

Livestock market and auction news

St. Louis Cattle

National Stockyards
December 22, 1977

Receipts this week: 6400
Week ago 9300
Year ago 5200

As compared with last weeks close, slaughter steers and heifers steady to 50 higher. Cows mostly 1.00-1.50 higher. Bulls fully 1.00-higher. Supply mainly choice and mixed good and choice 2-4 975-1200 lb. steers, around 25 per cent heifers and 10 per cent cows.

The supply of mixed good and choice 900-1150 lb. steers and 700-850 lb. heifers continues above normal levels.

SLAUGHTER STEERS: Mixed Choice and Prime 2-4 1050-1250 lb. 42.50-43.00. Two loads 43.25 and 43.50. Choice 2-4 975-1275 lbs. 40.25-42.50. Mostly 40.50-42.00. Good 2-3 900-1175 lbs. 35.50-39.00. Mixed Good and Choice 2-4 900-1200 lbs. 39.00-40.50. Good 2-3 900-1175 lbs. 35.50-39.00.

Standard to Good 2-3 1075-1275 lb. holsteins 33.00-36.00.

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: Mixed Choice and Prime 2-4 875-1000 lbs. 40.00. Couple packages 40.25-40.50. Choice 2-4 800-1050 lbs. 38.00-40.00, mostly 38.50-40.00. Mixed

good and Choice 2-3 700-975 lbs. 37.00-38.50. Several loads and lots mostly good, few choice 750-850 lbs. 36.00-37.00. Good 2-3 700-975 lbs. 33.50-37.00.

COWS: Utility and Commercial 2-4 23.50-26.50, closing 24.00-26.50. Boning Utility 1-2 25.00-27.00, closing sales 26.50-27.00. Cutter 21.50-25.50, closing 23.00-25.50. Canner and Low Cutter 1-2 18.50-23.00. Closing week sales 20.00-23.00.

BULLS: Yield Grade 1-2 1050-1700 lbs. 27.00-30.00, few yield grade 1 1400-1900 lbs. 31.00.

FEEDERS: Including around 1500 at Thursdays auction. Feeder steers and heifers steady to 1.00 higher. Buyer attendance normal. Supply mainly mixed good

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Dale Hathaway, in a cable from Moscow, said recently that total Soviet purchases of U.S. wheat and corn for shipment during the current October-September year will be substantially above eight million metric tons, but are presently not expected to exceed 15 million tons.

Soviet officials confirmed that, as of December 14, commitments by their import purchasing agency for the year had reached 6.3 million tons, including 2.3 of

and choice 300-600 lb. Feeder Steers and heifers.

FEEDER STEERS: Choice 350-700 lbs. 39.50-43.00; Few lots 700-900 lbs. 36.50-39.50. Mixed Good and choice 350-700 lbs. 37.00-41.25. Good 400-650 lbs. 35.00-38.00.

FEEDER HEIFERS: Choice 350-500 lbs. 31.50-35.50; 500-700 lbs. 32.00-34.50. Mixed Good and Choice 300-600 lbs. 30.00-32.50. Good 300-500 lbs. 27.50-30.50.

wheat and 4.0 of corn. Assistant Secretary Hathaway said this information was made available during consultations in Moscow Dec. 14 under the current U.S. and USSR grain agreement. Dr. Hathaway and Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Boris Gordeyev participated in the consultations.

During the Moscow talks,

the USSR side indicated that shipments of U.S. grain under Soviet purchases are being increased considerably to a level approaching two million metric tons, in December and will probably continue at a roughly similar monthly rate through mid-April.

Semi-annual consultations are required by the U.S. and USSR grain agreement,

which was signed in 1975. The agreement provides for annual USSR purchases of between six and eight million tons with any purchases above eight to be subject of consultation between the two governments. At a Washington meeting in October, the United States raised the consultation trigger for the current October-September period to 15 million tons.

USSR to purchase more grain

Solar grain drying studied

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A solar collector installed to heat the gymnasium at Scattergood School, West Branch, Iowa, will be the heat source for drying 5,000 bushels of corn by Iowa State University, Ames, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The study is one of 12 in the fourth year of research to determine technical and economic feasibility of using solar energy as an alter-

native to fossil fuel for drying grain. The one-year studies are funded under a \$500,000 interagency agreement with the Department of Energy and are coordinated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Eight projects are underway at land-grant universities: the University of Florida, Gainesville, will evaluate a low-cost plastic solar collector, continue drying tests with corn and

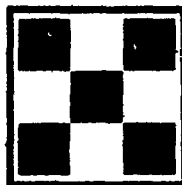
soybeans and make economic and management evaluations for the humid Southeast; The University of Illinois, Urbana, will test solar cyclic drying-solar heat by day and heat from the grain to assist drying at night-as well as make economic analyses of solar drying systems installed on farms.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., will test a

(Turn to Page 31)



**STAYING COMPETITIVE WILL BE THE ANSWER.
REPEAT — STAY COMPETITIVE. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT
THINGS WILL BE TIGHT THE NEXT 24 MONTHS, WITH EGG
PRICES HOVERING AROUND THE BREAK EVEN POINT FOR
PRODUCERS.**



1. Good sanitation, insect control, treatment of infection and disease, worming and rodent control all have to be carried on continuously for healthy birds and healthy profits.
2. Simply stated, good pullets peak high; poor ones do not.
3. The move from the pullet house to the layer house can be in some cases a severe stress and depress that potential.
4. A few chickens saved or lost certainly influences the potential return of the house.
5. Since feed intake is a poor guide for pre-peak layers we must seek a substitute and the best substitute is in house temperature.
6. Feed intake and performance fortification levels -
The Purina Laying Chow Bio-Rating gives the relative fortification of amino acid, vitamins and minerals. Bio Layena 100 is the base product. For example, Bio Layena 114 contains 7% more

fortification than Bio Layena 107 and 14% more than Bio Layena 100. Each of the above feed intake ranges represent approximately 7% less feed consumption than the previous range. Thus a drop of 7% in feed intake (approximately 1 1/2 pounds/100 hens/day) is compensated for by an increase of 7% in ration fortification.

In this way daily intake of amino acids, vitamins and minerals remain constant. The correct level of fortification is exactly matched to the hen's feed intakes. If during stress conditions a more highly fortified ration is desired, just choose the amount of extra fortification by checking the Bio-Rating of each Purina Laying Chow. Always use local judgement on whether to change the ration, since feed intakes will vary due to wastage, strain, etc.

7. Failure to reach the highest level of production and to maintain high levels many times is due to disease. Therefore it is essential that prior to this time the flocks should have received sufficient vaccination properly administered to provide full and complete resistance.

CONCLUSION:

Nutritional programs and management practices during housing through 36 weeks of age can have considerable effect on peak and subsequent performance. It is our challenge to start with a quality pullet and do nothing that harms its "performance potential". But too we must be concerned about not feeding excesses of nutrients that are costly and hurt income potential.

HESS MILLS
 **PURINA CHOWS**

If you feel that we may be of service, please call 1-442-4183 or write us, so that we may have a better understanding of your needs.

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