

November food basket report released by Shelhamer

HARRISBURG - The monthly food basket report for November showed that Pennsylvania consumers were paying less than they did six months ago for the average food basket, according to State Secretary Kent Shelhamer.

Shelhamer said that the average cost of the 14 food basket items sampled in

rural and urban stores throughout the Commonwealth in November was \$11.13, up 35 cents from the October cost of \$10.78. Shelhamer pointed out that six months ago, in May, consumers were paying \$11.15 for the same items. Food basket costs were highest in July this year at \$11.30 for the food basket.

He noted that food was still

a bargain with prices below levels of six months ago, and said that consumers should "recognize the tremendous job our farmers have done in production which helped keep food prices below the national inflation rate."

According to the survey conducted by the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Rural Affairs, all

six regions in the commonwealth showed an increase in the cost of the food basket in November, ranging from 14 cents in the southwest to 67 cents in the southeast central region.

The southwest region showed the highest price in the state with a food basket average of \$11.42. The northcentral region continued as the least expensive region with foodbasket costs listed at \$10.87.

The difference in the cost of the food basket purchased in rural stores versus urban stores in November was 2.26 per cent. Rural shoppers found their food bills 25 cents more expensive for the same items as urban shoppers during the month.

The savings in purchasing storebrand rather than namebrand items in November decreased from the 11 per cent registered in October to nine per cent in November. The statewide average cost of selected food basket items was \$7.08 for storebrand goods compared to \$7.74 for namebrand. Eight products, selected to allow consumers a consistent choice between namebrand and storebrand varieties were sampled for the comparison.

Of the 14 products, only cornflakes decreased in price during November, going from 70 cents to 65 cents a pound.

Items increasing in price in November were coffee

from \$2.81 to \$2.86 a pound; whole chicken, from 64 to 65 cents a pound; eggs, from 81 to 88 cents a dozen large eggs; ground beef, from \$1.28 to \$1.35 a pound; and American Cheese, from \$1.75 to \$1.87 a pound.

Items fluctuating less than a cent were potatoes, 11 cents a pound; cabbage, 11 cents a pound; canned peaches, 39 cents a pound; sugar, 25 cents a pound; shortening, 64 cents a pound; and bread, 43 cents a pound.

The monthly food basket survey is intended to provide Pennsylvania consumers with information on food pricing trends in the commonwealth.

Nitrites called natural defense

CHICAGO, Ill - Is the human body's normal production of nitrite a natural defense against botulism spores which are all around us? Dr. F.E. Deatherage, veteran biochemist at Ohio State Univ., says there is evidence this is the case. Despite the fact that we are exposed constantly to Clostridium botulinum spores, for some reason these spores do not germinate to active toxin-producing bacteria in the human gut. Evidence suggests that nitrite produced normally in the intestines is a natural protection, Deatherage says, just as nitrite in cured meat prevents outgrowth of the feared bacteria.

The evidence Deatherage

cites relates to sudden infant death syndrome, where babies die in their cribs for no apparent reason. It has been shown that many of these fatalities are due to the outgrowth in the infant's intestine of Clostridium botulinum spores to active vegetative bacteria which produce enough toxin to kill the baby. "It is reasonable then to consider that normal bacterial nitrification processes producing nitrite have not been sufficiently developed in the first months of life to protect some babies," the Ohio State scientist observes. "This idea needs further study. Nevertheless, it has sufficient merit to cause the Sioux Honey Association to issue a notice of warning

that honey should not be fed to infants less than one year old. Honey, which is almost a sacred food to some faddists, is well laced with botulinum spores."

Dr. Deatherage also provided these figures on the amount of nitrate - which converts to nitrite in the human mouth and intestines - occurring naturally in certain vegetables: celery, up to 2600 parts per million; lettuce, up to 1400 ppm; radishes, 2400-3000 ppm; zucchini-squash, 600 ppm. Cured meats contain maximum of 156 ppm nitrite - bacon, 125 ppm.

Deatherage said the Delaney Amendment and other regulations need revision to place them "in concert with the laws of nature..."

Private individuals, corporations own 60 per cent of U.S. land

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Private individuals and corporations own about 60 per cent of the 2.3 billion acres of U.S. land, while the rest is owned by federal, state and local governments and American Indians, according to a report issued recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Knowing who owns U.S. land is important, according to Gene Wunderlich, economist with the Department's Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service. "Land ownership affects how wealth is distributed, how land is used and, from the Department's standpoint, how land policies are made," he said. Getting detailed information on landowners is often difficult, according to Wunderlich, because not all actual owners may be recorded and many different people may

hold rights to the same piece of land.

