

## Untangling USDA's Cow, Production Figures

A month ago, USDA's Crop Reporting Board estimated U.S. milk production for 1974 at 114.9 billion lbs., down seven-tenths of 1 pct. from the 115.6 billion lb. total for 1973. It also estimated the nation's total of milk cows on farms averaged 11,161,000 and that production per cow had averaged 10,291 lbs. for the year.

But, with the issuance of the Jan. 1 cattle inventory earlier this month, the Statistical Reporting Service found itself having to readjust all of those figures. It found that milk cow numbers averaged 11,221,000; that milk production for 1974 totaled 115.4 billion lbs., slightly above an also readjusted 1973 total of 115.385 billion lb. total. Production per cow

was readjusted to 10,286 lbs.

Now, in the process, it readjusted each of the monthly milk production totals for 1974 upward, readjusted those for 1973 downward. The same for monthly cow numbers and production per cow.

Confusing? Okay, here's the January 1975 totals released last week. They show milk production at 9.3 billion lbs. for the month. That's slightly above the 9.29 billion lbs. (readjusted) from a year ago. Cow numbers are estimated at 11,204,000 for January. That's down slightly from the 11,212,000 total now estimated for December for December, but above the 11,105,000 estimate for December in last month's report.

## Meat Imports Off Sharply

U.S. meat imports off sharply last year. At 1.079 billion (1 billion, 79 million) lbs., those covered by the Meat Import Law (mainly fresh and frozen beef and veal) were down 20 pct. from 1973 and the lowest since 1968. Over-all meat imports (those covered by the Meat Import Law, plus canned and preserved beef and veal,

all pork and lamb and mutton) totaled 2.142 billion (2 billion, 142 million) lbs., down 17 pct. from a year earlier and the lowest since 1968.

Figures in the February issue of USDA's Livestock & Meat Situation were quoted on a carcass weight basis.

## Beef Consumption Hits All-Time High

Despite all that talk about beef prices, U.S. consumers ate a record amount of it last year. USDA reported last week that per capita beef consumption in 1974 jumped to 116.3 lbs. That's up from 109.6 lbs., in 1973 and two-tenths of a pound above the previous record (of 116.1 lbs.) set in 1972.

Over-all red meat consumption hit 187.0 lbs. per capita, up from 175.7

lbs. in 1973 and third highest on record. Which means it's still below the 191.8 lbs. record total in 1971 and the 189.0 lbs. total for 1972.

Veal consumption moved up from 1.8 lbs. per person in 1973 to 2.3 lbs. last year, the highest since 1971; pork, from 61.6 lbs. in 1973 to 66.0 lbs. last year; lamb and mutton dropped from 2.7 lbs. in 1973 to 2.4 lbs. last year.

## Potato Stocks Soar

Stocks of potatoes for all uses held by growers, dealers and processors in fall production areas on Feb. 1 totaled a record 130.7 million hun-

dredweight. That's up 23 pct. from a year earlier, 5 pct. above the previous record high Feb. 1 holdings of 1971.

## '74 Farm Exports At \$22 Billion

There's a typo on USDA's Cattle of Feed report issued last week. Ignore that 6,369,000 total quoted on page 1 in the report. Check page 2, which gives the Feb 1 cattle on feed total for 7 States at 6,050,000 head (the 6,369,000 total was from Jan 1)

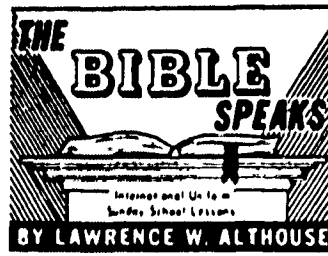
The 6,050,000 figure for Feb 1 is down 37 pct from a year earlier. A further check shows January placements in those 7 States (Ariz., Calif., Colo., Iowa, Kans, Nebr and Texas) totaled only 1,139,000 head, down 42 pct from a year earlier

## Feb. 1 Cattle on Feed Down 37 pct.

US farm exports for calendar 1974 hit \$22 billion. That's up 25 pct from the previous high (of \$17.7 billion) set a year earlier

Reasons for the gain Higher prices that more than offset lower export volume; sharply higher grain, oilseed

exports Though volume was off 6 pct, value per unit increased one-third from a year earlier Thus, while grain exports were off in volume, the value of those exports increased one-third to \$5.7 billion



### SAVED BY HOPE

Lesson for February 23, 1975

**Background Scripture:** Romans 5:1-5; 8:18-30; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3; 1 John 3:1-3; Revelation 21:1-7.

**Devotional Reading:** Romans 8:31-39.

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl observed in a Nazi concentration camp that often the key to survival was to be found in the prisoner's hope or lack of hope. If hope was destroyed in the prisoner, death was soon likely to follow.

Another illustration was given to me by a prominent cancer expert. A patient with a cancer that was diagnosed as terminal was put on a new drug that was unproven in its results. The patient, however, believed in the drug and began to improve rapidly. Soon, he was able to leave the hospital and he seemed amazingly on the road to recovery.

#### In This Hope

After he had enjoyed several months of apparent good health, a report appeared in the newspapers casting doubt on the validity of the drug. Within a few weeks, some of his old symptoms reappeared and it wasn't long before he was back in the hospital and his case looked hopeless once again. Back in the hospital, however, the physicians persuaded him to disregard the reports and try the drug again. This he did and soon he was out of the hospital again, apparently recovered.

