

Farm Commentary

World Red Meat Consumption Drops

Per capita red meat consumption declined in most of the developed countries in 1973 because of record cattle prices, which caused producers to retain breeding animals to increase production. The situation was further aggravated in the last half of the year by a slowdown in income growth and consumer purchasing power which limited demand for red meat, especially beef.

In some of the developing countries per capita consumption increased because of higher production as well as programs to make more meat available for domestic consumption as in Brazil. In other developing countries per capita consumption was down because of higher prices and lower production.

Beef and Veal

U.S. per capita consumption fell to 51 kilograms (kg) per capita, compared to 54 kg in 1972 because of reduced domestic production and high retail prices. In the European Community (EC) per capita beef and veal consumption was unchanged in 1973 at 25 kg per capita. This level of consumption has remained almost constant since 1969. In most other areas of the world consumption of beef and veal remained unchanged or declined because of the sharp price increase in beef curing 1972-1973. In Argentina, Brazil, and Australia beef consumption was up because of higher levels of domestic production.

U.S. per capita consumption in 1973 was 28 kg per capita compared to 31 kg in 1972. The decline was due to reduced domestic pork production. In the EC per capita consumption declined for the first time since the formation of the Common Market. Per capita consumption fell from 30 kg per capita to 29 kg after 5 years of increases in per capita consumption. High retail prices and low production were the main reasons for the decline. Per capita consumption in Canada was down from 28 kg to 26 kg, while it was up from 24 kg to 28 kg in Taiwan.

Sheep, Lamb, and Goat Meat

Sheep meat consumption in all the major consuming countries except New Zealand declined during 1973 because high wool prices caused producers to reduce slaughter. World wool prices now are declining and sheep slaughter in 1974 will increase. This should cause an increase in per capita sheep meat consumption in 1974.

Outlook for 1974

In 1974, red meat production has increased in the U.S., Japan, Canada, and Western Europe. High world grain prices and low livestock prices have encouraged increased marketing of livestock by farmers in order to cut losses. However, retail prices remain high in Europe, Japan, and Canada because of increased marketing margins and price support policies. In Japan, Spain, and the EC, the price support policies have caused a sharp increase in surplus meat supplies held at government expense and have caused the governments to either embargo or limit imports in order to reduce stocks and support domestic livestock prices.

Per capita meat consumption in 1974 is expected to increase because

of higher production in the major importing countries, but not to levels that would be expected under a "free market", because retail prices remain high and imports have been limited. In the major exporting countries per capita consumption is expected to increase because of rising production and reduced demand in the EC, Japan, and Western Europe and North America.

U.S. Exports of Breeding Animals Seen Record High

U.S. exports of breeding animals — beef and dairy cattle and swine, are expected to set new records this year.

During the first 6 months, beef cattle exports totaled 23,544 head, up from 15,093 head exported during the first 6 months of 1973 and not too short of the 26,094 total exported during all of last year.

Dairy breeding cattle exports were running slightly behind the 1973 pace with 16,488 exported during Jan. - June compared to 20,476 imported during the first 6 months of 1973. Breeding swine exports totaled 7,496 head during Jan. - June compared to 6,896 head a year earlier.

Crossbreds were the leading beef cattle exported, with Charolais second, Brhman, third. Holsteins lead in dairy cattle exported.

The Netherlands: A Rising Farm Market for U.S.?

Rising per capita income, the entry of more and more women into the labor pool, an increased demand for easy-to-prepare foods and changes in shopping methods are bringing about basic alterations in Dutch consumption patterns.

These factors also add up to a probable boost in farm imports in the future and thereby provide U.S. exporters with an opportunity to expand shipments of food and food-related items to the Netherlands.

World Output of Eggs,

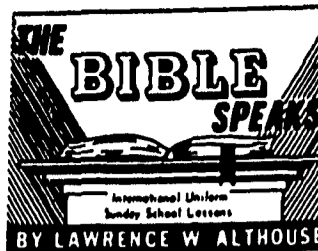
Poultry Meat Seen Down in '75

World production of poultry meat and eggs are both seen higher this year, but the combination of high feed costs and low returns have slowed world output in recent months and it's expected to bring world output of both poultry meat and eggs down in 1975.

According to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, world egg output will hit about 24 million dozen eggs this year, up 1 pct. from a year earlier, 2 pct. above the 1972 total. But, egg production is projected at only 23.3 billion dozen next year — a 3 pct. cutback.

By the same token, world production of poultry meat, seen at 29.8 billion lbs. up about 1 pct. from a year earlier, 3 pct. above that for 1972. However, producer cutbacks are seen as reducing world production in 1975 to 27.7 billion lbs — a 7 pct. decrease.

U.S. is the world leader in the production of both poultry meat and eggs. Its 1974 poultry meat output is seen at 11.02 billion lbs., up slightly from a year earlier, down slightly from 1972. Its egg output this year is seen at 65.6 billion eggs (about 5.45 billion dozen), down 1½ pct. from a year earlier, 6 pct. below its 1972 total. The USSR ranks 2nd in both. It is expected to produce nearly 3 billion lbs. of poultry meat, about 54 billion (4.5 billion dozen) eggs this year.



