

Retail beef prices show upswing

DENVER, Colo. — Retail beef prices, which have been increasing steadily over the past months, showed a further increase during April and May, the National Cattlemen's Association reports.

The latest increase puts the NCA survey average above the previous high in mid-1975, according to Richard A. McDougal, NCA president. However, beef prices still were lagging behind increases in the

Consumer Price Index and consumer incomes since 1975.

The association's monthly 19-city survey of supermarkets showed the national average price of five beef cuts on May 11 was \$1.89 per pound, compared with \$1.78 a month earlier and \$1.78 in July, 1975.

McDougal emphasized that the NCA five-cut average does not represent the average price of all beef. Because of the inclusion of three types of steak in the limited five-cut survey, the

NCA average runs higher than government report averages for all cuts. For example, the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture average for all Choice beef was \$1.65 per pound. The NCA survey is conducted to show current supply and price trends rather than to indicate the average of all beef prices.

The latest beef price increase reflects the current downtrend in beef production, McDougal noted. However, he said, high cattle

prices are now stimulating cattlemen to rebuild herds, which eventually will bring a supply increase again.

"For the past three years," he said, "large beef production and low cattle prices, along with escalating costs, brought financial losses to cattlemen which forced a sell-off of basic herds. During that time, beef prices were decreasing or only holding steady, and consumers enjoyed low prices. Now, per capita supplies are moving back to lower, more normal levels, and beef prices are beginning to catch up with the prices of other products."

"The recent price increases are not a cause of the continuing basic inflation problem. They represent only a response to a cyclical supply change typical of an

agricultural commodity business, plus a catching up with inflation. Actually, the May NCA price average is up only 6 per cent from the previous high in 1975, while the over-all Consumer Price Index has increased 18 per cent and average consumer disposable income has increased 27 per cent since 1975."

NCA's five-cut average increased in 18 cities and decreased in one during the past month. The average prices of all five cuts — ground beef, round steak, sirloin steak, T-bone steak and chuck roast — showed increases.

Average retail beef prices vary among cities because of such factors as local wage rates, transportation costs and the amount of "specializing" by retailers at the time of the survey.

McDougal explained the NCA survey was

Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man.

initiated by cattlemen in 1974 in an effort to provide a more up-to-date indication of price trends. The government's CPI reflects beef prices which are about seven weeks old by the time they are reported.

WOOD'S SALE CALENDAR

WOOD SELECT MILKING HERD DISPERSAL



Located just off Rt. 549 seven miles from Mansfield, Pa., 3 miles from Roseville, Pa. 25 miles from Elmira, N.Y.

WED. EVE - May 31

At 8:00 P.M. Sharp

60 — Reg. and High Grade Holsteins — 60

5 Reg., 55 High Grades

April '78 Rolling herd ave. 15,087M 4.0T 610F

50 mature cows in all stages of lactation, 3 bred hfrs., 3 open yearlings, 3 six mo. old and 4 started calves 1 a reg. Astronaut Calf dam projected for 20,000M 950F. Interstate tested, preg. ex. charts day of sale.

Sales Mgr. Note:

I think you will appreciate this herd as I had the opportunity to pick 50 from a 70 cow herd. You will find a real milky herd of cows with good udders. Last month D.H.I.A. cows milking averaged 55 lbs. of 4.8 milk, 4 cows projected over 1000 of fat, high cow milked 107.2. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase from this good herd.

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Terms — Cash or Good Check.

