

Food prices rising

HARRISBURG - Retail food prices in Pennsylvania, after a sharp decline in March, resumed an upward trend in April, according to a supermarket survey report issued this week by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The retail cost of 15 typical "shopping bag" items sampled in supermarkets throughout the Commonwealth averaged \$9.23, an increase of nine cents

over the cost of \$9.14 averaged in March. The average cost in February had been \$9.38

In the Commonwealth's seven agricultural regions, the study indicated that the highest average shopping bag cost was in the northeast at \$9.58. The least expensive regional average was recorded in the northwest at \$8.95.

The study, prepared by the department's Bureau of

Rural Affairs, showed that potatoes increased from 15 to 16 cents a pound as did a pound of cabbage, fresh pears rose from 40 to 44 cents a pound, canned corn went up from 34 to 35 cents a pound, coffee jumped from \$1.49 to \$1.56 a pound, ground beef increased from 93 to 95 cents a pound, American cheese went from \$1.53 to \$1.54 cents a pound, and four rolls of toilet paper increased from 76 to 78 cents.

Shortening dropped two cents from 54 to 52 cents a pound, chicken declined from 60 to 58 cents a pound, and a dozen large eggs decreased from 83 to 75 cents.

Canned peaches, bread and cornflakes remained about the same in price.

As in previous months, shopping in urban stores provided better bargains than in rural stores. The statewide shopping bag average for April in urban stores was \$9.11, compared with \$9.55 in rural stores, a difference of five percent. A comparison in prices

between storebrand and namebrand was made with nine of the 15 shopping bag items. Storebrand items averaged a nine percent savings in April with an average cost of \$5.50 compared with \$5.96 for namebrand items.

World palm oil production increased from 1.7 million metric tons in 1970 to 2.9 million tons in 1975 and is projected to increase to 4.7 million tons by 1980.



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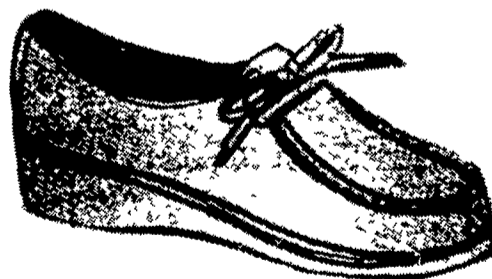
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