

Cattle

(Continued from Page 1)

graded cattle were recorded \$2 to \$3 higher, with mixed good and choice feeder steers commanding a price as high as \$65 per hundredweight.

The weekly summary for Lancaster County this week, (ending Friday, May 26), shows that slaughter steers were progressively higher throughout the week and closing \$2 to \$3 higher. Slaughter heifers were steady to \$1 higher; cows mostly steady, instances to \$1 lower; bullocks steady to \$1 lower; bulls \$1 lower, instances \$2 lower.

Feeder cattle in St. Louis were reported firm to \$2 higher on Thursday. Feeder steers, choice, weighing 400 to 500 pounds, brought \$67 to \$69.50 per hundredweight. Oklahoma reporter 300-400 pound choice feeder steers commanding prices as high as \$74.25. Choice feeder heifers, weighing 300 to 500 pounds, brought 58 to 60 dollars per hundredweight at major Midwest auctions.

Utility and commercial slaughter cows are continuing to bring prices upwards of \$40 per hundredweight, with some going as high as \$44.

Vealers, bulls, and bullocks, however, are lower compared to a week ago. Detailed market reports are inside.

The comparatively high prices being paid currently have caused a lot of talk and speculation among cattlemen and market observers. Among them is Penn State's Extension economist, H. Louis Moore. He observes:

"Hardly a day passes when I don't see at least one article predicting ham-

burger as an "endangered species" with a price rising to \$2.00 per pound. The latest one by a custom cattle feeder in California justified \$2.00 hamburger because there just aren't enough old cows around anymore.

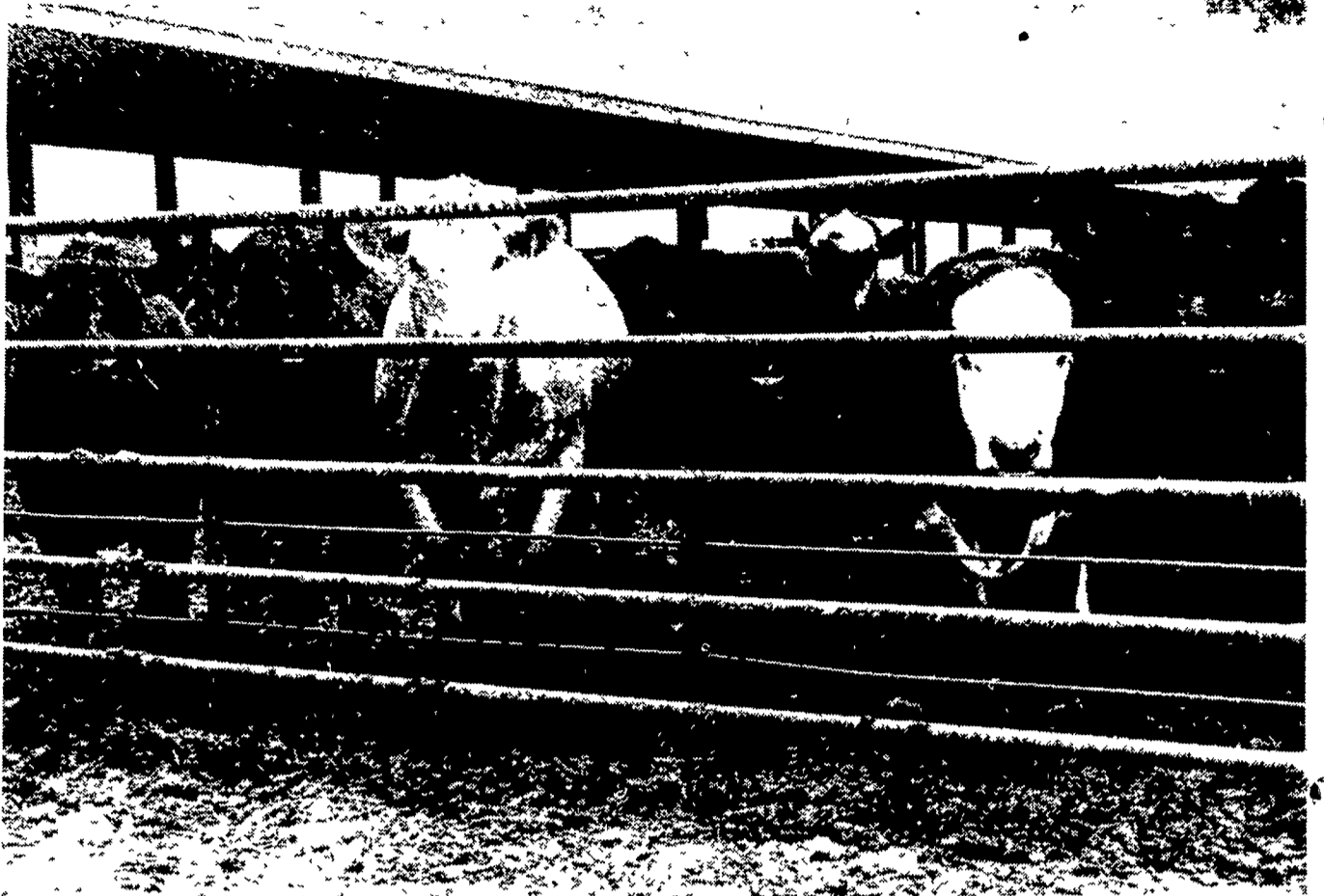
Before we get too carried away, let's calm down and take a look at what is happening. It is true that the slaughter of non-fed beef may drop 20 to 25 per cent below a year ago. This will put some strain on hamburger production from non-fed animals but we will still have imports totaling about 7 per cent of our total beef production. There will also be considerable substitution of meat from fed animals to make hamburger. For several months slow-moving chunks from fed beef have been moving into the hamburger trade. Consumers have a taste for hamburger and will continue to want this meat.

