

Farm Commentary

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN SHARPLY

Cattle on feed for slaughter market in the 23 major States down sharply, USDA reported last week. At 9,149,000 head on Oct. 1, the total was 24 pct. below a year earlier, 22 pct. below the Oct. 1, 1972 total -- and the lowest on feed for Oct. 1 since 1967.

July - September placements in those States totaled 4,624,000 head, down 12 pct. from a year ago; July - Sept. marketings from those States totaled 5,522,000 head, down 7 pct. from a year earlier. Prospective Oct. - Dec. marketings from those States seen at 5,294,000 head, down 18 pct. from a year ago, 22 pct. below 1972.

Cattle on feed totals for Oct. 1 in the major States: Texas, 1,599,000 head, down 31 pct. from a year earlier; Iowa, 1,030,000 head, down 28 pct. from a year ago; Nebraska, 1,040,000 head, down 28 pct. from a year ago; and Kansas, 900,000 head, down 24 pct. from a year ago. (Cattle on Feed).

HOG IMPORTS CONTINUE UP

U.S. cattle imports were down sharply during August, but hog imports continued high. Cattle imports totaled 12,992 head for the month, well below the 57,388 head imported during August 1973. This brought cattle imports for Jan. - Aug. to 521,437 head, down nearly 25 pct. from a year earlier.

But, the August totals brought hog imports for the first 8 months to 164,483 head. That's more than 3 times that of a year earlier. The total, already at a record high, was nearly double that for all of 1973. The previous record high was 89,032 head imported in 1972. All hog imports are from Canada.

CHICK HATCHES CONTINUE OFF

U.S. commercial hatches of both egg-type and broiler-type chicks continue to downtrend. Egg-type hatch, at 31.6 million during September, was down 26 pct. from a year ago and this marked the 10th straight month this hatch has been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

The broiler-type hatch, at 221 million, was down 10 pct. from a year earlier, marking the 6th consecutive month this hatch has been below a year earlier.

The Jan. - Sept. totals: Egg-type chicks, 372 million, down 10 pct. from a year earlier; broiler-type chicks, 2.4 billion, down 1 pct. from a year earlier.

What's coming up? More of the same. There were 30.1 million egg-type eggs in incubators on Oct. 1. That's down 27 pct. from a year ago. On Oct. 1 there were 182 million broiler-type eggs in incubators. That's down 16 pct. from a year ago (Eggs, Chickens and Turkeys)

SOVIET HARVEST

Soviet grain harvest well along As of Sept 30, a total of 276 million acres of grain (excluding corn) had been harvested, USDA reported last week. That leaves about 24.7 million acres left to be cut. This compared to about 14.8 million acres left to be cut at the end of September 1973.

EGG PRODUCTION

U.S. egg production, at 5.172 billion eggs in September, was down 3 pct. from a year ago. Though rate of lay was up, the layer numbers were off 5 pct. from a year ago.

AUGUST MEAT IMPORTS OFF

August red meat imports off sharply. Those covered by the Meat Import Law -- mainly fresh and frozen beef and veal -- totaled 101.4 million pounds for the month, down one-third from a year earlier.

Total meat imports -- those covered by the Meat Import Law, plus canned and preserved beef, all pork and lamb -- totaled 140.4 million pounds, also down one-third from a year earlier.

The Jan. - Aug. totals: Meat covered by the Meat Import Law, 716.6 million pounds, down 16 percent from a year earlier; all red meat, 1.1 billion pounds, down 12½ percent from a year earlier. (Livestock Market News).

OF CATTLE AND FERTILIZERS

For years, cheese processors have viewed whey as a waste and have dumped it into lakes and streams in an effort to get rid of it, but ARS scientists now show it can be used as a nutritious feed for cattle ... Crossbred cattle raised in pens are of better quality than cows which graze in pasture lands ... Too much nitrogen causes apples to stay green ... But, large applications of nitrogen on rangeland every few years substantially increases yields, improves nutritive value of forage and costs less than annual smaller applications. ...

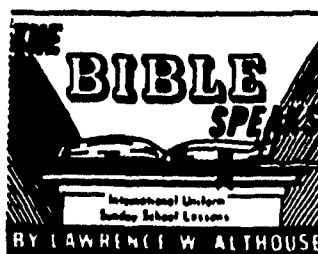
PA. BROILER PLACEMENTS DOWN 14 PERCENT

Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending October 19, 1974 were 1,207,000. The placements were 14 percent below the corresponding week a year earlier, but 8 percent above the previous week. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 1 percent below a year earlier.

Settings for broiler chicks were 1,718,000 - 10 percent below the previous week and 15 percent below the comparable period a year earlier. The current 3-week total of eggs set is 5 percent below the same period a year ago.

Inshipments of broiler-type chicks during the past 10 weeks averaged 3,000 compared with 26,000 a year ago. Outshipments averaged 19,000 during the past 10 weeks, 35 percent below a year earlier.

Placements in the 21 States were 49,557,000 - 1 percent below the previous week and 11 percent below the same week a year earlier. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 11 percent below a year ago. Settings were 58,712,000 - 13 percent above the previous week but 14 percent below a year earlier. The current 3-week total of eggs set is 13 percent below the comparable period a year ago.



THAT'S RELIGION

Lesson for October 27, 1974

Background Scripture: Amos 5:10-24; 6:4-6; 7:10-17; 8:4-6.

Devotional Reading: Amos 5:18-24.