About 7 to 8 million farm, ranch and forest owners hold close to 95 per cent of all privately held land, while the two per cent of the U.S. land used for housing is owned by between 47 and 58 million people. Commercial, industrial, recreational and other uses account for the remaining three per cent.

In the report, Wunderlich describes the status of data on U.S. landownership analysis, policy formation and administration. He explains how landownership terms often confuse the understanding and use of data, he suggests improvements in data systems that could help obtain more useful information and he describes the national landownership survey being conducted by the department.

Single free copies of

"Facts About U.S. Landownership" (AIB-422), are available by writing: ESCS Publications, room 0054-S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please indicate your zipcode.

FORD TRACTOR

WITH SAUDER LOADER AND BLADES TO FIT MOST TRACTORS

Trade and Save—
Make a Deal
on New Tractor
Now!



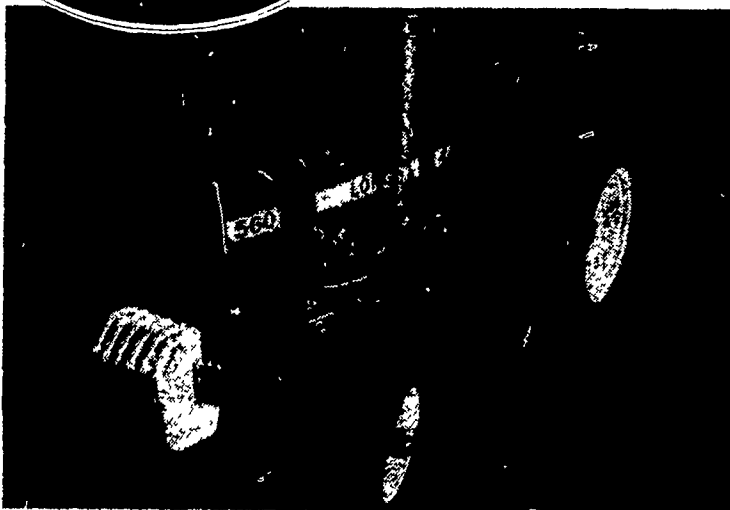
WITH OR WITHOUT HYDRAULIC BUCKET

SERVING THE COMMUNITY THIRTY YEARS

ALLEN H. MATZ, INC.

505 E. Main St., New Holland (717) 354-2214

LONG 560 TRACTOR




All Purpose Four Cylinder Diesel Agricultural Tractor

The Long 560 offers . . .
Plenty of smooth, dependable power for most jobs around the farm — from heavy field work to farmyard chores. Designed for efficiency, long life and ease of operation. Features such as five bearing crankshaft, independent PTO, power steering, 8-speed transmission, deluxe seat, and lighting all included at no extra cost. Now with new styling and a vibration damper.

TEAM UP WITH YOUR CHOICE OF FRONT END LOADER

- ★ 60" MANURE BUCKET
- ★ 68" DIRT BUCKET
- ★ 84" SNOW BUCKET


See Your Long Dealer For Your Best Tractor Values ...



I. G. AG SALES
Silverdale, PA
215-257-5136




MELROSE FARM SUPPLY
Rt. 16 West,
Greencastle, PA
717-597-3138




NORMAN D. CLARK & SON
Honey Grove, PA
717-734-3682




CLAPPER FARM EQUIP.
RD1, Alexandria, PA
814-669-9015




AGROPHILOS, INC.
RD1, Millerstown, PA
717-444-3232



MAIDENCREEK FARM SUPPLY
Blandon, PA
215-926-3851



COLUMBIA EQUIPMENT CO.
Bloomsburg, PA
717-784-7456



WENGER'S INC.
S Race St.
Myerstown, PA
717-866-2138

HOG PRODUCERS!

Get Top Price for Your Hogs at New Holland



Selling by auction the auction way. See them weighed and sold and pick up your check.

SALE EVERY MONDAY - 8:00 A.M.

HOLLAND SALES STABLES, INC.
Phone 717-354-4341

Daily Market Report - Phone 717-354-7288
Abe Diefenbach, Manager