(Continued from Page 1)

they decide to just add another hundred pounds to the cattle they have rather than pay the high price for the replacement feeder

"But even though we're short of beef supplies in general, the farmer should be aware of the danger of the possibility of an oversupply of prime meat. The most popular weight to sell at is between 1100 and 1200

He told that the situation presently seen, with an undersupply of cattle available, is a normal part of the cattle cycle.

"The cows and calves were culled when they weren't profitable to raise, a few years ago," he related. "Now the ranchers are holding the female calves for replacement. It's going to take three to four years for the herds to build up, and then the market will swing the other way, with prices dropping, and supplies high.'

McCoy noted that he thought that there was little for the consumer to be optomistic about.

"It will probably get worse before it gets better," he commented

According to him, there are several factors which could influence the market and prices.

"There is always the possibility of government control," he stated. he stated. "Whatever is done, it problably won't work, but it will be a popular move with the consumer."

He noted that statistics show that there has been a five per cent drop in the cattle inventory in the past year, which was the fourth consecutive year that the number of cattle has been

Without the government control in prices, the problem will correct itself in time," McCoy stressed. "It's really just a part of the natural cycle, enhanced by inflation."

Talking about the possibility of beef imports, McCoy thought that there just weren't too many sizable amounts of beef to be imported, "and those that are, are competitive with our prices," he noted.

The slaughterer and the retailer up to the past two years had a relatively large supply of beef, he reasoned. He told that at that time it really hadn't been profitable for the farmers to raise

"But now the cow-calf operator is in the driver's seat," he explained. "Now he is the one that's making money."

One of the questions that looms in the future to be answered is whether consumers will or will not pay the high price for quality meats, he thought. He compared it to the cost of gasoline, which a few years ago, took a sudden high jump in price.

"Did everyone use less gas?" he questioned "They may have said they were going to but in the end, they just paid the higher price."

As for the farmer who wants to replace his fat cattle, the feeder cattle today are bringing "unheard of prices"

He thought that the other meat markets were also strengthened by the high price the beef are bringing, stating that there is a larger supply of hogs, and he feels that the cattle prices are bolstering that market The same holds true for lamb and mutton, and poultry.

"But people just don't seem to have a preference for other types of meat, they way they do for beef," he concluded "Beef you can eat every day of the week and still not grow tired of it."



Dr. Clifton Baile and Abe Fisher, both of whom are instrumental in the construction of a unique feeder pig production unit at New Bolton Center,

invited insterested pork producers to their Open House, Feb. 17.

### **Pork**

(Continued from Page 1)

may be interested in is the Open House of a brand new swine breeding unit that is being completed at New Bolton Center, a veterinary research center of the University of Pennsylvania that's located northeast of Kennett Square along Route 926. The public is invited to attend.

The unique facility will be used to produce feeder pigs for a private owners, but might also be used for research. The first gilts are expected to arrive here shortly after the Open House. Meanwhile, other construction will continue. In all, the facility incorporates a breeding and gestation house, a farrowing house, a nursery, and a slurry manure system which will allow flush water to be

recycled. Penn-Jersey Harvestore of New Holland is cooperating on the latter project.

The breeding and gestation building has 396 pens for bred gilts and sows, as well as additional pens for animals which are to be mated. In all, the unit will incorporate 480 sows and gilts.

The research-production unit will be managed by Joe Strittmatter, who was for-

merly swine herdsman at Michigan State University. He is a Cambria County, Pa. native and a graduate of Penn State University.

The farrowing house is divided up into four rooms. with 20 farrowing crates in each. The nursery has a capacity for 1200 pigs.

We'll have more details on both the upcoming Keystone Pork Congress, and the pig production unit in next week's edition.

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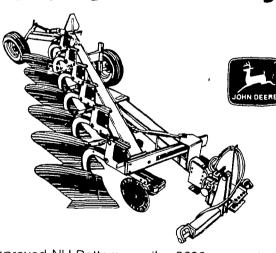
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