

All-American starts Monday

HARRISBURG - The barn will be filled to near capacity when the Pennsylvania All American Dairy Show opens its doors on Monday at the Farm Show Building, here.

Entries for the show closed September 1 with cattle numbers approaching 2,300, near last year's record number.

It looks like a full house all the way," said Charles A. Hite, show manager. "There will be more commercial exhibits, there is a lot of foreign interest, and if phone calls and letters can be believed, we should set an attendance record, too. I think this will be the best All American ever staged here at the Farm Show Building."

Hundreds of dairymen from Pennsylvania, the United States and around the globe assemble in Harrisburg each fall for the Pennsylvania All-American

Dairy Show, an international show of dairy cattle sponsored by the Pennsylvania

Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Dairy and

Allied Industries Association, and the Farm Show Commission. A mix of dairy show, trade fair, education and entertainment, the All-American has something for everyone.

The Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show will be held September 20-24 and the public is invited to attend any day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., starting with a Family Day Preview on Sunday, September 19. Dairy cattle shows are the main event, with the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show on Monday, the Eastern National Brown Swiss Show on Tuesday and the Eastern

National Holstein Show on Thursday and Friday.

A free arena attraction, the Keystone State Championship Pony Pulling Contest, is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21 beginning at 5 p.m. and continuing through three weight classes. Other evening events are Brown Swiss and Holstein sales on Monday and Thursday evenings respectively. The new Pennsylvania dairy

princess will be chosen on Wednesday evening at the Penn Harris Motor Inn.

Milking Shorthorns will show on Tuesday, Guernseys on Wednesday, Jerseys on Thursday and Ayrshires on Friday. A detailed program may be obtained from the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by calling 717-787-2905.



DAYS GONE BY Throughout South Dakota are tumbled-down remains of towns that shaped the West. The ghost towns and abandoned mines whisper tales of the days when fortunes in gold were won or lost in the famous Black Hills. Many of the towns are still accessible to modern-day explorers.



Jill Harnish, daughter of Ed Harnish, Christiana R1, found herself a seat on top of Bob Ford's 255 pound pumpkin, the biggest pumpkin on display at the Solanco Fair.

Price gap wide

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "Consumers and farmers would both be better off if the meat trade would lower its present near-record margins for handling beef and pork," says Don Paarlberg, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's director of agricultural economics.

Beef and pork prices at the supermarket are down from last year, but not nearly as much as cattle and hog prices on the farm. Price spreads between farm and consumer have increased 16 per cent for beef and 31 per cent for pork since July 1975.

Since cattle prices started to decline in July 1975 farmers' prices have dropped 26 per cent. However, consumer prices for beef have declined only 14 per cent.

The spread between cattle prices and consumer beef prices has widened 9 cents a pound since July a year ago and is now at a near-record spread of 64 cents a pound. Preliminary data indicate that spreads in August remained wide as cattle prices continued to drop.

At the same time, cattlemen are operating at a loss.

Department of Agriculture figures show that typical Corn Belt cattle feeders have lost money continually since early 1972 except for the period May to December 1975. Presently Corn Belt feedlot owners are losing more than \$65 per head. Likewise, cow-calf herds are also losing money selling young feeders for feedlot finishing. Cattlemen have reacted by selling off cows, thereby increasing meat supplies which has depressed farm cattle prices even more.

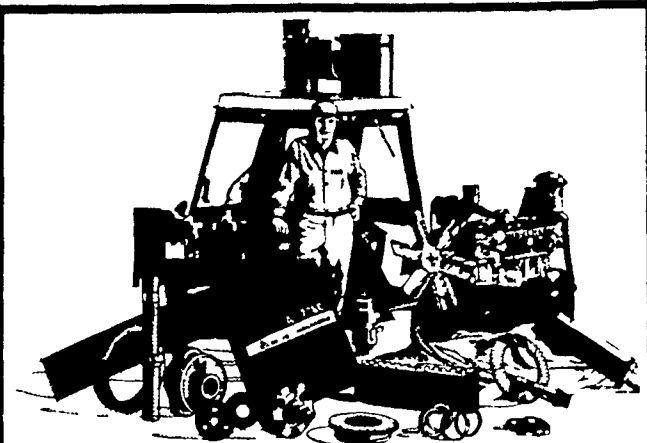
Present indications are that farmers who are feeding out cattle already in feedlots will continue to lose money until the end of the year.