GOD'S WAYS

Lesson for December 16, 1974

Background Scripture: Luke 1:39-55; John 1:1-5, 9-18.
Devotional Reading: Luke 2:8-20.

William Cowper wrote a hymn, the first two lines of which put into descriptive words the experiences of many of God's children: God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants his footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm.

Sometimes we are awed and thrilled by these "mysterious ways," and sometimes we are baffled. This is particularly evident when the way God chooses to work seems quite at odds with the choices we would make under the same circumstances.

Why me?

The beginning of the Christmas story in Luke is a good example. For long centuries the people of Israel had waited for the coming of God's Messiah. If we were to have devised the scenario of that coming, it would certainly have been one of great pomp and ceremony.

But God chose one of his "strange ways" to bring all this to pass. He chose, not the royal household of Herod or the lineage of the priesthood, but a simple woman and her carpenter husband from the unpromising town of Nazareth of Galilee. How "strange" of God to do it that way!

Today you can visit the obscure little village, Ein Kerem, a few miles outside of Jerusalem where it is believed that Mary visited her kinswoman Elizabeth. In the courtyard of the Church of the Visitation Mary's joyous hymn, "The Magnificat" ("my soul magnifies the Lord..."), is inscribed in forty-one different languages.

Mary's response to Elizabeth's startling proclamation, "Blessed are you among women..." (Luke 1:42), seems to be a combination of joy and wonder. In a sense she is asking: "Why me?" Why should something of this magnitude be given to a "handmaiden" of "low estate"?

Put down the mighty

In a moment of great inspiration, Mary seems to apprehend, if not comprehend, some of the purpose behind God's "strange ways." God has a habit of scattering "the proud in the imagination of their hearts," of putting down "the mighty from their thrones," and exalting "those of low degree" (1:51, 52). What he has done with her in blessing her, so God is continually doing.

Behind this "mysterious way" of God there is a purpose: "He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy" (1:54). It is the merciful grace of God that is constantly confounding and amazing the mind of man. It is his gracious love that goes far beyond the limitations of man's reason and imagination.

NOW IS THE TIME...



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To Practice Good Sanitation Livestock and poultry producers must pay attention to the health of their herds and flocks in order to get efficient gains and production. The care of the animals is very important especially when they are not up to normal vitality. The spread of infections can often be prevented if the farmer is very strict about permitting visitors in the barn and careful himself about bringing home infection on his boots and trucks. Wild birds and stray animals should be kept out of buildings as much as possible because they may carry diseases. Rats and mice should be eradicated as much as possible. Good sanitation and good health go together and should be recognized.

To Prepare Farm Show Exhibits

The 1975 State Farm Show is less than a month away and no doubt this part of the state will have many exhibitors. The entry deadline has passed for most livestock but many of the other items may still be entered and prepared. Potential exhibitors are urged to obtain an Premium List and follow the directions carefully. Livestock should be injected and treated as listed in order to be eligible. The selection of crop and Home Economics exhibits does take time and should be started in the near future. Agriculture is still a very important part of our economy and we hope that local folks will again be

interested in exhibiting their products.

To Consider Income Tax Changes

The time is here when some attention should be given to tax returns. Wears told of additional revisions this year that could effect many farmer tax returns. The Farmer's Tax Guide should soon be out and we urge all producers to obtain one. In many cases it might pay to hire a tax return expert to file the report in order to utilize any changes that might be benefit. Farmer income as compared to farmer expenses is not as good this year and tax report savings become more important.

To Be Careful With Livestock Wastes

Good farm management will keep most livestock and poultry producers out of trouble in the way of water pollution this winter if the waste is not spread on frozen ground or on snow-covered ground. In addition, it is advised to use sod or vegetative covered fields for this application to prevent severe run-off. Sloping fields near streams should not be covered with waste now unless they have a good vegetative cover. Level land will permit less run-off than hilly fields. Soil injection is probably the best method of waste application today but in cold weather this is not possible. Some attention to the preventing of stream pollution this winter might prevent a producer from being reported to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Farm Calendar

Monday, December 16

Twin Valley Young-Adult Farmers Corn Hybrid Meeting at the Vo-Ag classroom - Twin Valley High School beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Family Christmas Program at the Ephrata Jr. High School Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
Garden Spot Young Farmers Meeting on Business Analysis for improving farm income. 7:45 p.m. Garden Spot High School Ag classroom.

That is why God's ways must seem forever to man to be both strange and wonderful. (Holy Land Tour with Rev. Althouse, Feb. 12-16. Box 115, Mohnton, Pa. 19540)

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Wednesday, December 18

Sol-Air Feedlot Day Open House at Caleb Wenger's two miles south of the Buck on Rt. 272. Panel discussion and speakers will be included on the program.

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This is the time of the year when farmers take a look at their mechanized needs for the coming year. Sperry New Holland, a leading farm machinery manufacturer, points out that the value of farm machinery and motorized vehicles on North American farms is more than \$50 billion.

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Holiday meals will range from turkey on Christmas to the New Year's pork meal - believed by some to bring good luck during the coming year. In addition to the millions of farming people involved in the overall raising of poultry and livestock, the meat and poultry marketing industry employs well over 300,000 workers with a payroll of better than \$2½ billion a year.