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Caution marks outlook

By Dieter Krieg

Note: This report concludes one which was begun last week concerning the outlook on agriculture. The story is based on information received from: 1. The 12 annual Northeast Regional Outlook Conference which was held in Lancaster last week with specialists and economists from a number of agricultural colleges in attendance; 2. recently received bulletins from the Departments of Agriculture in Harrisburg and Washington; 3. reports from private business; and 4. the Wall Street Journal.

There are some important thoughts to keep in mind in interpreting these trends and assumptions. Dr. John Crothers, a marketing specialist at the University of Maryland, who spoke on the grain and feed outlook, described the agricultural outlook as involving "massive uncertainty." Stirring up some laughter, he likened this "anything may happen" condition to mothers who 20 years ago had their little daughters vaccinated in places they thought wouldn't show.

Jesse Cooper, Penn State extension ag economist, who served as chairman for the Thursday session, stressed that "you can't ignore what's happening over the fence... there's a lot of interrelationship between ag business." That statement became more apparent all throughout the conference as speaker after speaker noted that what happens in one market will have an effect on the others.

U.S. meat production continues to go down, with USDA pinning the blame on "continued sharply lower pork production."

July production of all red meat, at 2.8 billion pounds, was six percent below that of a year earlier.

Beef production, however, was only one percent below corresponding 1974 levels. USDA records showed 1.9 billion pounds of beef produced for the month of July. Veal production was up more than double from 1974 with 77 million pounds produced this year in July. Pork was down by 20 percent compared to a year ago and lamb and mutton production was off by 11 percent. Lamb prices are expected to stay "reasonably good."

Penn State's Virgil Corwley says cattle prices

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Red Lion High School's FFA chapter completely dominated the FFA beef show held last Saturday afternoon at the York Interstate Fair. Above, left to right, are Mark Innerst of Red Lion R3 who was champion fitter of the show; Brenda Walter of

Airville who was champion showman; Tom Innerst, Red Lion R3, with his reserve champion steer; and Earl Holtzinger, Red Lion R2 with the grand champion.

Enjoys public speaking

By Melissa Piper

EPHRATA - Being a 4-H member means many different things to each individual boy and girl involved in the program. And for one Lancaster County girl, being a 4-Her has meant a personal growth and development that has become very special.

Susan Martin, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Martin, Ephrata R3, has been a member of 4-H for the past several years, belonging to the Lincoln Sewing Club.

Although she admits being shy, Susan has improved her speaking abilities by taking part in the public speaking contest at the county level for the past two years. Speaking on her personal development through 4-H, Susan noted that it had been meaningful experience since she had been able to meet many new people.

"I think one of the best parts of 4-H is meeting people," the youth explained.

"And even more exciting is that I'm now able to speak better in school in front of the class."

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Susan Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Martin, Ephrata R3, enjoys sewing her own clothes both for 4-H work and as individual-projects.

County fairs begin

By Dieter Krieg

This coming week marks the opening of the Lancaster County Fair season, when two of no less than six fairs open their show rings and exhibit halls to contestants and visitors alike.

Kicking off the 1975 fair season is the Southern Lancaster County Community Fair at Quarryville. With two brand new buildings, this - the 26th annual Solanco Fair - may mark the beginning of a new era for the event. Fair officials hope to see the fair grow to be bigger and better than ever before, and note that in recent years it has grown at a rate of 40 percent per year.

The Solanco Fair Association, a non-profit organization which took charge of the \$90,000 expansion program, is hosting an Open House for the new buildings tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock. Officials from Harrisburg and entertainment by the Solanco Mens Chorus and the wind ensemble of the Solanco High School Band will be on hand. The fair opens officially on Wednesday.

Please turn to pages 54-57 for more information and a schedule concerning the Southern Lancaster County Community Fair.

Also starting next week is the Elizabethtown Market Place Fair sponsored by the town's Jaycees. The annual community festival is scheduled to begin this coming Wednesday and continues through Saturday.

Full details on the Market Place Fair will be included in a pamphlet to be distributed to some 22,000 homes within a 15 mile radius of Elizabethtown. Information may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Elizabethtown Jaycee Festival, Box 51, Elizabethtown, Pa. 17022.

Additional information about the Elizabethtown activities may also be obtained by turning to page 61 of last week's issue of Lancaster Farming and to page 81 of this issue.

Following the Solanco and Elizabethtown Fairs are the Ephrata Fair, which gets underway on the 23rd, and the West Lampeter Community Fair on the 24th. This is the 51st annual West Lampeter Fair, to be held at the Lampeter Community Center, Lampeter. We will

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Beef market puzzling

By Dieter Krieg

LANCASTER - Government marketing statistics aren't very accurate nor reliable according to some Lancaster County men who make a business of dealing with beef cattle. There are also some mixed emotions about the futures trading system.

William McCoy, president of the Lancaster Stock Yards, said he believes more farmers are using the futures market now and are watching it as a "barometer." Paul Good of Lititz, who deals with cattlemen in Pennsylvania and into Virginia, noted, however, that he has heard reports of the futures market placing cattlemen into more trouble than they had been in before and some confidence in it has been lost in addition to profits.

Good thinks the present beef cattle market has to be taken the way it comes - day by day. He adds that the markets are so unpredictable and unstable that it's difficult to determine what the prices will be next week or even tomorrow. "The market used to change by a quarter of a cent

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