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Garden Spot's ag value pegged at \$385 million during 1977; poultry, cattle, hogs lead way

By DIETER KRIEG

LANCASTER - Despite a loss of 8200 acres of farmland, Lancaster County farmers managed to increase their productivity by nearly \$23½ million in 1977, compared to 1976. Total value of Lancaster County's 1977 agricultural products is pegged at a whopping \$385,651,130, according to information released this week by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Last year that figure stood at \$362,169,300, and in 1975 the tab was \$335,180,200.

While much of that increase is due to inflation, a significant portion can be attributed to better production

in the fields and barns within the Garden Spot. The fact that farmers here lost nearly 2.5 per cent of their farmland puts a sizable dent into the inflation rate recorded for 1977 by the U.S. Department of Labor - 7.1 per cent. That leaves ample room for credit to the Garden Spot farmers' productivity. Furthermore, Lancaster County's rate of inflation ranks below the national average, thus further sparkle is added to the Garden Spot's status.

Further proof of increased productivity are noticeable, for example, in the 1977 Red Rose DHIA summary. Whereas 71 herds averaged more than 600 pounds of

butterfat per cow per year during 1976, that figure jumped to 121 herds in 1977. Similar comparisons can be made in other segments of the industry.

Details follow:

In the summary released by the Crop Reporting Service, Lancaster County ranked first in five out of seven livestock production categories. They were: dairy products, poultry and broiler production, layers and eggs, cattle and calves, and hogs. The county ranks second in

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Cattlemen face imports, prices drop

Carter inflates beef imports

New cattle sale record set



Jimmy Carter

By DIETER KRIEG

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Despite intensive lobbying and protests by the nation's cattle organizations, President Jimmy Carter on Thursday afternoon authorized an increase in beef imports which are designed to save consumers \$500 million or more during the remainder of this year.

In making the announcement, the President claimed that only hamburger and processed beef prices would be affected. They're expected to stay about five cents a pound below where they'd be under freely floating market conditions.

The specifics of the Carter statement say that an additional 200 million pounds of beef will be imported during the second half of 1978. In making the statement, Carter acknowledged that during 15 of the past 23 quarters (3-month periods) cattlemen had suffered losses.

While Carter claims the action won't hurt cattlemen, the cattlemen themselves have a different opinion on the matter. Most of them are angry.

The National Cattlemen's Association, headquartered in Denver, Colo., called Carter's decision "a cruel hoax which will hurt rather

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Robert Bergland



Frank Darcey

By KENDACE BORRY

LANCASTER - "Cattle - The auction total is the largest one day receipts in the 15 year history of the Lancaster auction." Thus begins the report of this week's Lancaster Livestock Market which was held on Monday. Close to 2,000 cattle were sold.

The previous high numbers of cattle record at the Lancaster Stockyards was 1,897 which occurred last June 27. The previous high record county wide had been set at the New Holland Sales Stables last year, when 1,942

head of cattle were sold a year ago on June 23.

Compared to the previous Wednesday's market, slaughter steers were \$3 to \$4 lower per hundredweight. Slaughter heifers were down \$3.50 to \$4, cows were \$50 cents to \$1 higher, and bullocks \$1 to \$2 lower.

Some of the prices of slaughter steers on Monday included high choice and prime, 3-4, 1085 to 1350 lbs. 57.60-59.75; with one lot 1250 lbs. bringing 60.25.

According to William G. McCoy, president of the

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Bill McCoy

Pa. farmers participate in set-aside

By JOANNE SPAHR

HARRISBURG - As of the May 31 deadline, 1,179,689 farms across the nation had enrolled in the 1978 cotton, feed grain, and

wheat programs say officials at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Harrisburg.

Of those farms, 13,381

were signed up in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a total statewide set-aside acreage of 82,320 acres. Broken down into commodities, 9,754 acres of

wheat will be diverted; 1775 acres of barley; 38,033 acres of corn; and 206 acres of grain sorghum.

Additional acreage set-aside under the voluntary

diversion program includes 973 acres of barley; 30,822 acres of corn; and 93 acres of grain sorghum.

Over 650 acres of wheat were recorded for haying and grazing.

Nationally, cropland designated as set aside by the signed farms totaled 16,266,938 acres including 9,411,059 acres under the wheat program and 6,855,879 acres under feed grains.

Additional acreages to be diverted by the participating farms under the feed grain program is 5,232,084 acres. Farmers plan to graze or cut hay for over 1.3 million acres of wheat.

A check of the various counties in Lancaster Farming's coverage area

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Egg conference invites area poultrymen

LANCASTER - Owners of egg producing poultry in Lancaster County and surrounding areas will be guests of the Northeast Egg Marketing Association and United Egg Producers at a

dinner meeting scheduled for June 20 at 6 p.m. at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant, Bird-in-Hand.

The Northeast Egg Marketing Association,

better known as NEMA is the regional producers' cooperative that works with United Egg Producers (UEP) in the Mid-Atlantic and New England states. Membership in both

organizations is strictly limited to flock owners.

In announcing the session, NEMA's general manager, Bill Rent said: "We are pleased to bring a meeting of this type into an area where the egg marketing industry continues to make constructive strides."

Rent said further: Participants at the June 20 meeting can expect to hear frank discussions of issues facing the egg industry as we

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Cherries to ripen by July

By JOANNE SPAHR

LITITZ - At this time last year home canners were picking cherries to their hearts' content. That's not the case this year, however.

From the looks of things, cherry enthusiasts will have to wait until at least the last week in June and possibly the first week in July before they can pop that first juicy

fruit delicacy into their mouths. But, say orchardists, if weather conditions continue to be

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Tobacco planting now begun

By JOANNE SPAHR

LITITZ - Tobacco growers in Lancaster Farming's coverage area were finally able to get the beginnings of their crop planted this week. According to reports a few farmers

were able to begin planting last Thursday and Friday, (June 1 and 2) while the majority of those individual planting began in the early part of this week.

By Wednesday, a number of growers in the New

Holland area had from two to five acres planted, and in the Central Manor area one tobacco farmer and his son had as much as 10 acres in the ground.

Raymond Burkholder,

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