

Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

Cattle Prices May Be Reaching Peak

Many in the livestock and meat trade think that cattle prices have about reached their high point, but others think the prices could be nudged up another \$2 to \$3 before a retreat develops. They add that a cash price of \$60 or so a hundredweight is possible, but this will depend on how tight supplies are, the weather and consumer reaction to climbing retail beef prices. Dry weather could bring a rush of grass-fed cattle from rangelands to market, and that would take some heat off choice-grade beef prices, analysts say.

Earlier this year, cattle feeders indicated that marketings of grain-fed cattle during the spring would be at the lowest level in a decade. There's a record number of cattle in the U.S., most livestock specialists agree, but more of those being marketed are coming direct from grassland ranges, or are being fed just a little grain. One specialist estimates that marketings of grass-fed cattle in the third quarter will total 2.8 million, up 1.3 million from a year earlier.

Fed-cattle marketings probably will increase this summer, too, but at a slower rate. One analyst estimates

that the second quarter marketings of fed cattle might be about 4.8 million head, down 1.5 million from a year earlier. The marketings could rise to 5.4 million in the third quarter, which would be just a bit under the year-earlier level, he says. He sees a further increase in the fourth quarter, with marketings reaching about 5.9 million, which would be 400,000 more than in the final period of 1974.

Meat packers apparently are expecting prices of grain-fed cattle to hold up during the next couple of months. Last week, packers contracted for grain-fattened cattle to be delivered in July and August at prices ranging from \$46 to \$50 per 100 pounds, according to the American National Cattlemen's Association. The amount of contracting increased, the group said.

Trading in wholesale beef yesterday was meager and mostly packer-to-packer; prices were mostly unchanged. Wholesale pork trading was active and prices rose slightly. Futures prices for cattle, hogs and pork bellies closed mixed yesterday. Analysts said further reports that consumers were resisting high red-meat prices induced some traders to sell contracts.

Winter Wheat Projected at 1.61 Bil. Bu.

The Agriculture Department's forecast for 1975 winter-wheat production showed hardly any change from the record 1.61 billion bushels projected May 1.

Reporting on conditions as of June 1, the Department said rain had slowed wheat harvests in Texas and other parts of the southern Great Plains, leading to projections that production might be down one million bushels.

Winter-wheat yields are currently expected to average 32 bushels an

acre, up from 29.5 bushels for the 1974 crop but well below the 33.1 bushels an acre in 1972.

In the past decade, the department's June 1 estimated for winter wheat has exceeded the final harvest figures for six years by an average of 46 million bushels.

Spring-potato production as of June 1 was estimated at 17.6 million hundred-weight, 3 percent less than the May 1 estimate and 27 percent less than the 24.3 million hundred-weight produced in 1974.

Butter Output Continues Up

U.S. production of butter and non-fat dry milk continued up during April, but output of American cheese continued off. Butter production, at 101 million lbs., was up 14 pct. from a year earlier. This was the 11th straight month output has exceeded that of a corresponding month a year earlier. It was also the highest single month's total since June 1972.

Meanwhile, production of nonfat dry milk, at 111.5 million lbs., was up 17 pct. from a year earlier. This

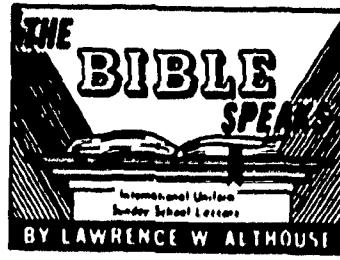
marked the 12th straight month output has been above that of a corresponding month a year earlier. But, output of American cheese, down for the sixth straight month, hit 153 million lbs., off 14 pct. from a year earlier.

The Jan.-April totals: Butter, 385 million lbs., up 22 pct.; nonfat dry milk, 372.4 million lbs., up 31 pct.; and American cheese, 549.7 million lbs., down 17 pct. from a year earlier.

Corn Is In The Ground

While there had been some concern earlier that corn crop might not get in, it has Or just about had as of June 1 The Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin reports that 96 pct. of

the corn was in the 14 States that produced 88 pct of the national total last year. Moreover, 100 pct. of it was in Iowa, Illinois and Kansas



KOINONIA

Lesson for June 15, 1975



NOW IS THE TIME...

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Background Scripture: Jeremiah 26: 1-6; Luke 24: 13-27, 44-49; John 20: 30-31; I John 1: 1-4; 5:13.

Devotional Reading: John 5:39-47.

In the Greek New Testament there frequently occurs a word for which there is no adequate equivalent. The word is *koinonia* (COIN-o-NEE-uh) and most often it is translated as "fellowship," although that term is quite inadequate. The word "koinonia" implies partnership, sharing, friendship, mutual participation, communion, and relationship. As William Barclay puts it, *koinonia* "is that bond which binds Christians to each other, to Christ and to God."

