

Dutch Livestockmen

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The consumer, as well as the livestock producer, is generally held accountable for the cost of maintaining a pleasant environment. On this basis, some Dutch officials recently made estimates of the costs to consumers of proposed measures for improving the environment. Other estimates were made of

reductions in pork producers' incomes should the livestock sector bear the total cost of these improvements.

In making these estimates, the four alternatives considered for disposing of solid waste were processing for discharge into surface water, disposal through the manure bank technique, drying of manure, and

dumping it into the sea.

The manure bank concept was the least expensive of all measures considered. Net income of pork producers would decline 30 percent if no transfer of cost is made. On the other hand, retail prices would increase 3 percent if the full cost were borne by the consumer. Highest cost was associated with drying techniques.

A consistent theme at meetings between livestock producers and Government officials is that efficient solutions for environmental problems will be found without seriously disrupting current progress.

Even so, any significant stiffening of pollution control guidelines is expected to hasten current trends toward larger and fewer livestock producers.

Livestock production practices in the Netherlands make the problem of waste disposal somewhat different from that of the United States. With the exception of dairy cattle and sheep, which are normally pastured when possible, Dutch livestock fattening is limited almost entirely to enclosed sheds or barns. Therefore, waste runoff problems are not comparable to those in the open feedlots of the United States. The flat and sandy soils throughout the Netherlands also tend to reduce the runoff pollution effect.

Most Dutch livestock fattening barns have an impermeable tank or cellar close by in which animal waste is stored as liquid manure. This means that odor is kept to a minimum. At various intervals, this waste is applied to fields with liquid manure spreaders. The number of spreaders is now close to 45,000, as compared with slightly over 10,000 in 1960.

Liquid sprayers account for most of this increase. The general practice is to spread early in the day when the air is moving up and to plow down quickly if the area is to be planted to a crop. Efforts are usually made to spread manure when the wind will blow the unpleasant odor away from neighbors.

The use of open oxidation pits or ditches to dispose of

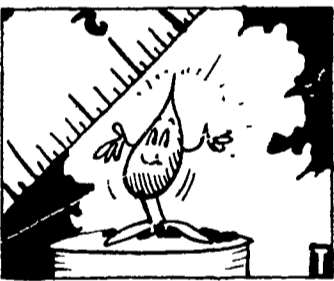
livestock waste has been all but eliminated. Termination dates have already been established for the small number (reportedly now at less than 30) of such operations that are major contributors to pollution.

In the Netherlands, statutory authority for environmental control is provided by the 1967 Nuisance Decree of the Crown and the 1970 Water Pollution Act. These authorize setting, monitoring, and enforcing standards; research; and technical and financial assistance.

Broad guidelines, established at the national level, apply only generally to livestock producers. They include suggestions for handling and disposing of livestock waste, suggested distance to be maintained between livestock barns and urban areas, schools, churches, or recreation areas, and guidelines for design and construction of livestock barns, sheds, and waste storage facilities.

As yet, no standards are imposed on the number of animal units that can be maintained on a given unit of land or floor space. However, general guidelines established by the Advisory Service of the Ministry of Agriculture are being followed by an increasing number of livestock producers. However, the authority for setting and enforcing standards is usually left to municipalities.

Lately, however, with tremendous growth of the livestock sector and the growing closeness of city and farm, new procedures are being proposed to fill the need for faster decision making and to ensure that uniform standards are applied.



One drop of blood, no bigger than the letter "a," contains 5,000,000 red blood cells and about 5,000 white blood cells, according to World Book Encyclopedia.

Pig Crop Increases

Pennsylvania's December 1, 1974 hog and pig inventory was 633,000, up 9 percent from a year earlier according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Inventory value at \$29,435,000 was down 8 percent due to an \$8.50 per head decrease in value to \$46.50. Breeding stock on hand at 82,000 was 17 percent more than a year ago and market hogs were up 8 percent to 551,000.

The spring (Dec. 1973-May 1974) pig crop amounted to 468,000—15 percent greater than the previous spring crop. There were 60,000 sows and gilts farrowed with an average of 7.8 pigs per litter. The fall (June-November 1974) crop of 390,000 pigs was 9 percent above a year earlier and came from 50,000 sows with 7.8 pigs per litter average. The total pig crop for the year (Dec. 1973-Nov. 1974) was 858,000—up 12 percent from a year earlier. Producers' intentions to farrow 63,000 sows during December 1974 through May 1975 are up 5 percent from a year ago.

Hogs and pigs on U.S. farms December 1, 1974 are estimated at 55.1 million, 10 percent less than a year earlier and 7 percent below December 1, 1972. This is the lowest December 1 number since 1965. The number kept for breeding at 7.4 million, is down 15 percent from a year ago and 14 percent less than two years ago. Market hogs

and pigs at 47.6 million are 9 percent below December 1, 1973 and down 6 percent from December 1, 1972.

The U.S. pig crop from December 1973 through November 1974 was 84.0 million, 5 percent below a year ago and 8 percent less than the same period two years earlier. The 1974 total was the smallest annual pig crop since 1965.

The 5.5 million sows farrowed during June-November 1974 was down 7 percent from the same period a year earlier. Average litter size during this period was 7.11 pigs, compared with 7.16 in June-November 1973. This is the lowest litter average for this period since 1960.

Chow Mein

Chinese chefs often sprinkle a little extra turkey on each serving of this dish—for more flavor. It is one of many dishes they make using leftover roast turkey and chow mein only takes 15 minutes to cook—once the chopping and slicing is done

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Antiques & Collectables; oak furniture (2 beds; rocker; sideboard; dresser); dove tailed blanket chest; carnival glass dish; depression glass; blue plates; old comb cases; cherry seeder; lanterns; crocks; etc., etc.

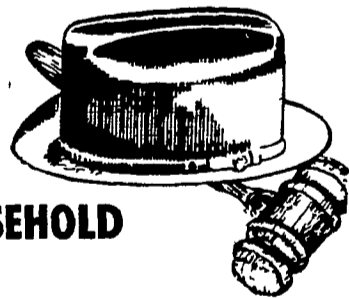
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Receiving Consignments for Feb. 6
Antique Sale.

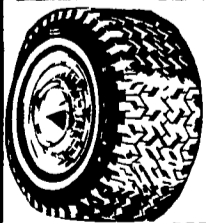
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COWS

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