When he had resumed his normal life again and enjoyed several months of good health, the U.S. government released and published a report that indicated that the drug had been proven worthless in the cure of cancer. Soon after reading this report, the man returned to the hospital and died.

So long as he clung to it, he was saved by his hope. Whether or not the drug was actually effective in dealing with cancer, his hope mobilized the cancer-fighting resources of his own body and, for a time, prevailed. Only when he lost his hope did his situation become truly hopeless.

Someone has said that there are no hopeless situations, only people who have grown hopeless about them. What this means is that hope is not to be dependent upon external conditions, but inner realities. What is really important is, not what happens to us, but how we respond to what happens to us. The source of our hope is always something inside us, not outside us.

**No Comparison**  
For example, the situation in which we find ourselves may seem hopeless. No matter where we look there is nothing but discouragement. This is not something imagined, but real. The situation in which we find ourselves is really a bad one! Yet, no matter how bad the situation may be, there is always a reality that can overshadow the gloomiest prospects. As Paul puts it: "I consider that the sufferings of the present



## NOW IS THE TIME...

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#### To Plan For Tree Planting

The early spring months of March and April are excellent times to plant trees of nearly all varieties. Everyone seems to be interested in the environment and the effort to have pure air to breathe and pure water to drink. An abundance of trees in the country and in each community will help accomplish both of the objectives. If mature or diseased trees have to be cut down, then young trees should be planted to replace them. Waste land can well be planted to many kinds of evergreen trees and contribute to a better environment. Shade trees about the home or farm homestead are very beneficial, and should be a vital part of any rural or suburban landscape.

#### To Practice Sanitation

At a recent livestock meeting Dr. Sam Guss from Penn State was reviewing some of the important practices in the raising of livestock. He emphasized the importance of having new-born animals arrive into a clean, sanitary area. This may be inside buildings or out on the ground, such as good pasture. Little animals should be handled similar to new-born babies the less exposure there is to filth and disease, the better it is for them. Special care and preparing for the arrival of new animals will help increase the percentage raised. Don't expect Mother Nature to do everything.

## Farm Calendar

#### Saturday, Feb. 22

9:00 - 3:15 - Schuylkill Co. livestock management day, Penn State Schuylkill campus.

#### Monday, Feb. 24

7:30 p.m. - Twin Valley Young Adult Farmers arc welding class no. 1, vo-ag shop, Twin Valley H.S.  
Manheim Young Farmers - first day of machinery reconditioning workshop.

time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18).

The source of our hope, thus, is never to be found in what we find about us, but in "sharing the glory of God" (Romans 5:2). Greater than any hardship we may know in the present is the great gift that God has promised us beyond the present circumstances. Therefore, we can take hope in the midst of our bad times because we are confident of the grace that God has in store for us.

By looking ahead to what God has prepared for us, we can, in a sense, have a foretaste of the fulfillment of our hope in the future, and find the strength to prevail amidst the trails of the present. It is thus that we are saved by our hope.

#### To Broadcast Legumes

Some alfalfa and red clover producers are making plans to broadcast the seed on top of their winter wheat fields. This may be done from late February until mid-March. The objective should be to broadcast the seed on the open ground while there is alternate freezing and thawing of the topsoil; this will work the small seeds into the ground. In recent years, many growers will wait until the topsoil becomes dry enough to use a drill and then broadcast the legumes; this is a better practice than broadcasting. However, some growers may not have the needed equipment. If broadcasting is to be done in winter grain, it should be done within the next month.

#### To Make Plans To Topdress Wheat

The application of a nitrogen fertilizer on winter wheat fields during early to mid-March is a good practice for most farms. This extra nitrogen stimulates growth and increases yields. However, if the fertility level is very high and lodging has been a problem, then smaller amounts should be used. Also, wheat fields that are to be seeded down to alfalfa or clover, should get smaller amounts. The rate of nitrogen application per acre will range from 25 to 60 pounds depending upon these situations. Sand, gravel, or shale soils should get the heavier amounts. The time to make the topdressing is in March when vegetative growth is starting.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 25

7:30 p.m. - Swine management meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

7:30 p.m. - Cedar Crest YF vs. FFA volleyball, Cedar Crest Middle School.

7:30 p.m. - Garden Tractor Pulling Club organizational meeting, Rough & Tumble grounds, Kinzers.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 26

9:00 a.m. - S.E. Pa. Soybean meeting, Bucks Co., Holiday Inn, Kulpsville. Take Lansdale interchange of Pa. Tpk.

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - 4-H Club Leaders training meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

7:30 p.m. - Garden Spot Adult Farmer meeting on farm credit, Hinkietown Alternate School.

#### Thursday, Feb. 27

7:30 p.m. - E-Town Young Farmer poultry management meeting, vo-ag room, E-Town H.S.

7:45 p.m. - Chester Co. Corn Meeting, vo-ag room, Owen J. Roberts H.S. at Rts. 100 & 23.

DHIA workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Continues through Friday.

#### Monday, March 3

7:30 p.m. - Manheim Young Farmers monthly meeting.

#### Tuesday, March 4

9:30 - 3:30 - 1975 Livestock Day, Penn State