"Fellowship with us" In a sense, the Bible is a *koinonia*. The writer of 1 John speaks of his epistle in this manner: "... that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship (*koinonia*) with us..." (1 John 1:3).

Each of the various writers of the Bible had experiences in which they encountered God. Their biblical writings are an attempt to express and share with us those encounters. Their purpose is not just to tell us about those experiences, but to help us enter in to their experiences and encounter God for ourselves.

When the writers of Genesis write of creation and the story of Adam and Eve, they are attempting to help us feel the same sense of awe and wonder in God's presence which they felt. When the writer of I Kings tells us an episode from the history of Israel, he wants us to experience, just as he does, the presence of God working in the affairs of men.

"That you may believe" When the Psalmist sets down his testimony of faith, he wants us to share personally in his moment of inspiration. When the prophet records his warnings to the people of Israel, he wants us to feel the same sense of God's judgement that he feels. When the writer of one of the gospels records for us the words and actions of Jesus, he does so that we might encounter the Lord for ourselves.

This is what John says about the purpose of his gospel:

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31).

The writer of John, therefore, wants to share his experience with us, not just that we may know about it, but so that, in a sense, we may live it with him. The purpose is not to teach us history - stale dates and events - nor is it to teach us

To Control Canada Thistle

One of the best times to do the most harm to a Canada Thistle plant is to cut it as the blossoms (or buds) are developing at the top of the plant. Here in Lancaster County this should be done now before the seed heads develop and blow over the community. When cut at this stage the root reserves are depleted as the plant tries to grow another plant for the remainder of the summer. As this second plant gets well grown (12 to 18 inches), it should be sprayed with a herbicide such as Banvel D. This chemical will be taken through the leaves down into the plant stem and roots and do a good job of killing the entire plant. All land owners are urged to give attention to killing Canada Thistles at this time.

To Practice Sanitation For Fly Control

The ordinary house and barn fly is a nuisance around most premises; this is especially true on farms with livestock. The place to start to cut down the fly problem is with good sanitation practices at all times. Flies breed in filth and dampness and the elimination of these areas will reduce fly reproduction. Manure piles and box-stalls should be cleaned out regularly and sprayed with Diazinon or Cygon to kill fly eggs and maggots. Poison baits may be used on window ledges or other places out of the reach of children, livestock and pets. Residual sprays may be used on the interior of barns using either Cygon or Korlan every 4 to 6 weeks. The changing of spray materials from year to year is strongly suggested in order to prevent the fly population from building a resistance against any one of the materials.

To Mulch Tomato Plants

Mulching around plants and shrubs is a very good practice at any time of the year, but with stake-grown tomatoes this is very important. When tomato plants are mulched with black plastic, lawn clippings, peat moss, or many other types of uniform source of moisture for the bearing plant. When we have alternate periods of

rules, regulations, or even a philosophy. The purpose is to give us an opportunity to let God speak to us about our problems, our concerns, and our lives.

The term, "The Word of God," then, is not simply what we receive when we read a book, but the living experience of God himself who speaks through our *koinonia* with those who produced the book we call the Bible.

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wet weather and dry weather we often get too many tomatoes with blossom-end rot and not fit to be used. Mulching along with sprinkling or watering during periods of little rain will help produce more sound tomatoes. Not any of the mulching material should be packed tightly around the tomato stalk; keep the material at least 2 to 3 inches away from the main stem.

To Spray Roses Regularly

Weekly sprays on rose bushes at this time of the year will keep down all of the fungus diseases such as black spot and mildew and control most of the insects. With our abundant rain and cool weather during the past month some bushes are already showing black spot. The use of either Folpet or Benlate as a fungicide each week along with an insecticide such as Malathion, Sevin, or Isotox should give good results. Most property owners take pride in their roses but they do require weekly attention for best results.

Farm Calendar

Sunday, June 15

12:45 p.m. - Manheim Young Farmers Picnic at the Mervin Hess Pavilion.
12:00 noon - Pa. Poland China Swine Breeder's Association Picnic at the farm of Roland Piper, Benton R3. 1-81 to I-80 take Lightstreet Exit. Follow Rt. 487 North to Benton.

Tuesday, June 17

FFA Activities Week at Penn State - Competitions through the 20th.

Friday, June 20

Pa. Egg Marketing Association meeting at the Sheraton-Conestoga 7:00 p.m.

Kempton Fair - Berks County through the 22nd.

Saturday, June 21

Reading Fair at the Reading Fair Grounds - Berks County June 21-28.

Farm Youth Calendar

Tuesday, June 17

Silver Spurs 4-H Horse Club Grooming and Showing Contest at the Rocking G. Stables.

Mt. Joy Cooking Club meeting at the United Methodist Church in Mt. Joy 11:00 a.m.

FFA State Activities Days through the 20th at Penn State.

Lehigh County Dairy Club Meeting at Ralph Urmey's Farm.

Wednesday, June 18

Lancaster County 4-H Council meeting at the Farm and Home Center beginning at 7:30 p.m.