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'Shift into high gear and stay there, and that's not enough'

American ag future is bullish

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are excerpts from a speech given recently by Richard L. Feltner, assistant secretary for Marketing and Consumer Services, USDA, before the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, Inc.

ST. LOUIS, Mo. - A few weeks ago, a 143-acre farm in north central Illinois sold for \$3,925 an acre. It was a record for the area and one of the highest prices ever paid for farm land in the Midwest.

The price tag tells more than thousands of words and pictures about American

agriculture in the last quarter of the 20th Century. It is evidence of the successes of the past and of the immense potential ahead. Most important, farm land selling at that price - a figure which corresponds to the

lot. We can face the future with faith because of our achievements. All of us know how the American farmer has harnessed science and technology to make better use of his resources. We have seen the record

million people of our land, and millions more people abroad - today and tomorrow.

Rising consumer incomes in this world of 4 billion persons - headed for 2 to 3 billion more by the year 2000 - inevitably will boost the demand by leaps and bounds for more and better quality food.

This phenomenon, often known as the race between the plow and the stork, will have a profound effect on American agriculture in the years ahead. We've seen only the beginning. For a measure of significance,

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"Agriculture will be page 1 news for a long time to come."

national average net farm operator income a decade ago - indicates:

For American agriculture, the future is bullish.

In a world of uncertainty, that means a

harvests; the new confidence and freedom in agriculture brought about by market-oriented farm policies.

American agriculture has what it takes to provide a bountiful supply of food to the 216

Hay seeds scarce

By DIETER KRIEG
HINKLETOWN, Pa. - "Certified seeds will be short in supply and prices up," Penn State agronomist John Baylor told a group of farmers here on Wednesday night. He noted that 1976 was a disastrous year for seed production for just about all storage crops; that there is a heavy demand for U.S. seeds due to the European drought, and that the U.S. crop was short due to drought in the Far West, where most of the country's seed crops are grown.

Baylor, who specializes in forage crops at Penn State, was in Lancaster County to address a group of men at the Hinkletown Alternative School, here. Although the meeting was attended by only 13 farmers, the audience was hungry for knowledge. Baylor was kept busy for more than an hour answering questions pertaining to forage crop production and management. His main topic

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Dr. John Baylor



Lancaster County's top dairymen for colored breeds, according to DHIA production figures, are, left to right, George Hough, Jerseys; Harold Shelly,

Ayrshires; K.D. Linde, Guernseys; and Donald Trimble, Brown Swiss.

71 dairymen top 600 lbs. fat

By SALLY BAIR
Feature Writer
SMOKETOWN, Pa. - A record 71 Lancaster County dairymen were honored for

having attained records of over 600 pounds of fat at the annual meeting of the Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement Association held

Tuesday at Good and Plenty Restaurant. Two men were recognized for having herds which topped the 700 pound mark.

Rufus G. Martin, Ephrata R1, had the highest herd for fat and milk production in

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First batch of sorted tobacco bought

LANCASTER, Pa. - Tobacco buyers are out on the farms now, trying to locate top quality sorted crops for packing at the warehouse. And, according to farmers in the area, some buyers have been out for as long as three weeks and are offering up to 70 cents per pound, sorted and tied on the farm. That's anywhere from two to five cents higher than last year and at least a month ahead of schedule.

Local buyers report, however, that the buying season hasn't really begun yet, and that most of the big companies aren't out.

Those that are have found the buying to be somewhat

slow with a high amount of resistance from the farmers since the majority aren't receptive to the idea of sorting their crop, and for the most part are holding out for 65 cents per pound for pull off.

The reasoning behind the higher price is that cost of production is up, and also, drought in other parts of the country may cause a higher demand, therefore calling for a higher price.

As a result of the present

conditions, buyers estimate that less than 100 acres have actually been sold in Lancaster County. It is also predicted that what will be sold in the future will mostly be pull off rather than sorted and tied.

This year's crop is of excellent quality in some parts of the growing region, while in others it is hail cut and stunted from too much rain. Weather for curing was also excellent this year with clear, breezy days which resulted in stretchy, chestnut-colored tobacco. Heavy crops are reportedly yielding as much as 1,800 to 2000 pounds per acre.

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Don Ace

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