

Lancaster Farming

Serving The Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania Areas - Also Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware

Vol. 22 No. 42

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 3, 1977

\$6.00 Per Year

Moore forecasts grain/hog outlook



Louis Moore

By JOANNE SPAHR
ATGLEN, Pa. - Dwight Younkin, Penn State swine specialist, and H. Louis Moore, Penn State agricultural economist, teamed up on Thursday evening to discuss the grain and hog outlook with Chester County farmers at the Octorara High School near Atglen.

Leading off the discussion, Moore summed up what he

predicted would happen in the future with the various grains.

According to the ag economist, soybean production will be up this year by about 26 per cent for a total somewhere in the neighborhood of one billion, 600 million beans.

And, while this number is considerably higher than the record crop of 1973, it causes little concern because the

United States doesn't have reserves built up and our exports are still very good.

In reviewing the cash crop prices, however, Moore showed a pattern of decreasing price for the beans since the beginning of the year from 7.16 in February to 5.24 this week, and predicted that the 5.24 price received on August 29 of this year won't recover much by September because

of the 26 per cent larger crop and the pressure of harvest by the Fall.

In other cash crops, he illustrated the steadily decreasing price for both corn and wheat from the beginning of the year until now. Then, showing the futures for corn in the upcoming year, which ranges from \$1.82 in September to \$2.07 in July, he gave advice to the farmers, who are

concerned about what to do with storages that are full of last year's crop in light of the fact that those farmers are getting ready to harvest this year's crop.

"The futures markets tell me that I would hold my corn through harvest time," said Moore. "The differential between harvest and December or March

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Farm loans available, rates rising

By DIETER KRIEG
LITITZ - If you're thinking of borrowing money for your farming operation, now is a good time to do it. Loans are readily available and interest rates aren't expected to climb much before the end of the year. But they will rise.

Credit is reportedly tightening up a bit nationally, and that trend is forecasted to continue, but it hasn't come on too strong yet in this area. The words that better managers will still be able to get most or all of the capital they need in their farming operations. The exceptions will be the poorer operators or younger fellows who went out on the limb too far already.

Prime lending rates at many commercial banks were raised last week from 6 3/4 per cent to seven, and some more of the same is in store, financial analysts indicate. Some folks are therefore recommending that credit shopping be done a little earlier than usual.

That is not to say that money is tight, at least not with Lancaster Farming's prime coverage area. What's happening primarily is that interest rates are going up a bit.

Commonwealth National Bank, one of the largest in Pennsylvania, and number one in the state with agricultural loans, says demand for farm loans at its offices has increased substantially over a year ago. With \$33.6 million worth of ag loans outstanding, Commonwealth ranks as the 45th largest ag bank in the entire United States.

Bob Bucher, agricultural loan officer at Commonwealth, says his bank is willing to talk to new customers and each individual situation will be looked at. He adds that

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Dr. Paul Hand

Dairy referendum will affect prices

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - The Federal Order 2 milk marketing area will either be receiving a new lease on life within the next few weeks or be phased out and absorbed by neighboring Federal Orders.

Although Federal Order 2 is comprised of northern New Jersey and all but the

northern and western regions of New York, 5429 dairy farms in Pennsylvania are also directly involved. Of that number, well over 2000 are in southeastern-southcentral Pennsylvania. Furthermore, it's believed by many leaders in the dairy industry that the outcome of the vote will be felt by all dairymen in the Northeast

and Middle Atlantic milk marketing areas.

The issue which is bringing all of this about is a referendum currently taking place to change transportation allowances. According to Dr. Paul Hand, economist at Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative, Southampton, Pa., passage of the

referendum will "have serious impact" on milk prices in the entire Northeast and the Middle Atlantic Area. In a recent editorial appearing in *Pennmarva News*, Hand suggested that the proposal by USDA will reduce Class I prices to dealers up to 35 cents per hundredweight.

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Potato crop 'all right,' prices not

By KENDACE BORRY
LITITZ - A survey of potato growers in the Lancaster Farming area shows a harvest forecast of below average to very good, depending on crop conditions.

Roger Hausmann, Schnecksville, Lehigh County, hopes for a very good harvest and states that he has had good growing conditions throughout the season. Although earlier he was worried about the dry weather, he claims there was enough rain for his crops. There were very few problems with insects and disease in his fields and overall, he stated that his early potatoes are fine, and he's hopeful for the later potatoes to be the same. He started harvesting middle of August and will continue his potato picking until about the third week of October.

Hausmann mentioned that the potatoes he grows are mainly used for chipping and that he sells most of his potatoes through two brokers. Hausmann wasn't too happy about the potato price this year - prices are down because there seems to be a plentiful supply of the crop.

George H. Wolfe, Stewartstown, in York County, isn't too pleased with his potato crop, however. He harvests 150

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Dr. John Baylor

Seed outlook more optimistic

By DIETER KRIEG
CAMP HILL - The outlook for seeds looks a little better now than it did several months ago, but it's still not good, according to information released here recently during a two-day symposium sponsored by the Beachley-Hardy Seed Company of nearby Shiremanstown.

The symposium drew over 90 people and included

several Penn State agronomists as well as experts from California, Missouri, Maryland, Iowa and Pennsylvania. They offered their views on current seed situations and participated in a panel discussion on "New Challenges Facing the Forage Grower and the Seed Dealer."

The legume seed situation looks more encouraging

now, Dr. John Baylor of Penn State said. With alfalfa, for example, it'll be tight but adequate. There'll also be more red clover seed around than what was anticipated earlier. Baylor's optimism rests on the reports presently coming out of seed producing areas. "If they get the crop in, then we'll have the seeds," he said with a tone of optimism.

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Lancaster Co. grape harvest bountiful now

By JOANNE SPAHR
HOLTWOOD, Pa. - Like other farmers around Lancaster County, Tom and Cindy Hampton, Holtwood R2, have seen their crop emerge into a bountiful harvest about 10 days ahead of schedule after some rather shaky conditions earlier this year.

Tom and Cindy own Tucquan vineyard in southern Lancaster County near Rawlinsville in which they grow about four acres of wine grapes and one acre of table grapes.

This year, says Tom, the demand for their crop, which they market by "pick-your-own" as well as with custom orders, has been good.

"Our table grape demand has really picked up," says the millwright from Arm-

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Tom Hampton, of Tucquan Vineyard, Holtwood R2, had a good crop of grapes this year. His table grapes, which he shows here, were a real draw this year.

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