

# Snow fells Farm Show

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will be done this Summer as part of the ongoing renovation.

He doesn't expect that the loss of the livestock offices will cause much delay of

livestock shows, since no major agriculture show is planned until August. By that time the reconstruction should be done. Fortunately, these livestock offices are only used during the livestock shows.

## Crops suffer

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The blanket of snow which has covered the area has proved to be a problem. It has helped to knock down what crops were standing and has made manure handling much more difficult, as one area feedlot operator explained. He has had to put manure on top of his snow-covered fields but didn't like to do it at all, for several reasons.

When spreading manure is a must, most area farmers said they have tried to put it in places where it has little chance to run off and in fields which are away from water supplies.

They value the manure for its fertility and don't want to lose it, nor do they want to get in trouble with local residents for pollution, etc., compounding the problem of where to go with it.

Another area livestock producer said his manure was frozen, making walking difficult for his cattle, and he couldn't do anything with it until it thaws. This freezing problem has also concerned several dairymen who can't let their cows out to exercise because it is too slippery.

The snow and ice which has plagued the area at times has also made hauling hay more difficult, has caused some people

problems with electrical failures, and will probably show up again in the Spring in the form of volunteer corn.

The freezing and thawing experienced earlier this season when the temperatures kept changing also concerned farmers. The sudden change from cold to warm weather caused a noticeable decrease in feed consumption for several farmers. Others felt that the sudden change to warmer weather caused more of their cattle to get sick and made it harder to keep them dry while the humidity was so high.

While comparing the cold Winter of last year to the problems faced by this Winter one farmer was noted to say that he could put up with a few frozen pipes better than too much water.

Another question facing farmers is the effect this Winter will have on their wheat crops or alfalfa stands. Haldeman told Lancaster Farming that he felt it was too early to tell and he would be able to judge better by March. While most producers feel the wheat is in good shape so far, some are concerned that the ice covering their stands could have caused damage pulling it out or by suffocating it. Snow is no problem for wheat but ice is no good for it.

(Continued from Page 1)

international money markets and the activity of the stock market. Moore emphasizes that these factors can affect farm prices along with agriculturally related factors such as: farm income, Russian grain purchases, grain stocks, the farm strike, the 1977 Farm Bill, weather, the supply of competing meats, and cattle cycle changes.

Although the new Farm Bill has been on the books for several months, Moore points out that its effects aren't really known yet. One thing that is definitely known is that farm income has dropped from a peak of 29.5 billion dollars in 1973 to around \$20 billion last year.

New records in corn and soybean production will hold down feed costs, Moore predicts. He estimates that 1.2 billion bushels of corn will be carried over to the Fall of this year, and nearly as many bushels of wheat will be in the bins by the time new wheat harvest begins.

Farmers' intentions to plant two per cent less corn and eight per cent more soybeans aren't likely to help the situation. Summing it up, Moore says feed supplies will be abundant, prices will be cheap, demand will be excellent, and carryovers will be too much.

The average price paid at Lancaster for choice cattle last year was \$41.85. For 1978 he predicts an average price of \$44. The audience looks forward to an average price of \$44.50 for the same kind of cattle, Moore determined.

Cattle numbers have been dropping steadily since 1975 and are now 10 to 11 per cent below what they were then. Things should look better for cattlemen on just that basis alone. Fed beef marketings for this year are expected to be about 66.3 per cent, up about four to six per cent from the previous year. Non-fed beef marketings are likely to decline as much as 15 to 20 per cent.

All this is good news to cattlemen who have weathered the ups and downs of previous years.

Stockyard figures gathered by Moore show that average weights of marketed cattle are down 12 pounds per dressed carcass. It's a trend which has been going on for six weeks and the significance of it is that it amounts to the equivalent of 15,000 fewer cattle having gone to market.

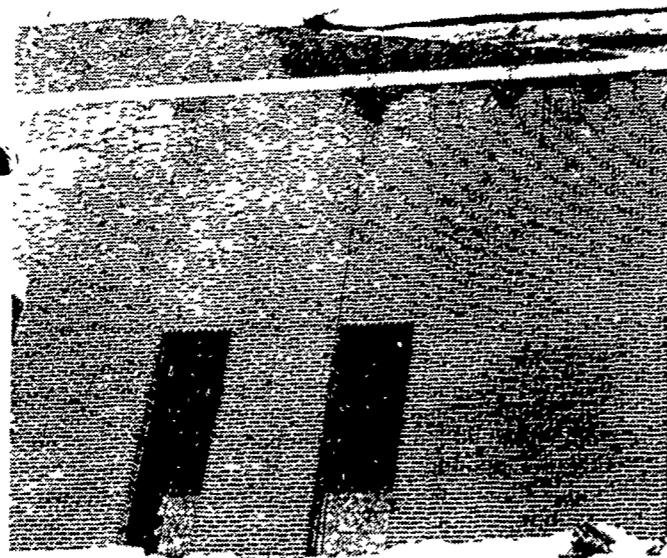
Moore sees April as the low point of this marketing year, pegging prices at between \$42 and \$43 per hundredweight for choice cattle.



