



Fertile farm land in Lancaster County between Manheim and Lititz

Lancaster Farming Photo by Dieter Kreg

Lancaster

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decrease in value and numbers was registered for

the sheep industry, here, but it left the No. 3 ranking unchanged from the year

before. The numbers for cattle and calves was up significantly, but lower prices caused a sharp drop in value — down to \$81,857,800

from the \$95,647,000 recorded the year before.

The number of farms for 1975 was pegged at 5865, down from the 6100 registered in 1974.

On the crops side of the ledger, Lancaster County checked in first for barley, corn, alfalfa, and tobacco. Production per acre was up for only silage corn and potatoes, while other crops dropped. The County was second for production of wheat and all types of hay.

Following Lancaster in milk production are, in order: Bradford County, Franklin County, Berks County, Chester, Susquehanna, Crawford, and Lebanon.

On a state-wide summary basis, small grain acreage was lower and yields were

off, largely due to unfavorable weather. Hay production, however, increased over the previous year. Corn production, statewide, was also up over 1974. Soybean production was up in spite of fewer acres. The plantings of potatoes, statewide, were the lowest on record — a mere 29,000 acres. Yields were up five hundredweights per acre over the year before, but this still left production seven per cent below 1974.

Production for both fruits and vegetables was up, and the quality was described as high by the Crop Reporting Service.

Anyone wishing to have more details on Pennsylvania's crops may contact the Crop Reporting

Service at 2301 North Cameron Street in Harrisburg and ask for the Annual Summary Report.

Of the total grain used by the animal industries during the 1972-73 feed year, the following percentages were fed to each class of animal: dairy cattle, 11.7; cattle on feed, 25.1; other beef cattle, 6.0; swine, 29.0; poultry, 17.0 and other livestock, 11.2.

From 1970 through 1973, the cash receipts from all U.S. farms were 56 percent for livestock and livestock products and 44 percent for crops. This has been about the same for the last 30 years. So, the animal industries are a major and important source of income to the farmer.

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