Price spreads between farmers and consumers are also wide for pork. In July farm-retail spreads increased seven cents over June. Early estimates for August indicate that farm-retail spreads for pork widened further. Consumer pork prices in July were only slightly lower than a year ago, but farm hog prices were down 15 per cent. The farm-retail price spread had widened 31 per cent.

Department of Agriculture figures indicate that hog farmers have been making money. But the outlook for fall and into 1977 suggests a drop in hog prices with hog raisers losing money, particularly if the price spread between farmers and consumers stays at near-record levels.

How low hog prices slip will depend in part on the farm-retail price spread. Price spreads usually widen when farm prices are falling. The marketing spread is expected to continue relatively wide over the next several months, even though marketing costs per pound of pork probably will be lower.

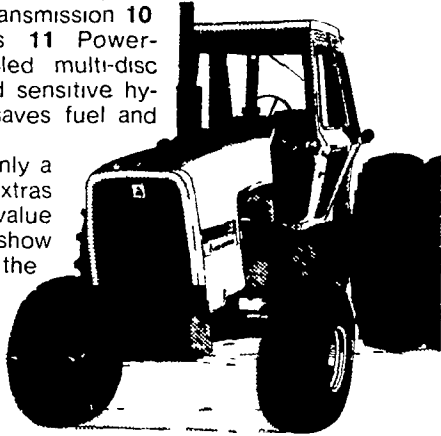
"Retailers could improve the situation for farmers and consumers by promoting beef and pork and reducing their prices more quickly in line with lower wholesale meat prices," says Dr. Paarlberg.



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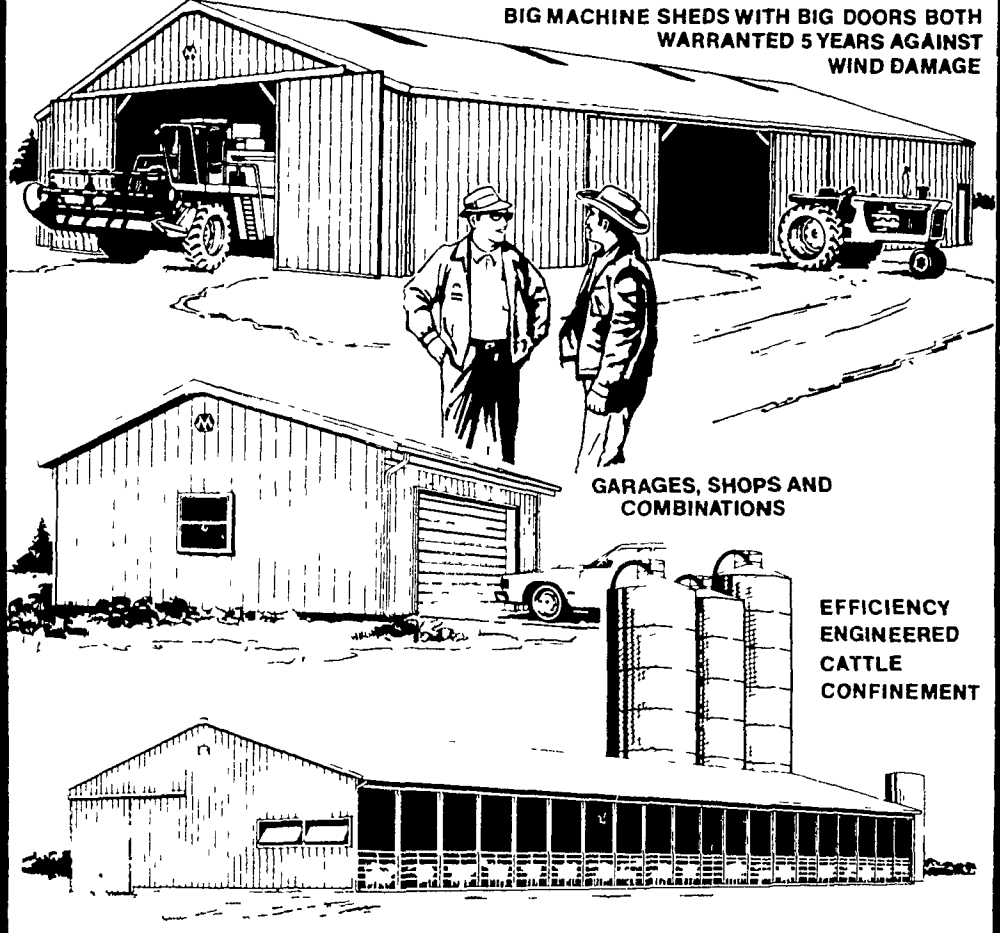
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