But \$2.00 per pound hamburger — not in the near future for a number of reasons:

(1) the average price of all beef cuts in retail in February 1978 was \$1.51 per pound. Choice grade beef averaged \$1.38 for all of 1977. Hamburger averaged about \$.85 for all of 1977, about 61 per cent of the price of all beef. In February hamburger had risen to \$.93 per pound. If hamburger prices kept the same relationship to total beef prices and rose to \$2.00 then the composite price of all beef would be around \$3.00 per pound. Porterhouse steak would be in the range of \$5.00 per pound. Starts to sound ridiculous, doesn't it?

Another factor is (2) substitution of meats. Since hamburger is the cheapest beef product, other beef cuts will be directed to hamburger in large quantity

(Turn to Page 48)



The best feeder cattle are commanding prices of around \$70 per hundredweight. Prime and high

choice slaughter cattle are "in style" at prices in the \$60 to \$64 price range.



Cattle auctions, such as this one at the Lancaster Stockyards, have been a bit more interesting lately since prices are up.

AGWAY
TRY A TANKFUL.
YOU'LL LIKE THE CHANGE.



★ GREEN DIESEL FUEL
AND
★ AGWAY GASOLINES

WE PRICE IT SO YOU CAN
FILL YOUR TANK WITHOUT
EMPTYING YOUR WALLET

NO ONE WHO'S EVER TRIED
THIS FUEL WILL EVER GO
BACK TO HIS OLD FUEL AGAIN.
MAY WE PROVE THIS TO YOU?

CALL YOUR AGWAY PETROLEUM
PEOPLE SOON —

717-397-4954

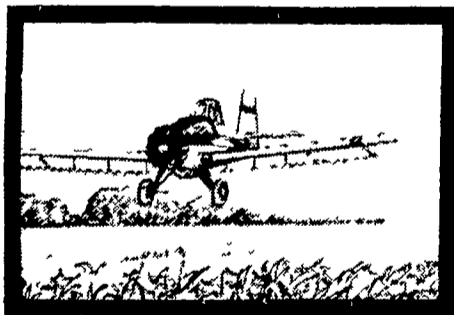


AGWAY
PETROLEUM

LANCASTER, PA



AERIAL SPRAYING



- WOODLAND
GYPSY MOTH - 30 Ac. minimum
Protect your woodland.
- ALFALFA
Spray regrowth without costly wheel tracks.
- CORN - SPARK
Growth Stimulant For Corn.

WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 29 -
MEMORIAL DAY.



ORGANIC
PLANT
FOOD CO.

2313 Norman Rd., Lancaster, Pa.
PH: 717-397-5152

NOW IS THE TIME!

- Topdress Alfalfa After 1st Cutting
- Broadcast Tobacco Plowdown Complete Grades Liquid Nitrogen ANHYDROUS AMMONIA
- Limestone - Truck Spread
- Complete Line of Pesticides

Use our Custom Application
Service and Rental Spreaders

LET OUR QUALIFIED SALESPeOPLE
HELP DEVELOP YOUR PLAN FOR '78.



ORGANIC
PLANT
FOOD CO.

2313 Norman Rd., Lancaster, Pa.
PH: 717-397-5152