

Lancaster Farming

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\$7.50 Per Year

Hog market nudges \$50 at Lancaster

BY SHEILA MILLER

LANCASTER — The hog market has reached its highest level in over a year.

Midwestern and local markets are reporting a rise in prices paid by packers, reflecting the competition and demand for the lower numbers of hogs being marketed.

Lloyd Hoover, hog salesman for Walter M. Dunlap & Sons, Lancaster, reports that the St. Louis prices were their highest since June, 1979. "Our prices here follow that market close."

Hoover points out that prices in the mid to high 40's is the highest on record since the new year began.

"In January the top price was \$41, in February it was \$40.50. It kept going down in March, with a high of \$38, and April saw hogs bringing a top price of \$31. Then in May the tide began to turn

and prices went as high as \$34. The big jump came in June with \$44."

Hoover says the industry has seen a significant drop in the numbers of hogs slaughtered. "There are 75,000 to 100,000 fewer hogs marketed per day now than in April and May."

"That 20-30 percent drop adds up to a lot of pork. It has a significant impact on the prices."

Whether this price increase will last is hard to tell at this point, says Louis Moore, Penn State Agriculture Economist.

"You see these seasonal trends every year — hog prices always get better in June and July," he says.

He adds, however, there has been a significant cut in farrowings, to the tune of 8-9 percent. These figures were

(Turn to Page A35)



Governor Richard Thornburgh, front and center, signed the milk security bill Thursday afternoon. Among those looking on were, from left, Sen.

Patrick Stapleton, Rep. Noah Wenger, Sen. Frank O'Connell, Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, and Rep. Reno Thomas.

Governor signs milk security bill

BY CURT HARLER

HARRISBURG —

Governor Richard Thornburgh signed the milk security fund bill Thursday afternoon, making official the added coverage for Pennsylvania dairy farmers.

Signing of the Milk

Producers and Cooperative Security Fund Act, SB 1287, establishes a \$4 million proprietary dealers fund and a \$2 million cooperative fund as an alternative to the old system of requiring a \$200,000 bond as a means to secure payments from milk dealers.

In signing the bill, the Governor noted that since 1976 dealer defaults have cost milk producers almost \$7.3 million, of which only \$1.7 million was recovered from bonds.

"This law will better protect milk producers at an overall lower cost than the current bonding requirements, and will thus give consumers a more reliable supply of milk at potentially lower cost," Thornburgh said.

The signing of the bill was preceded by a dairy luncheon held at the Department of Agriculture building.

The lunch, attended by over 60 persons who had

worked on the milk security bill, featured a host of dairy dishes, including several varieties of cheeses, beef, and milk.

At the luncheon, SB 1287's author, Senator Patrick Stapleton, chairman of the senate ag committee; Senator Frank O'Connell; Representative Reno Thomas, chairman of the house ag committee; and Rep. Noah Wenger, vice chairman, all were present to take bows for the work accomplished.

Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell bid them,

"Hats off and thanks. You've done a good job for the Commonwealth," he told the lawmakers.

At the signing ceremony in the Capitol, attended by representatives of many of the state's dairy co-ops, farmer organizations, dairy princesses and other interested parties, Hallowell thanked Thornburgh for his work in helping get the bill passed.

The signing was packed with people in the Governor's Conference Room.

(Turn to Page A33)

Former Lehigh president sues co-op for \$153,000

BY VIVIAN PAUL
Staff Correspondent

ALLENTOWN — The former president of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers, Inc., Richard L. Allison filed suit this week against the dairy for damages in excess of \$153,000.

Allison claims he was fired without cause in 1974 when his contract had more than two years to run.

He claims that because of the firing he could not secure a new job for four months.

In papers filed in Lehigh County Court Allison said he was fired "without just cause or reason" and was accused of "intentionally concealing and improperly

manipulating the company's financial records and making fictitious, false and improper entries, and of failing to make proper adjustments and presentation of financial information on financial statements."

He is asking for \$128,416 in unpaid salary plus legal fees of \$25,000 which were incurred in legal actions in which he was named as a defendant because he was an officer of the dairy.

One month after he was fired Allison was placed on probation by a Federal judge after being found guilty of consenting to a \$50,000 dairy contribution to former

President Richard M. Nixon's re-election campaign fund.

The dairy itself paid a \$5000 fine after pleading guilty to making the contribution.

The alleged financial mismanagement resulted in Allison's dismissal.

Shortly after Allison's firing from the dairy, now known as Atlantic Processing, Inc., it was revealed that the company had paid \$5.2 million in over-distributions to members. In order to keep afloat the association assessed its members \$3.8 million.

Allison's suit against the dairy is the fifth action now pending involving the 1974 shakeup.

A possible sixth action is being considered by preferred shareholders of the former Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers, Inc. whose stock was reduced to 15 percent of its value when the dairy sold its assets to Atlantic Processing in June of this year.

We welcome Bradford DHIA

TOWANDA — LANCASTER FARMING is pleased to welcome the Bradford County Dairy Herd Improvement Association to the growing list of county DHIA's in our pages.

Bradford is the second largest dairy producing county in the state behind Lancaster County, which produces over a billion pounds of milk annually.

Bradford produces 487 million pounds of milk annually, according to the Crop Reporting Service. In third place is Franklin County, followed by Chester and Berks.

We are happy to be allowed to serve the state's dairy industry and look forward to continuing to give Pennsylvania the best dairy coverage possible.

In This Issue

SECTION A: Editorials, 10; Perry princess, 15; Duroc wins York show, 17; Combine adjustment, 18; Letters to editor, 24; Vintage auction, 28; Blacksmith at 86, 36; Lebanon DHIA, 39.

SECTION B: Shirk on dairy, 2; Flower trials, 5; Santee Acres Dairy, 6; Dairy challenges, 10; No more cheap calves, 15.

SECTION C: Homestead notes, 2; Home on range, 6; Milk Check, 22; Bradford DHIA, 23; Dauphin dairy princess, 28; Joyce Bupp, 32; Silo soliloquy, 34.

1980 wheat crop a bin buster

BY PAT KAUFFMAN

LANCASTER — A bumper wheat harvest is being harvested in Lancaster County. According to Arnold Lueck, Lancaster extension agent, wheat yields this year are running on the high side.

Lueck said that there has been surprisingly little storm damage. While leaf disease problems emerged in early June, he said the sunny weather has brought the wheat into good maturity. Straw length is exceptional this year, he said.

Dale Herr, R1 Kirkwood, said that he had harvested 75

bushels an acre off of 8 acres on his place. Herr said that the wheat he custom combined was running around 45-55 bushels per acre.

He said his wheat contained 14.2 percent moisture, and that this year's crop was the most wheat he's ever cut off any field in his 10 years of custom combining.

Herr planted Pioneer wheat on top of last year's tobacco fields. He said he didn't have any trouble this year with smut.

Herr attributed his large yields to the variety he planted and the fact that he spread a little nitrogen over

the field this spring. Those factors coupled with the fact that the field contained tobacco last year he said probably contributed to the bumper crop.

He said that he planted it fairly late, something he said the extension offices recommend, but farmers often don't abide by. He said this gets over the fly period a little better.

Jim Nolt of Nolt's Mill said that the crop coming in was a big one. He said the test weight was very good. He attributed the bumper crop to a lack of rain over the

(Turn to Page A29)