

New cattle sale record set

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Lancaster Stockyards, Inc., there were actually over 2000 cattle sold, according to his Lancaster Stockyard official report.

"There were heavy receipts of cattle all over the country," he noted. "I think it was probably due to President Carter's comments concerning meat imports."

"Then the futures market reacted, and people just thought that they better unload their cattle," he continued. "I'd say a good one third of the cattle were what I call panic cattle. They wouldn't have been there if it wouldn't have been for that."

McCoy went on to say that he thought the cattle market for the next three to four

weeks would be a big question mark.

"But from around mid-July on, especially when we get in the third quarter, I'm pretty bullish," he remarked. "There is a record low number in the national cattle herd."

When asked to comment on the significance of the meat imports, McCoy stated that he thought such an

action would have more of a psychological impact than anything else.

"The market should be in good shape," he observed, "and we need good markets. The cattle markets have been hurting."

Set-aside

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shows that 92 farmers signed up in Lancaster County. This figure is five per cent of the eligible farms. In Lebanon County 50 farmers signed up for eight per cent of those eligible; in Chester County, 239 signed for 26 per cent of those eligible; Berks, 251 for 19 per cent of those eligible; in Adams, 597 signed up for 53 per cent of those eligible; and in Dauphin, 242 farms for 30 per cent of those eligible.

Participation in the set-aside is voluntary. However, non-participants are not eligible for price support loans, disaster payments, or deficiency (target price) payments. While farmers need to sign up and comply with set-aside provisions to receive program benefits, they will not be held to the intentions they provide ASCS during the sign-up period. Final figure will be available after farmers have certified their acreage later in the year.

Sign up began March 1 and ran through May 31. However, those farms which county officers could not accommodate by May 31 were asked to sign a register and had until June 15 to complete enrollment.

Final sign up figures will be issued June 20.

in 1977 compares with 242,000 head counted in 1976 and 246,000 head in 1975.

Hay harvesters in the Garden Spot averaged 3.06 tons per acre last year, a good jump from the 2.77 figure recorded a year earlier. Potato yields, on the other hand, dropped from 284 hundredweights per acre in 1976 to 235 hundredweights last year. Acreage dropped from 1770 in 1976 to 1590 last year. The value of vegetables increased by over a million dollars. With 3530 acres in production, the 1977 value was \$3,694,000. In 1976 the respective figures were 2655 acres and \$2,560,000. Fruit production recorded a slight increase. No acreage figures are available, but the value of fruits produced in the Garden Spot last year was \$1,077,000, which compares with \$1,072,000 for 1976.

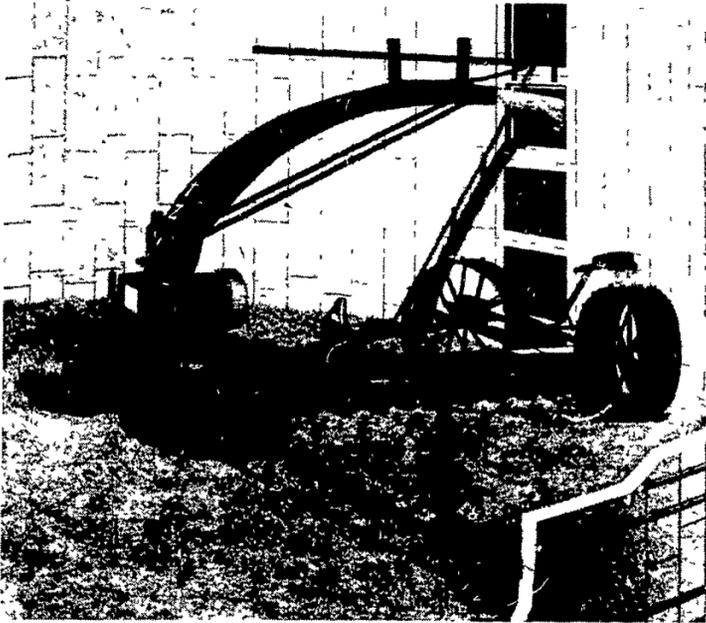
All of the small grain crops except oats have lost some ground during the past several years in both acres and dollar value. Wheat took the biggest licking as its value plummeted from more than \$6 million in 1974 to \$2,373,830 in 1977. Acreage for wheat, meanwhile, has dropped by nearly 7000 acres during the past two years, and by 4250 acres since a year ago. Average yields were 42 bushels per acre in 1974, compared to 35.7 and 35.4 in 1975 and 1976, respectively. For 1977 the average yield was 41 bushels.

The barely crop has gone downhill in average yields; (61 bushels per acre in 1974 to 56.2 in 1975 49.9 in 1976 and 58.0 in 1977) while planted acreage has dropped by 2200 acres since last year. The crop's value was pegged at \$2,230,000 in 1974; \$1,464,700 in 1975, \$1,546,700 in 1976 and \$1,426,800 a year ago.

Oats, with 3500 acres planted last year, and an average yield of 56 bushels per acre, was valued at \$284,300. That compares with a value of \$265,000 in 1975 and \$258,000 in 1976. Planted acreage has increased by 500 since last year.

Lancaster County, which ranks as the number one non-irrigated agricultural county in the United States, has 5785 farms, according to the Crop and Livestock Report. That's the same number of farms as were counted in 1976.

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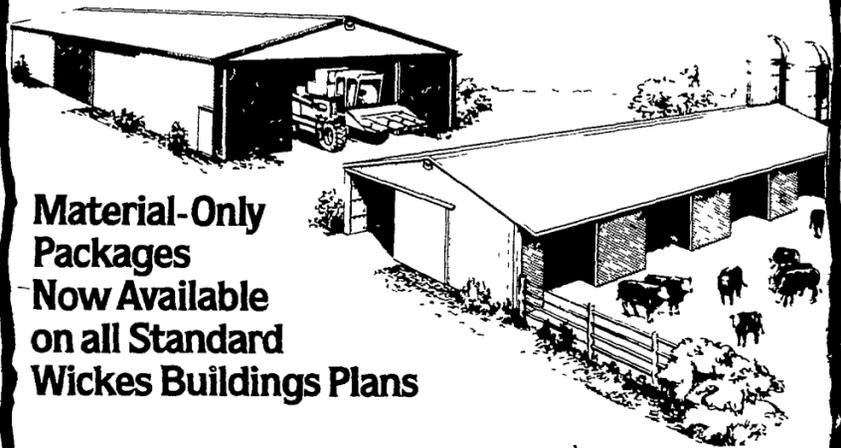
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