

Food prices rise

HARRISBURG, Pa. - In a six-month period, from February through July, retail food prices rose an average of 18 cents in Pennsylvania for 15 "shopping bag" items, according to a supermarket survey report disclosed today by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The average state shopping bag cost rose from \$9.38 in February to \$9.56 in July, according to the report prepared by the department's Bureau of Rural Affairs. The highest average

price was recorded in May at \$9.58. Overall, the six-month state shopping bag average was \$9.41, compared to \$9.22 for the previous six-month average. In a breakdown of seven regions in the Commonwealth, the highest average for February through July was recorded in the northeast at \$9.74. The lowest average was in the southeast central area at \$9.20. Products which basically increased in price over the

six months were canned peaches, fresh pears, coffee, and ground beef. Products which decreased in price were cabbage, shortening, cornflakes, whole chickens, eggs, and American cheese. Several products which followed no basic trend during the six months were potatoes, canned corn, bread, sugar and toilet paper.

During the six months, shoppers in urban stores enjoyed a five per cent savings over shoppers in rural stores. The six-month average of urban shopping bag items cost \$9.26, or 46 cents less than the \$9.72 average in rural stores.

A comparison of prices between storebrand and namebrand was made with nine of the 15 shopping bag items. During the six months, storebrand items averaged \$5.88, compared with \$6.45 for namebrand items for a spread of close to nine per cent.

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Price Index up

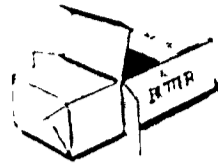
HARRISBURG, Pa. - The September 15, 1976 Index of Prices Received by Pennsylvania farmers increased one per cent from the previous month and two per cent above a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Higher prices for milk, cows, milk, lambs, apples, oats, barley, hay and eggs

more than offset lower prices for other commodities. The purchasing power of prices received was one percentage point above August but three percentage points below a year ago.

Nationally, the Index of Prices Received decreased nearly one per cent from August and seven per cent below a year ago. Lower

prices for hogs, potatoes, cattle, oranges and wheat were partially offset by higher prices for soybeans, cotton and milk. The purchasing power at the U.S. level was one percentage point below August and twelve percentage points below a year ago.



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