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Shelhamer leaves ag office

By DIETER KRIEG

HARRISBURG — Kent Shelhamer is out of the Secretary of Agriculture Office, and his replacement, Penrose Hallowell, is in. The change took place Tuesday, when Richard Thornburgh took over the reigns of state government. Hallowell is Thornburgh's choice as agriculture secretary and he has been given the keys to the Department the fact that he hasn't yet been confirmed by the State Senate.

Shelhamer formally took office in February of 1977, accepting the top agriculture job with humble enthusiasm. None of that seems to have diminished since then. A man who prides himself on his career as a farmer, as well as a politician, Shelhamer said he wanted to make the Department more responsive to the needs of Pennsylvania's farmers. He believes he has done that. Many farmers would agree. At Monday's Pennsylvania Farmers Union Convention, for example, the news of his departure prompted remarks that he will be missed. "He was the best secretary of agriculture the state has had for long time," said one Centre Countian. Others in the group nodded in agreement.

Praise for Shelhamer has come from other groups and individuals as well. While he admits that he isn't liked by

everyone, he is modestly pleased with the kind of relationship he has had with farmers and farm organization leaders. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, the Pennsylvania State Grange, and the Pennsylvania Farmers Union and he met regularly with leaders of each of those groups. He hopes his successor will continue that tradition.

During a recent interview with Lancaster Farming, Shelhamer made it plain that he appreciated the two years he had to serve as secretary of agriculture. He came into office with a practical, grass-roots, nuts-and-bolts philosophy and he believes he earned respect with that attitude. What follows is the first installment of a 2-part story on Kent Shelhamer and his two years as Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture.

Acknowledging that he has made some people unhappy with his decisions, he is proud of his positions nonetheless. In fact, he's as proud of his "stubbornness" as he is of his farm background. He made the latter a prerequisite for high-level employment in his office. "There is no job for a farmer that's too tough to tackle," he said in an interview two years ago. He was determined to be a secretary of agriculture who worked on behalf of farmers.

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Slaughter steers hit new high

By KENDACE BERRY

LITITZ — Slaughter steer prices in Lancaster County continued their record high this week, following the trend established last week when prices set a new record high in the county.

The high of the week set a new record again for Lancaster County slaughter steer prices. At the Vintage Sales Stables on Tuesday, prices climbed to \$67.60.

This week's Monday Lancaster Market, compared to last Wednesday's prices, found slaughter steers firm to 50 cents higher with the most advance being on the good to low choice. High choice and prime, yield 3-4, weighing 1000 to 1325 pounds, brought 63.25 to 65.25. Choice, mainly yield 2, 1075 to 1325 pounds, brought 64.00 to 65.50, with a couple going for 65.75 to 66.35; Choice 2-4, 1000 to 1350 pounds brought 61.50 to 63.75.

On Tuesday, at the Vintage Auction, slaughter steers were \$2.00 to \$3.00 higher than the week previous, with most late sales \$3.00 higher. High choice and prime 3-4, weighing 1075 to 1425 pounds brought 64.50-66.85, with eight head bringing 67.00 to 67.60. Choice, mainly yield 2, weighing 1100 to 1350 pounds, went for 65.00-66.25, with a few bringing 66.25-66.75; Choice, yield 2-4, 1000 to 1325 pounds, brought 62.25-65.00.

The Lancaster County summary for the week ending Friday noted that slaughter steers were generally steady, with high choice and prime 3-4, weighing 1075 to 1425 pounds bringing 63.75 to 66.00; and a few bringing 66.00 to 66.85, about 15 head going for 67.00 to 67.60.

For a more complete market report, see the market and livestock reports beginning on page 2 of Lancaster Farming.

Compared to Monday, Wednesday's auction prices at the Lancaster Stockyards were mostly steady, with instances of being 50 cents higher on choice and prime.

High choice and prime, yield grades 3-4, weighing 1100 to 1375 pounds brought 63.75 to 65.85, with a few head going for 66.00 to 66.60; and choice, yield 2 to 4, 1000 to 1400 pounds, went for 61.50 to 64.75.

Thursday, at the New Holland Sales Stables auction, compared to the Thursday before, slaughter steers were mostly steady, with instances of 50 cents lower on good to low choice. High choice and prime, 3-4, weighing 1125 to 1425 pounds, brought 63.75 to 66.10, with a few head going for 66.25-66.85; choice, mainly 2, weighing 1075 to 1425 pounds brought 65.00-66.25, with a few head bringing 66.25-66.75.

Cooperatives facing the ax

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — House Agriculture Committee Chairman Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash) has predicted that legislation will be introduced this year to limit the scope of farmer cooperatives in the U.S.

Foley said the legislation will result from recommendations of the National Commission To Review Antitrust Laws and Procedures. The recommendations, which will be sent to the President on January 22, will call for modifications to the Capper-Volstead Act affecting cooperative mergers and cooperative marketing agencies in common.

Speaking at the 50th annual meeting of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Foley expressed concern that House members of the commission were from the Judiciary Committee, and had little or no experience in agricultural matters.