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TUES. EVE — MAY 30

At 7:30 P.M. Sharp

Machinery

JD 4020 diesel tractor; 830 Case diesel tractor w/Oliver 74-H2 row mounted corn picker; Case 600 self propelled combine w/cab & power steering; Gehl #600 chopper w/2 row & pickup heads; Kasten self unloading box w/Knight #9 trailer running gear; Van Dale self unloading box w/Knight #9 trailer running gear; Dion self unloading box w/Gehl trailer running gear; 2 wagons w/18 ft. metal kicker racks; NH wagon w/kicker rack; NH 495 - 12 ft. haybine (real nice); NH 271 baler w/kicker; Witmore portable feed grinder; 10 ft. Brillion seeder; JD 494 four row corn planter, clover hopper blower; 20 ft. transport field cultivator; Killbros #300 grain box & running gear; 8 ton running gear (new); Shultz #18 manure spreader (new); 187 Hawk barrell spreader; 3x16x4 grain box w/dump trailer; Case 36" elev. w/motor & extra heavy cord; Mohawk rotary mower 3 pt. hitch; NH 56 side rake; weed sprayer transport type w/plastic tank; fertilizer sower 3 pt. hitch; NH hay dryer w/5 hsp. motor; Gehl table blower; grain auger; cement mixer; 3 sets ring tractor chains; several extra wheels & tires for wagons & spreaders; Patz silo unloader fits 12 to 14 ft. silo; grass seed cleaner w/motor; large assortment of bolts; metal bolt tray; new hyd. hoses; hyd. cylinder; log chains; barrell grease; gear oil pump; dyes; new plow points & shins; elec. cords; roll chain; knife riveter; machine vice; bench vice; NH mower knives; PTO shaft; 40 ft. alumn. ladder; tractor shade & some other small items.

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Terms - Cash or Good Check.

Owners

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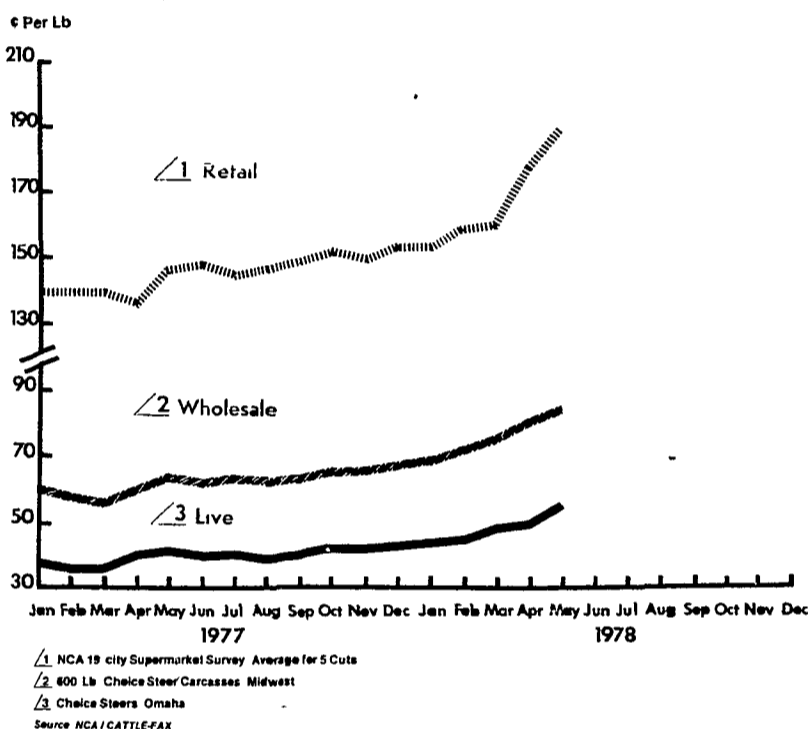
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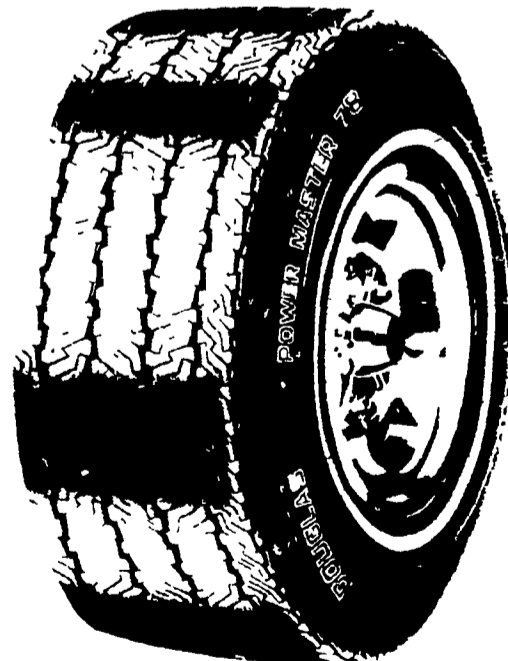
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