

Livestock Outlook

Feed supplies and prices are the critical concerns to the livestock industry in the months ahead. Prospects for reduced feed grain and soybean output have resulted in rising feed prices and cutbacks in livestock feeding. Hog producers are planning to farrow the fewest in over 6 years and poultry production is being cut a tenth.

However, since it takes time for hog producers to respond to the changing feed

situation, hog slaughter this fall will continue to run moderately above a year ago. Hog prices are expected to average lower than summer as slaughter increases seasonally. But look for smaller supplies and higher prices next year. On September 1 there were 7 percent fewer hogs in the lighter weight groups that will make up the bulk of winter slaughter supplies. Farrowing intentions suggest even further cut-

backs in spring slaughter. Average slaughter weights will run under the record levels of last winter and spring. The combination of reduced numbers slaughtered and lighter slaughter weights in the first half of 1975 could drop pork output 10-15 percent below January-June 1974.

These slaughter patterns and production levels suggest seasonally declining prices for hogs this fall, followed by a strong market into mid-1975.

Cattle slaughter this fall is running moderately above both year-earlier and summer levels, with all of the increase in cows, and steers and heifers with little grain feeding background. Grain-fed cattle slaughter is trailing last fall but probably will total a little larger than in the summer. Average cattle slaughter weights are now lighter than in the summer or a year ago.

Fed cattle prices this fall likely will average below the \$44 summer average of Choice steers at Omaha but above the \$40 October-December 1973 average. Prices are expected to strengthen some in the first half of 1975 as marketing of cows and nonfed steers and heifers decline when pastures green up again, and pork and poultry output declines.

Feeder cattle supplies are large but prices are not expected to drop much below current levels, especially in the South and Southeastern States. Short-run demand for feeder cattle could improve if the profit outlook for cattle feeders improves. Feeder prices may strengthen seasonally next winter and spring as the heavy seasonal run subsides.

Pastures have improved in the East and Southwest, but hay supplies are down from last year and dry conditions persist in the range areas of the West. If there is an open winter, carryover in grazing

Food Disposers How To Use

Your food disposer may have a preferred diet. Find out what you should feed it to keep it in good working order. Because many food disposers aren't built for heavy-duty operation, Joseph McCurdy, Extension agricultural engineer at The Pennsylvania State University, suggests you refer to your service manual to find out what the unit can and cannot handle.

Mix fibrous materials, such as cornhusks and pea pods, with other kinds of food wastes and feed them into the disposer gradually. After this waste is completely ground, let the unit run with plenty of cold water for at least two minutes. This allows the material to flush through the drainlines and prevents possible clogging.

Cut or break up citrus fruit skins, watermelon rinds, corn cobs and other bulky food wastes into small pieces before putting into the disposer. McCurdy cautions

areas of calves, yearlings, and cows into next year will be very large but heavy snows would force more cattle to be marketed and push prices lower than now expected.

Lamb slaughter will run under year-earlier levels through the balance of 1974 and through the first half of next year. Slaughter lamb prices may average near or above year-earlier levels this fall but rising feed prices will keep feeder lambs lower. Lamb prices early next year will run near this year's first half average with large beef supplies mostly offsetting the effect of smaller lamb marketings.

you to be especially careful that bottle caps, paper, string, glass, chemicals and solvents don't fall into the disposer. They can easily clog the drainline or jam the unit which can result in an expensive service call.

Grind all the food in cold water only. The cold water keeps the motor cool and minimizes the possibility of buildup of grease along the drain walls.

Misuse is the greatest cause of premature failures of a food disposer, explains the Extension specialist. Make it a habit to use the disposer as soon as you put food wastes into it. Allowing waste to accumulate from more than one meal may create odors and corrosive problems for the disposer.



I REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS
From Mrs. Mary Waltz, McConeysburg, Pa.: I recall back in the long ago when gypsies came around in big, horse-drawn wagons. One particular time a couple camped in our meadow and cooked their breakfast over an open fire. Another time a man and woman came. I was very young and was on the porch. The woman said: "She's shay," meaning "She's pretty." She asked for a chicken to cook for a sick woman at their camp.

Mother gave her a hen, which she put in her apron. She asked if for pay we would take a white wash brush she had with her, or should she make us a lunch basket for school.

The basket appealed to my sister and me and we decided foolishly on the basket. I do not know why, for we lived next to the school and always came home for lunch. Sad to say, we never got the basket, which bears out the old saw that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

(Send contributions to this column to The Old Timer, Box 637, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.)

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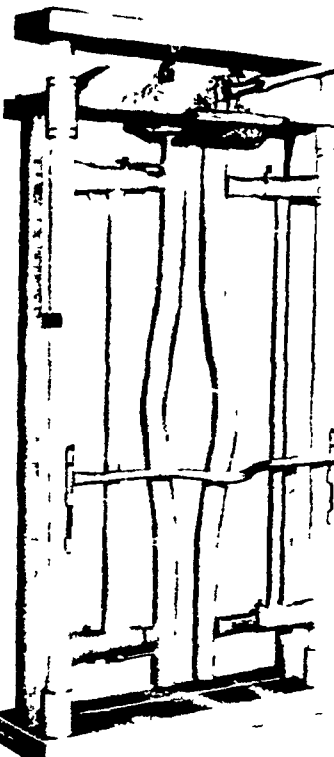
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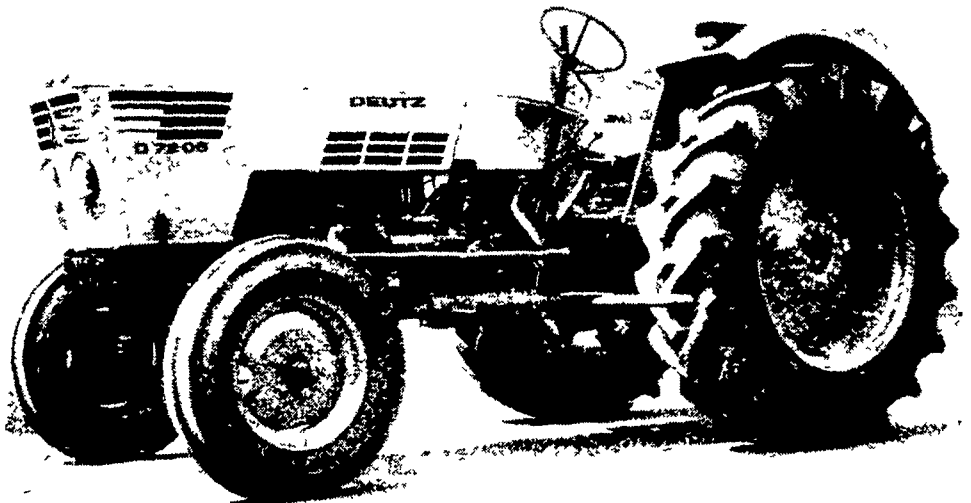
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