He assured his audience that cooperatives will not be decimated by ill-considered legislation, and suggested that the Agriculture Committee might try to gain some jurisdiction over the legislation when it's introduced in the House.

Foley added, however, that urban members of Congress won't be easy to approach on the issue. "The story of the value of cooperatives will have to be told at the grassroots level throughout the country," he said.

Turning to other issues facing the Agriculture Committee, Foley said there is apprehension in the country that food prices will rise about 10 per cent again this year.

He stated that any proposal for an agricultural relief measure requiring large outlays of federal money, or raising food prices, will cause great public concern.

The Agriculture Committee chairman said that other issues expected to be examined by his committee this year include: bargaining legislation, federal grain inspection, federal crop insurance, export sales reporting requirements, sugar production base, and the general agricultural situation.

Cooperative Monitoring System

The role of cooperatives in fighting inflation was covered by James C. Webster, director, Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"In terms of fighting inflation in the farm economy," he said "you have always been on the front line and you're still there. Cooperatives have been and continue to be examples of efficiency in the food system."

Webster added that despite this proved record, co-ops are charged by some with having too many privileges and too much power. He noted that Secretary of Agriculture Bergland believes that the protection farmers have under the Capper-Volstead Act imposes a stern responsibility not to betray the trust that legislation imposed.

As a result, said Webster, Secretary Bergland has established a monitoring system to carry out his authority under the Capper-Volstead Act. He said the system will

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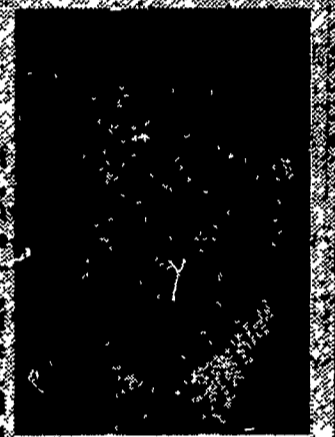
In this issue



Gordon Cookin

Tony Dechant, president of the National Farmers Union, visited central Pennsylvania this week, telling an audience of about 100 persons that the White House and the Department of Agriculture is responsible for agricultural programs. His viewpoints are detailed in articles beginning on page 17 and 18.

Dairy farmers are being instructed that the program is designed to help them get the most out of their milk production. The program is a result of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural District program. Details are on page 18.



Tony Dechant

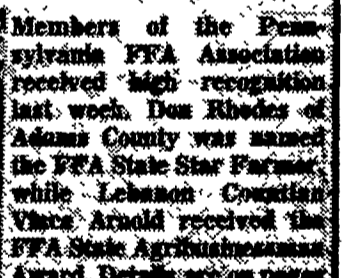
The Pennsylvania Farmers Union held its convention this week. Coverage of their meetings can be found on pages 14, 15, 16, and 17.

An executive of the American Angus Association charged President Jimmy Carter with a "communications gap." Reasons are provided as to why cattlemen are reluctant to expand their herds. See page 125 for details.

Antibiotic residues in slaughter animals will be found faster than ever before once USDA's new detection program, "STOP," takes effect in February. Details are printed on page 118.

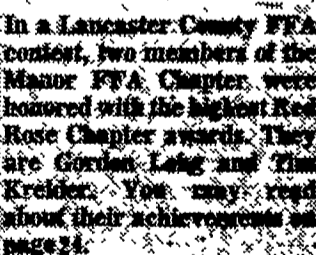


Rhodes

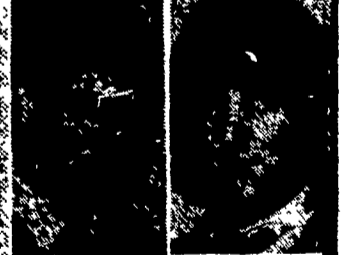


Arnold

Members of the Pennsylvania FFA Association received high recognition last week. Don Rhodes of Adams County was named the FFA State Star Farmer while Lebanon County's Wayne Arnold received the FFA State Agricultural Award. Details are on pages 107 and 114, respectively.



Rhodes



Kreider

In a Lancaster County FFA contest, two members of the Manor FFA Chapter were honored with the highest Key-Rose Chapter awards. They are Gordon Lang and Tim Kreider. You may read about their achievements on page 11.

Well-known farmer and cooperativist, Ames Funk, has some more ideas on how we can get the best out of the key, he says. His remarks are detailed on page 92.

What does it take to have a successful vocational agriculture program in high school? Dr. William Powell, who retired last Fall from a 30-year teaching career, shares some of his thoughts in an article beginning on page 122.

Want to know who exhibited the best grain at the Farm Show? Page 98 has the answers. Who had the top draft horses? Turn to page 106 to find out. The carcass lamb show is detailed on page 114. And that isn't all about the Farm Show. We have several other articles as well, including a list of winning horse races which appears on page 44.

Other features are as follows:

History of veterinarians — Dr. James H. ...

Honorary names — Dr. ...

Jr. Cooking Editor — Dr. ...

Names on the Loose — Dr. ...