Show building was

figure on how much age was done, he notes that the amount be in excess of a quarter on dollars and could run ghs as half a million. e work to reconstruct roofs and other damage

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The parapet wall, which rises about four feet above the eaves of the Farm Show building, broke from the weight of snow and ice last Sunday, and came crashing down on the newly constructed sections below.

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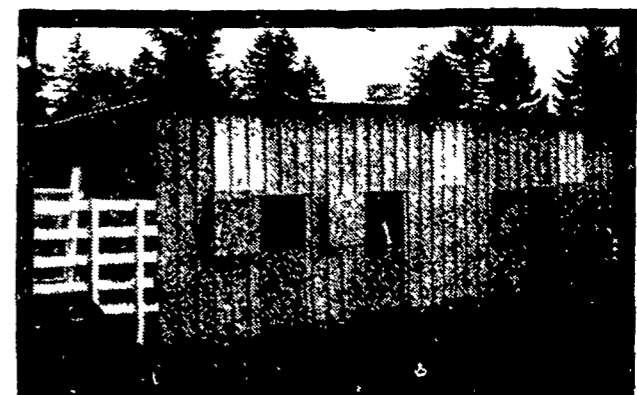
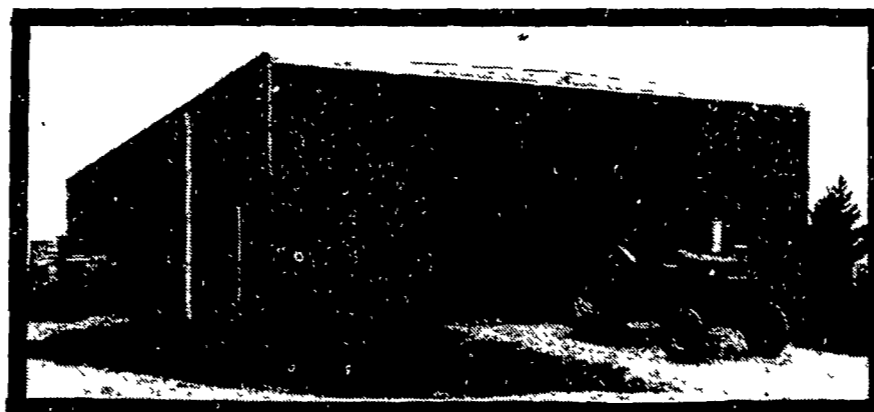
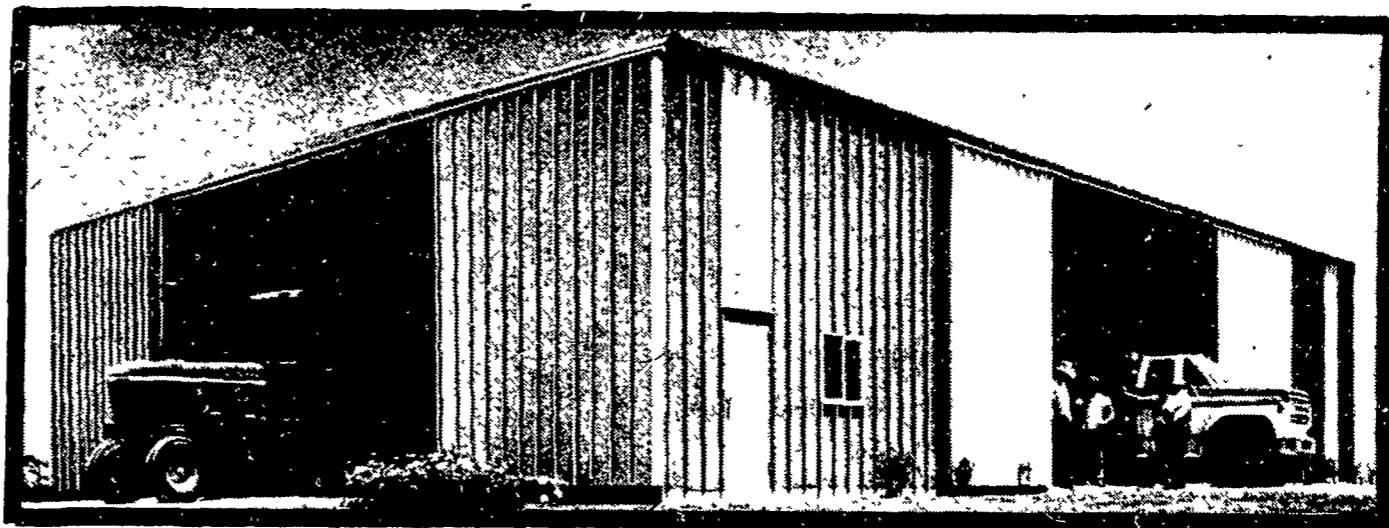
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