

Elizabethtown farmers hear crop statistician

ELIZABETHTOWN - Monthly farm crop reports are important in stabilizing the prices of farm products, for the benefit of both farmers and consumers. This was the thrust of speeches by William J. Fluke and Chuck Hammond from the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, at the meeting of the Elizabethtown Young Farmers recently.

Working cooperatively with USDA, since 1928, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service gathers information from farmers and processors monthly for milk and eggs and seasonally for many other farm products. Their goal is

to determine the amount of crops held in storage, being produced presently, and to be produced in the near future.

The need for this statistical service was brought on in the 1800's when farmers moved westward with rapid production increases, poor transportation of commodities and slow communications. Surpluses and price swings were great, causing instability in the market for both buyer and seller.

Today the Service studies all phases of farm crop production—past year's records, current trends, and seasonal variations all have

a direct bearing on commodity future markets and retail outlets alike. In addition to people involved in processing and markets, the estimates are used by farm organizations, legislators, farm supply and service companies, and bankers and credit associations.

These estimates affect prices only on a day-to-day basis, but it's the supply entering the market that influences the market in the long run. It would be impossible to conceal from buyers an unusually large supply by estimating it too low. Conversely, the producer needs information about a prospective short supply as soon as possible. Official estimates remove uncertainty about actual conditions.

Copies of the 1974 Crop and Livestock Annual Summary were given to farmers. Several questions were asked concerning how certain figures were arrived at. One farmer asked why the state and county figures for milk production per cow

were so low 10,000-10,700 lbs. respectively). Mr. Fluke and Mr. Hammond answered that the figures included all cows having freshened once, and that the figures were based on farmer responses.

Another farmer brought attention to what seemed to be a discrepancy in custom silo-filling rates. The rate listed per ton was \$2.00 while

the rate per hour was approximately \$20.

The Crop and Livestock Annual Summary, a 70 page digest of state production figures is available upon

request by writing to Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, Department of Agriculture, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA. 17120.

Proposed tax bites outlined

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's taxpayers will pay approximately \$22 billion in Federal taxes as their share of the cost of the Federal spending budget of \$394.2 billion proposed by President Ford for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1976, according to an estimate released today by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce.

The figure was based on the State Chamber's calculations that Pennsylvanians bear 5.58 per cent of all Federal taxes.

If Congress accepts this budget, it will mean a burden of the following amounts of direct or hidden federal taxes for residents in each of the following counties:

(We list only those counties within Lancaster Farming's prime coverage area, and surrounding agricultural counties.)


Adams	\$112,181,000
Bedford	72,588,000
Berks	591,702,000
Blair	230,962,000
Bucks	985,437,000
Centre	173,771,000
Chester	600,501,000
Cumberland	365,139,000
Dauphin	455,325,000
Delaware	1,161,408,000
Franklin	180,370,000
Fulton	17,597,000
Huntingdon	57,191,000
Juniata	24,196,000
Lancaster	655,491,000
Lebanon	189,169,000
Lehigh	532,312,000
Mifflin	74,788,000
Montgomery	1,588,137,000
Perry	46,192,000
Schuylkill	235,361,000
Snyder	50,592,000
York	552,109,000

The Federal Budget proposed for fiscal year 1977, of approximately \$394.2 billion, was prorated among the states on the basis of a formula involving tax collections, personal income, population, and other related data as last reported by the U. S. Department of Commerce and the U. S. Treasury Department. This formula was arrived at jointly by the Council of State Chambers of Commerce, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Tax Foundation. Pennsylvania's estimated share of the Federal Budget (\$21,996,360,000) was prorated among the 67 counties by the Research Department of the Pennsylvania Chamber on the basis of their population, retail sales, market value of taxable real property, and estimated effective buying income.

Tractor club elects officers

The Northern 4-H Tractor club held its first meeting of the year on Jan. 28 to hold elections for new officers. Results of the balloting are as follows:

Scott Augsburger, Reinholds, president; Clifford Martin, Farmersville, vice president; Jim Snader, Akron, secretary-treasurer; David Koch, Farmersville, news reporter; Mark Eby, county council.




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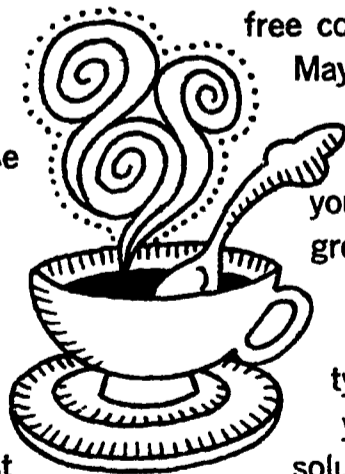
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