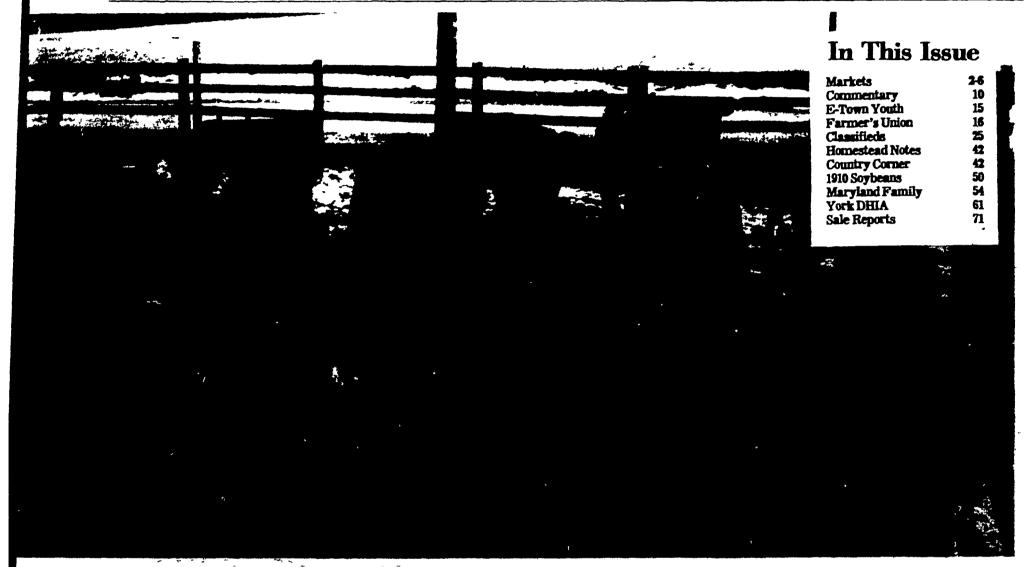


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Although the cattle market looks promising for the future, several variables are still lurking on the horizon.

## **Cattle market future looks promising**

By MELISSA PIPER LANCASTER - Although economist. he cattle outlook for the icentennial year still emains a "confusing hows improvement in the ndustry but without a

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Moore delivered his forecast at the annual Cattle Feeders Day held at the ituation", an overall view Farm and Home Center here on Tuesday.

Early 1976 reports have izeable increase in profit, shown that cattle on feed are ccording to Lou Moore, up 28 percent in 23 leading

cattle slaughter to be up animals." about 10 percent.

"Feeder cattle prices should be a little higher about spring," Moore noted, "when pastures turn green, producers are going to be

states including Penn- competing for steers to because of the low number of sylvania, according to the fatten out while now only economist, with the total packers are hidding for the

> that 1975 had been a we had predicted." "disaster" for the cow-calf However with the price operations but the feeders margins squeezed more this

cattle on market.

"Feed prices came down and a lot of feeders made money," he explained, Moore told the producers "which wasn't exactly what

had in general made money year, producers may not

experience the profits realized in 1975.

Commenting on hedging, Moore cautioned the producers as there was not much "optimism" indicated for this year. "Hedging potentials are too close to

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## Area tobacco averages 58 cents per pound

ne-tenth of Lancaster been purchased for an quantity. iverage price of 58 cents per

LANCASTER - As of who went on to describe this Thursday afternoon, about year's crop as not being as uniform as last year's but County's tobacco crop had comparable to last year's in

Tobacco buying is going on round. "Some went for a strong, but several comittle less and some for a panies are still inactive, ittle more," said a leaving less than a half dozen pokesman for the A.K. bidders in a market which Mann Tobacco Co., here, perennially keeps growers and buyers haggling. As far manufacture of cigars and highest quality tobacco such as growers are concerned, chewing tobacco. there's also a lot of guessing.

This year's crop is turning out to be "mixed" - meaning that there is a lot of good tobacco in the area, but also first few purchases were some which is damaged or not first rate in other quality

Tobacco buyers have been out scouting around for over two weeks, but it wasn't until about a week ago that the made - and then only a few.

as this is likely to go into cigarettes - a very small portion of the market in this area, according to the A. K. Mann Company.

Most of the tobacco purchased so far has been of Early reports indicate that better quality, so it remains criteria. Most of the County's the highest price paid so far to be seen what sort of prices crop is used in the was 63 cents a pound. The will be paid for the leaves

which are still hanging in tobacco sheds. According to Arnold Lueck, Lancaster County assistant extension agent, the market is very unpredictable.

So far the average price paid (58 cents) is identical to

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## ancaster Auction sees volume increase

By MELISSA PIPER

LANCASTER - At a time when many livestock aucions are experiencing low neasurable receipts and even less profit, the large tockyard complex situated ear the city here has seen a teady growth since 1972.

William McCoy, president f the Lancaster Stockyards, ecently announced that

realized a 23.2 percent increase in saleable receipts. One of the few such complexes in the east, the market according to McCoy has seen "a good rate of growth."

In the past year the percentages of livestock flowing through the stockyards has been on the increase except

since 1974, his market had for sheep which declined by been the overwhelming 17 percent in the past year. figure in growth. being in the feeder pig have also spa division. An increase of 325 the concern.

McCoy noted that the Veal calf receipts were up 35 sharp increase had been percent with total cattle helped by the increased sales numbers up 19.4 percent. of feeder pigs which now Slaughter hogs were up 4 takes place every other week percent with the largest and instead of once a month. most outstanding increase Weekly feeder cattle sales have also sparked growth for

percent in feeder pigs has The complex, located on

Avenue and the Lititz Pike, is a beehive of activity almost every day. Unlike explained that many farmany auctions which mers liked the idea of direct operate once or twice a week. the complex is being used as commission firms. as are been trying to create an rather then selling in by active atmosphere every day," McCoy explained.

"Increasing our sales and

the corner of Marshall adding more auctions has stimulated interest."

The stockyard president, sales through bonded much as possible. "We have offered at the complex other means.

"Farmers seemed con-[Continued on Page 13]