

Feeder pig prices

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market in any week for the past month.

"It seems that when there might be a change in slaughter hog prices, with them being slightly down, the feeder pig prices seem to go up," Zimmerman commented. "My guess is that if the slaughter market holds through April and May, feeder pigs will stay strong into June. But if we get dry conditions, this could all change."

The number of pigs available and the demand

for pigs can cause price to go up, too, Zimmerman further explained. "Feeder pigs available does seem to have fallen off. I know some producers haven't been taking their feeder pigs to market, instead they have found a direct way to sell their animals."

Zimmerman added that recent feeder pigs sales have been quite successful and competitive.

"I'm afraid that those people buying feeder pigs at these prices might have trouble making money off of them, because of their high

cost, though," he commented. "Particularly if the hog market falls off some. If they're going to make any money, they must have a high market."

Abram Diffenbach, from the New Holland Sales Stable in Lancaster County, too commented about the prices being the result of the supply and demand. "I think there were problems with farrowing over Winter," he noted. "Because of the weather, there are just not too many feeder pigs available. The gilts were not bred when they were expected to be."

Diffenbach went on to add that he believes the market will probably level off. "As of this past Thursday, the futures doesn't warrant the price these feeder pigs are bringing," he explained. "I don't think these prices will affect the hog market, but they will affect the hog market profit. If these pigs are sold for under 50 cents as fat hogs, the farmers probably won't break even."

M. Max Smith, Lancaster County Extension agent stated that there was an earlier USDA report that

predicted larger amounts of hogs to come to market. Market prices were to drop into the 30 cents range by Spring and Summer.

As of mid-March, he added, the report was revised. There were less hogs than predicted, about the same number as last year. Now hog prices are to stay favorable for the rest of the year, in the mid to high 40 cent range.

"I think the local feeder pig farmers are jumping in, and using this as a good way to use their corn to feed to pigs. Because it seems to be a much more favorable year for hog producers than earlier predicted, farmers are seeing this as a good place to put their corn," Smith noted.

According to Friday, April 7's Pa. Auction Summary, graded feeder pigs were mostly \$1 to \$8 lower. Prices for US No. 1-2, 30 to 40 lbs. were \$126 to \$142. Forty to 50 lbs. US 1-2 pigs brought \$114 to \$136; while 55 to 70 lbs. pigs brought \$100 to \$118.

For a complete market report, see the market section located near the front of the paper.

Farmers beware of pesticide poisoning

DOVER, Del. — Nearly all pesticide poisonings result from the accidental swallowing of a product. However, notes University of Delaware Extension pesticide specialist John McDaniel, farmers can also become ill from breathing in a pesticide or getting it on their skin.

Early symptoms of pesticide poisoning include fatigue, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, diarrhea, and general discomfort, explains McDaniel.

Pesticide poisoning symptoms are similar to those of other diseases. Heat exhaustion, food poisoning, asthma, and other illnesses are sometimes confused with pesticide poisoning. The fact that a pesticide applicator becomes ill after using or being around pesticides is not proof that he or she has been poisoned, cautions McDaniel.

Poisoning symptoms often

occur when a farmer is suddenly exposed to large quantities of a toxic material. Continual exposure to small quantities or pesticides over long periods of time may also result in pesticide poisoning.

Delaware hospital emergency rooms have, or can get, pertinent information on all types of pesticide poisonings from the Poison Information Center. The phone number is 302-665-3389. The center is located in the Delaware Division of the Wilmington Medical Center.

McDaniel recommends getting medical advice quickly if a farmer has any unusual or unexplained symptoms while working with pesticides or soon afterwards. One should call a doctor or visit the poison treatment center before he becomes dangerously ill. The pesticide container or label should be brought along, as it contains information that can help doctors treat pesticide poisoning.

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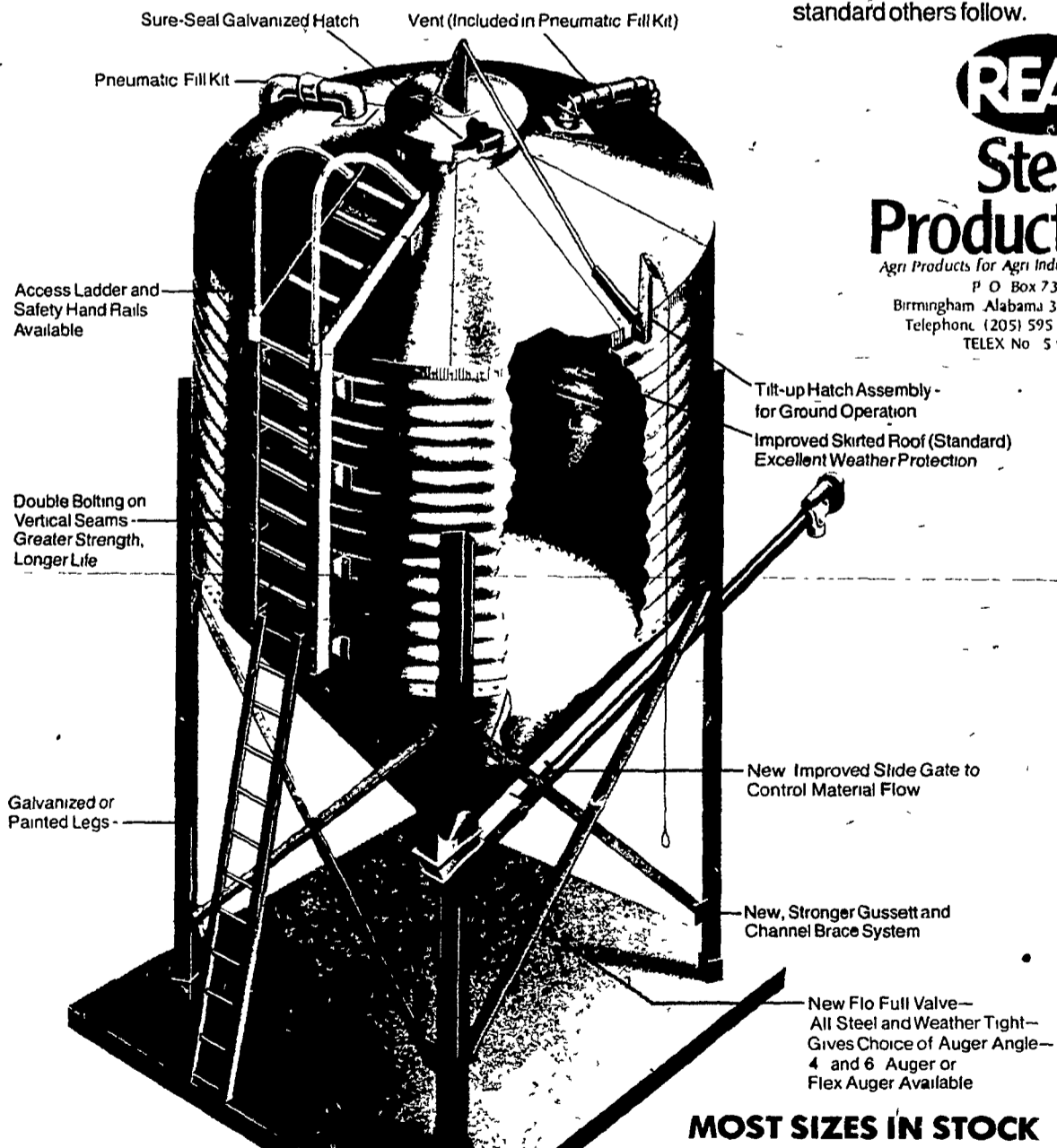
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