

Lancaster Farming

Serving The Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania Areas

Vol. 20 No. 12

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 1, 1975

\$2.00 Per Year



Jim, left, and Carlton Groff lost money on their beef feeding operation in Southern Lancaster County last year, but they say they'll

survive. And they say they'll be making money on beef when the bottom drops out of the corn market.

Beef Prospects Could Brighten, Moore Says

"Cattle feeding might turn profitable by fall, but it'll be nowhere near as good as it was two years ago," Lou Moore told an audience of feeders on Monday at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Moore, an extension economist from Penn State, was the lead-off speaker at a cattle feeders day which

drew 200 farmers from five Pennsylvania counties and a few from Maryland.

Moore told the feeders that consumers are going to have a field day with beef purchases in 1975. "Per capita consumption could well hit 123 pounds pounds," he said, "which would break the old record of 117 pounds set in

1974."

"In spite of the economy, demand for beef will be good," Moore said. "Even though a lot of people aren't working, they're still drawing some pretty good unemployment checks."

Hedging as a way to lock in profits is out for the time

[Continued on Page 9]

Robert Bair

Award Winning Poultry Judge

Robert Bair, a 16-year-old student at Eastern York High School, has been an active member of FFA for the past three years.

Along with being a member of the chapter, Robert has served as president and vice-president of the group, along with serving on numerous committees.

Robert's main project interest has been in poultry and poultry production work. He has exhibited eggs at the York Fair and at the Farm Show, often receiving the top prizes.

During his freshmen year, Robert judged poultry at the FFA Activities Week held at Penn State, where he placed first in the state and was awarded a trip to the National FFA convention in Kansas City. During the national competition, Robert received a bronze medal—quite an honor for a first time contestant.

Last year at the State competition, Robert placed

fourth and received a trip to the Eastern States Exposition where the state team placed third.

Along with his state and national accomplishments, Robert has also won several local poultry judging competitions.

Just how does a young man like Robert know so much about poultry? Robert explained the situation in this manner.

"My father is involved in the poultry business, so it was natural for me to try it as a project," he explained.

Robert's project happens to be a 6000 bird broiler operation.

"My enterprise is a contracted operation with a feed company," Robert commented.

"We receive the chicks when they are one day old, and raise them for 8 weeks until they are about 5 lbs."

"My particular birds are bought for speciality purposes for the kosher type

[Continued on Page 16]



A Junior at Eastern York High School, Robert Bair has been an active member of the FFA chapter for the past three years, winning numerous awards for poultry judging.

Jim and Carlton Groff say . . .

"It Pays to Stay In Beef Farming"

"Personally, I wouldn't be too bothered if grain prices stayed high for awhile," Carlton Groff told Lancaster Farming the other Saturday morning. Surprising words from a man who, with his brother Jim, has 440 head right now in their Kirkwood R1 feedlot. "We can fatten steers 15 percent cheaper than commercial feedlots. That means they run into trouble before we do, and if grain prices stay high enough long enough, we're going to see a lot of tax-sheltered operations going out of business."

"The big investor owned feedlots aren't going to close down," Groff added. "Some of those fellows have been in the business for years. They've had a few good years and they can stand a few bad years, just like we can. The feedlots that will be in trouble are the ones that are collecting fees from doctors, lawyers and businessmen for buying, feeding and selling cattle."

Both Groffs, Jim and Carlton, share in their belief that the people who make money in the beef business are the ones that stay in it through the ups and downs of market cycles. "The people who are in and out of the

market are always one year late," Carlton said.

"Even though we lost money last year, we're going to stay in the beef business," Jim added. "We'll survive."

The Groffs keep a very close watch on their input costs and profit figures, and they know within a cent or two what they need to break even on a load of feeder steers. The books are the responsibility of Carlton, who was a math teacher before he and Jim formed their partnership in 1967. When they decided to go into farming, Jim was working as a glazing foreman for Pittsburgh Plate Glass.

When the partnership was formed, they bought their parents' 220-acre home farm. Since then, the Groffs have bought another 180

acres, and are presently leasing 200 more acres. In addition to the bookwork, Carlton is responsible for most of the operation of 60 acres of orchard on the home farm. Jim oversees machinery, crops and cattle. Both share in pruning chores and overall management, and their wives take care of a retail fruit store. Very little outside labor is hired.

Not only do the Groffs believe in staying in the beef business, they also like to spread their risk throughout the year. "We're trying to get set up to market ten head a week," Jim explained. "That means we'll hit all the lows, but we'll hit the highs, too, and we like to work on the average price."

Right now, from six to

[Continued on Page 17]

FFA Red Rose, Star Awards to Local Youths

Ruby Ginder, Elizabethtown R3, was named Lancaster County Star Farmer, the first girl ever to win that honor, on Monday night at Solanco High School. This year's star agribusinessman is Chris McCarty, Conestoga R2.

Also honored on Monday night were 46 FFA students from eight Lancaster County schools. The students were named to receive the Star Red Rose degree.

Ruby Ginder is a junior at Manheim Central High School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ginder, who own and operate a dairy and beef farm. Ruby is in her third year as an FFA member, and plans to go on farming after she graduates from high school. Her FFA projects to date have included dairy, capons, beef and alfalfa. The Star Farmer award carries with it a check for \$100. Ruby's check will be used to help finance her trip to the next national FFA convention in Kansas City. The winner of another \$100 check was Chris McCarty, son of William I. McCarthy, the herdsman of Turkey Hill Farms during summer vacations, and hopes to become a full-time Turkey Hill employee after graduation.

The star farmer and star agribusinessman this year were chosen largely by the county FFA officers, and the first year for that procedure.

Previously, the winners had been chosen by a panel of adult judges representing the farming community. Two adults did work this year with the FFA officers in their judging of the candidates. They were Robert Kauffman, a Quarryville dairy farmer, and Dick Wanner, editor of Lancaster Farming. Both Kauffman and Wanner praised the FFA leaders for their judging of the candidates.

Listed below are the 46 Red Rose degree winners named Monday night. They are listed by schools.

Elizabethtown
Patrick R. Buggy
Elizabethtown R1; Marlir Dohner, Elizabethtown R1
James Rutt, Elizabethtown R1.

[Continued on Page 24]

In This Issue

FARM CALENDAR	10
Markets	2-6
Sale Register	57
Farmers Almanac	8
Classified Ads	28
Editorials	10
Homestead Notes	38
Home on the Range	40
Organic Living	47
Junior Cooking Edition	45
Sales Reports	63
Pa. Winternational	21
Horton Retires from Mt. Joy	23
Berks Co. DHIA	48
Sewing Feature	42