

Surplus

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with more cattle expected on the market soon."

"Pork prices will probably stay high however as we just do not have the number of hogs as we usually expect," the agriculture official noted.

The Secretary told newsmen that food prices were decreasing although 51 percent of the product dollar was still going for processing and distribution.

"The farmer is still only getting 41 percent of the dollar for his goods and I'd like to see him going for the

other 59 percent for a change," Butz stated.

Asked whether or not the United States should be expected to feed a hungry world, Butz explained that we as a nation, should be striving to begin a program of "trade not aid" with needy countries. Noting for example that several South American Countries were now in the position to trade with America since being given aid, the official stated,

"We must try to help them develop to the point of being able to be trading partners."

Milk Has Marketing Problems

Questioned on the plight of the dairy farmers in the northeast area, Secretary Butz commented that although dairy had seen rough times in the past few months, he hoped for a brighter future.

"Milk has chronic problems," Butz stated.

"The per capita consumption of milk has gone down and it is a matter of real concern."

Secretary Butz praised the National dairy associations for their promotion attempts in helping to raise the consumption.

"We cannot price milk to accentuate decline, however," Butz noted as he addressed the audience on milk pricing and surpluses.

Answering charges that he was not sympathetic to the small farmer, the agricultural official stated that while his sympathies did rest with the individual farmer, he did not see it necessary or right for those people to starve, striving to keep a farm.

"I want to see farmers make a decent income from farming and not slowly starve."

Along the same lines, Secretary Butz told the audience that corporate farming had not in actuality been on the rise as it has been reported but has receded in the last few years.

"Regardless of what you hear," he stated, "there has been little growth in corporate farming."

Asked if the farmers in the northeast had been forgotten by the USDA, Butz denied the allegation saying that every sector of the country suffers at one time or another with the ups and downs of agriculture.

"Farmers in the northeast have not been written off," he stated.

Stating the ideas that transportation had put farmers in the northeast in a poor position, Butz noted that the Penn Central complications had been a factor in lower profits.

Replying to the allegation that the number of farms were decreasing at an alarming rate, Secretary Butz explained that while farms did decrease at the rate of 100,000 per year between 1965 and 1969, only 11,000 farms had been lost last year which was a measurable difference.

Extolling the need for trade, Butz closed his remarks by pointing out that marketing of agricultural products should be carried out with "vigorous trade and exports."

young plants, but most of the blame for the lower-than-expected crop is being placed on the wet spring and summer experienced in the Northeast. There have also been isolated reports of scab and lodging problems, according to area observers.

Pennfield's Al Landis sees the 1975 wheat crop as "being down somewhat," but believes the average number of bushels harvested per acre in Lancaster County will still be between 55 and 60 bushels. He made the estimate based on the condition of the wheat which he described as "still standing real well." Total number of bushels of wheat harvested this year in southeast Pennsylvania is likely to be above last year's total due to the fact that considerably more acreage has been planted.

The United States Department of Agriculture reports that total wheat acreage in the U.S. this year, at 74.4 million acres, is the highest since 1953, five per cent above last year, and 26 per cent over that planted two years ago. Winter wheat is up seven per cent over last year; the 1975 Duram acreage exceeds last year's by 13 per cent, and by more than 50 per cent if compared to 1973 statistics.

While these reports point to possibilities of a bumper crop, sharp drop in prices, and even a farm recession, the local grain scene is nevertheless unanimously described as being not much better than fair or average. One grain dealer judged the yield per acre to be as low as 38 bushels — "two-thirds of a crop." He blamed the situation on present wet conditions as well as the bare fields last winter.

This year's wheat crop was also listed as having smaller kernels of grain, but it wasn't definitely determined whether this was due to the variety or poor development because of rains. One spokesman noted the crop was not as advanced as a year ago, again blaming excessive amounts of moisture. "What we need is some low-humidity weather to get the wheat in before the grass covers it," concluded another dealer.

A story appearing in last Monday's Wall Street

Journal revealed that bumper crops are a strong possibility this year. Corn is expected to break the six million bushel barrier for the first time ever, and wheat production is likely to be around 1.62 billion bushels — up 17 per cent from last year. Soybeans are also doing very well, with the second largest crop in history being likely.

If bumper crops of corn, wheat, soybeans, barley and sorghum do materialize — and indications are they will — then the prices of these commodities will sag significantly. The average cash prices being forecasted after harvest by the Milwaukee securities brokerage firm of Robert W. Baird and Co. are: corn - 2.10; wheat - 3.00; soybeans - 4.00.

Wheat in Lancaster County is reportedly bringing anywhere from 2.60 to 3.17 per bushel.

New department created

Lancaster — Under a recent reorganization, the Agway Service Center at 1031 Dillerville Rd., will now fall under a new department called Motor Transportation Services, it was announced this week.

Agway's four other Service Centers, in Cortland, N.Y., Batavia, N.Y., Middletown, N.Y., and Westfield, Mass., will also be included in the new department. Previously, the centers were operated by Waymark, an Agway department which manufactures, fabricates, and services specialized truck bodies for Agway and other customers.

Named to head the Agway Motor Transportation Services department is Thomas McClelland, an economics graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He practices transportation law before the Interstate Commerce Commission and is currently on the Syracuse University graduate staff where he teaches transportation law.

McClelland said the Agway Service Centers "will play an increasingly important role in the overall maintenance of the Agway truck fleet," under the reorganization.

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Wheat

[Continued from Page 1]

Hood cited the wet weather as being factors which have delayed the harvest and also blamed it for the reduced yields, which some observers claim amounts to only "two-thirds of a crop." If the crop can't be brought in soon, Hood indicated, it may result in diseases and insect damage will cut yields even further.

"A month ago the crop looked beautiful," the grain company spokesman said, adding that in regions south of here there are some heavy infestations of scab which are "cutting yields terribly." Asked about potential damage from grain insects, Hood noted last year was the first he had ever seen the pest in this area, and so far none have been sighted in 1975 that he knows of. They still could come, however.

Local millers and grain dealers acknowledged that last year's lack of cover on the fields may have injured

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