Amos was neither popular nor well-received in Israel. In fact, he was clearly unwelcome and one religious authority of that land gave him the Biblical equivalent of "Get lost, buddy!"

There seemed to be good reason for his rejection.

For one thing, he was a stranger to Israel. It seemed highly presumptuous for this citizen of Judah to come north to tell the people of Israel what was wrong with their way of life. His kind of meddlesome trouble-making was not appreciated by the people of Israel.

A matter of Credentials

Secondly, Amos had no religious credentials. He was not a priest, not did he seem to have any special education or training for religious work. Actually, he was a layman, a farmer: what business did he have trying to speak as a religious authority?

Furthermore, he was condemning people who regarded themselves as very religious. They were a nation that had a number of holy places and shrines for worship, they observed all the religious festivals and feasts, and they regarded themselves as "God's people." How dare he point an accusing finger at them!

Finally, although he claimed to speak for God, he was meddling in lots of areas of life which were not religious, but social and economic. For example, he protested the treatment of poor people. Evidently he did not understand economics!

He also criticized the administration of justice, particularly the use of bribes and pay-offs. Didn't he realize that everyone did it and this was the accepted normal way in modern society?

Another one of his criticisms was leveled at the shrewd business practices of many affluent merchants. So they foreclosed and repossessed on people who couldn't pay their bills, after all: that's business! So they cheated on weights and measures: that's the way business is conducted by everyone these days!

Prophet: Go Home!

Amos was particularly obnoxious to Amaziah, the priest of the temple of Bethel: "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah and eat bread there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the King's sanctuary ..." (7:12). It was just another way of telling Amos to go home and stick to religion.

But Amaziah was wrong on two counts. First, the temple at Bethel did not really belong to the King of Israel, but to God. Where better to speak's God's message than in his own sanctuary!

Furthermore, Amos was "sticking to religion." The people of Israel thought the elaborate worship and

NOW IS
THE TIME...

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To Make Farm Show Entries

The 1975 Pennsylvania State Farm Show will be held at Harrisburg January 6 through the 10th. Premium Lists are now available and prospective exhibitors are urged to prepare their exhibits according to the rules and regulations. The entry deadline for livestock is November 4. A new type of livestock and dairy entry blank are to be used this year. Supplies of these blanks, the general entry blank, and the Premium Lists are available at our Extension Office.

To Test Soils This Fall

We are informed that the fertilizer situation may be worse next spring; nitrogen prices are expected to go higher in 1975. All commercial farmers are urged to do their soil testing this fall so they can order their fertilizer needs before the new year. When this is done the fertilizer dealer will have more time to obtain his needs and the prices might be in favor of ordering early. A complete soil test is the best way to make the most efficient use of the lime and fertilizer dollar. If the soil needs lime, the land owner will get much more benefit from the fertilizer applied. Don't make the mistake of guessing soil needs.

To Check

High-Moisture Corn
Several phone calls reflect the need for more in-

formation in the making of high-moisture corn. This method of harvesting and storing corn has been well accepted and is growing in popularity as a livestock feed. For the ground ear corn the moisture content should be from 30 to 35 percent. For the shelled corn it is best if the moisture range is between 25 and 30 percent. Corn put into the storage with higher amounts of moisture may be darker in color and stronger in flavor. Corn that gets too dry may be improved by adding 2½ gallons of water at the silo per ton for each percent of moisture needed. High-moisture corn harvest permits getting the corn off the ground quicker with less danger of down stalks.

To Winterize Farm Vehicles

Freezing weather is due and water-cooled motors need some attention. They should be drained or anti-freeze materials added to the cooling systems. Too often the motor on a piece of machinery stored for the winter will be forgotten until it is too late. All machinery should be stored out of the weather and all working parts greased and oiled to prevent rusting. Batteries have to work much harder in the cold weather and need cleaned and inspected. Old batteries may have to be replaced because of the heavier load to turn motors in extremely cold weather.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, October 26
Pennsylvania National Farmers Organization annual convention, Holiday Inn, State College, Pa.

Monday, October 28
Pennsylvania State Grange, 102nd Annual Session, Trinity Area Senior High School, Washington, Pa. Continues through October 31.

Wednesday, October 30
4:00 p.m. - Berks County Agricultural Center Open House, Bern Township. New Holland Sales Stables Annual Dairy Show and Sale.

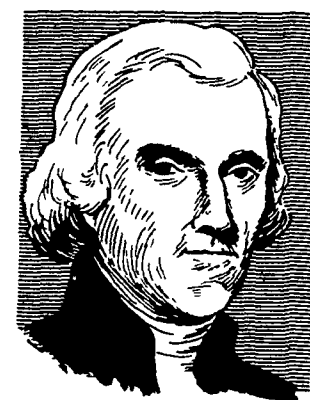
Thursday, October 31
7:30 p.m. - Lancaster Beekeepers Fall Meeting, Gamblers Dutch Gold Honey, 2220 Dutch Gold Drive, Rohrerstown.

religious festivals were the essence of religion, but Amos lifted up the oppression of the weak, the lying and cheating of the powerful, the corruption of economic, social, and political life and was saying as loudly as he could: "That's religion!"

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Friday, November 1
Timonium Fair, Timonium, Md. Continues through November 6.

American Viewpoints



Of the various executive abilities, no one excited more concern than that of placing the interests of our fellow-citizens in the hands of honest men, with understanding sufficient for their stations.

— Thomas Jefferson

Editor's Quote Book

There is only one way to achieve happiness on this terrestrial ball, and that is to have a clear conscience or none at all.

— Odgen Nash