow their machinery to stand outside during the winter months.

## To Test Forage Crops

With the high grain prices and the winter feeding program ahead of us, now would be an excellent time to test hay and forage crops. Also, owners should request time to test hay and forage crops. Also, owners should request a feeding program based upon the quality of the hay and silage. Nutrients from forages are much cheaper from feed grains and should be used to a maximum. Also, producers are urged to keep informed on prices of other feeds besides corn; grains such as barley, wheat, heminy, gluten feed, and molasses could be cheaper source of feed nutrients when used up to a certain point in the grain mixture. The forage test is the place to start. Test Kits are available at all Pennsylvania Extension Offices.

# Farm Calendar

**Monday, October 21**  
Northeastern Poultry Producers Convention, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia. Continues through October 22.

**Tuesday, October 22**  
7:45 p.m. - Garden Spot Young Farmers, monthly meeting at agriculture classroom, Garden Spot High School. Topic is

horizontal silos.

**Thursday, October 24**  
Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives, annual meeting, Quality Court Motel, Lancaster.

**Friday, October 25**  
7:00 p.m. - Buck Tractor Pull, Buck. First annual Buck Pull Off.  
**Saturday, October 26**  
7:00 p.m. - Buck Tractor Pull, Buck.

## Farm Youth Calendar

**Monday, October 21**  
York County Horticulture Club meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, October 24**  
Lancaster County 4-H Holstein Club fun night. 4-H Baby Beef Club at the Farm and Home Center.

## Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports

The end result of this daily religion in every place will be not only a God who is pleased, but a man who is truly blessed.

## Letters to the Editor

### Fund Established in Boy's Memory

A memorial fund to aid in the relief of hurricane-stricken students in Honduras has been established in the memory of Ray Nelson Meck, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jay A. Meck, Kinzers R1.

The seven-year-old Meck boy was killed by a car on October 4, while crossing the highway after getting off a school bus.

Checks, which are tax deductible, should be made out to "Eastern Mennonite Board-Meck Memorial Gift for Honduras," and mailed to Chris Landis, 88 Glendale Dr., Lancaster 17602.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
Chris W. Landis