

Higher beef

[Continued from Page 1] according to Penn State Extension economist H. Louis Moore.

Moore addressed the approximately 200 cattlemen with the optimistic forecast, explaining that the causes for the likely increase are a smaller supply of fed cattle and the higher costs of finishing cattle. The five-cent climb in prices is expected to arise fairly soon and continue gradually until a price of 47 cents per pound is reached in November. Present prices now are hovering around 41 to 42

cents per pound. By March they're expected to hit 42½ cents; May 44½ cents; and September 46½ cents.

For the year, Moore predicts that the price of beef may average 45 cents per pound, which would be a 12 per cent increase over 1976 prices.

Offering an even longer-range forecast on the beef situation, Moore commented that 1977 will be a better year for cattlemen than what 1976 was, and 1978 looks like it might be better still.

Production costs will climb along with prices



Louis Moore

received, but Moore calculates that for 1977, the prices received will be high enough to offset the rising costs.

Cattle on feed have dropped since October, Moore said, but the supply is not expected to be overly short. Hog prices will have an effect, as always, on how well beef sells.

The Penn State economist also addressed himself to the Beef Research and Information Act, which was passed by Congress last year and is up for a vote by producers later this year. The Act is legislation which will enable cattlemen to collect funds for research and promotion, Moore explained. Although passed and approved by the U.S. Congress, the Act is not a government program. Congress can,

however, act as a "watchdog" over it, Moore said.

Beef industry leaders estimate that between \$30 and \$40 million dollars will be needed to carry out an effective research and promotion order. Funds will be collected at points of sale on an "added value assessment basis."

Copies of the Beef Research and Information Act are available on request from the Hearing Clerk, Room 112-A, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Producers who wish to comment on the order have until Feb. 24 to do so.

A news release issued recently by USDA gives details: "The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that evidence received at a public hearing justifies proposing a nationally coordinated research and information order for beef."

"USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) set a Feb. 24, 1977 deadline for filing written exceptions to its recommended decision on the beef research and information order. After that date, a final decision will be made. If the final decision is favorable, beef producers will vote on the proposed program in a national referendum.



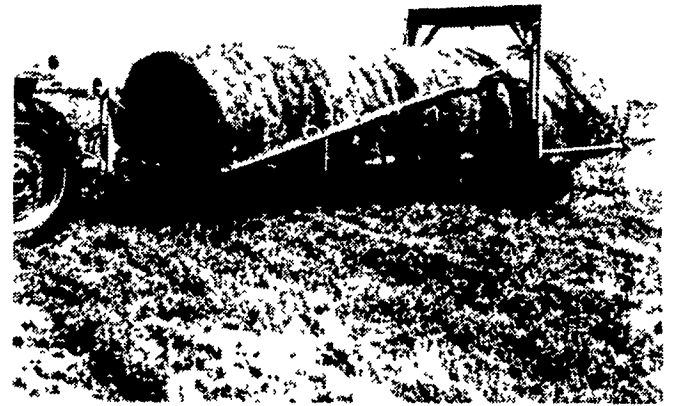
Lester Burdette

"Under the recommended order, a Beef Board composed of producers would have the power to collect assessments on the sales of cattle and to use the funds

for research, producer and consumer information, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for cattle, beef, and beef products. Producers not wishing to participate in the program could have their assessment refunded by the Board.

"Such a program is authorized by the Beef Research and Information Act of May, 1976. USDA's recommended decision is based on evidence received at public hearing sessions held during September and October in Dallas, Tex.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Atlanta, Ga.; Denver, Colo.; San Francisco, Calif.; and Des Moines, Iowa."

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To load, the operator merely backs the unit up to a bale and hydraulically lowers both ends of the trailer. The bale is then cradled, picked up and ready to be transported. The same procedure may be repeated until five bales are placed on the trailer.

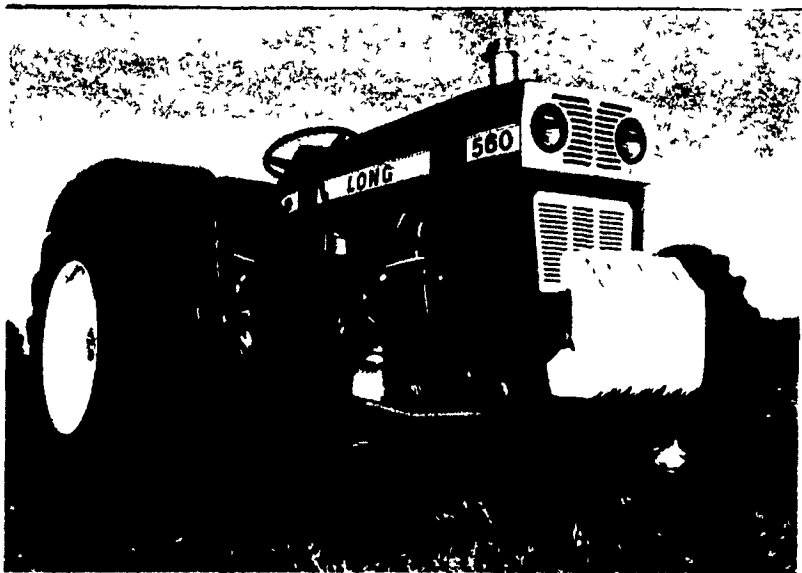
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