

# Hog market

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indicated in the latest producer survey.

"Hog producers are already through the toughest part. They all would probably like to forget about the first part of 1980. But by 1981, they will have returned to a profitable situation again."

Moore attributes the better hog prices to producers voluntarily cutting back in numbers. "Their losses were so heavy, many producers finally decided they had to cut back."

But, cautions Moore, hog producers aren't out of the woods yet. He points out that this year will be the second highest in marketing numbers in the hog industry's history — only exceeded by last year's

total.

"Although this price increase is significant, the market is only \$2 to \$2.50 higher than a year ago. What gives producers the impression they're in real good shape is the fact that, in April, prices were \$12 per hundredweight lower than the previous year.

"All the market is doing is returning from disastrous levels."

Moore notes that the hog market will continue to be helped out by the fact that the number of beef going to market will keep on dropping.

Hog producers, now given a respite in their struggles to hang on during the price slump, will be "out of the woods by 1981", Moore predicts.

# Barley says "disappointed" in ag lands condemnation

WASHINGTON BORO — "I was a bit disappointed," said John Barley in assessing the first meeting of the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board.

Barley, of Lancaster County, along with Charles Benner, Snyder County, were appointed earlier this year as the farmer members on the newly formed board.

The June 27 meeting, which lasted 1½ hours, Barley explained, was an organizational meeting. He said that as the new board was reviewing the provisions of the law which called for the creation of the condemnation board (Act 100, signed on December 7, 1979, by Governor Thornburgh), he got his first close look at the legislation.

"I was a bit disappointed because it does not cover quite as broad an area as I had hoped. It only covers condemnation cases involving highways and landfills, and areas of liquid or solid waste disposal — it doesn't govern public utilities or stop power companies or parks from coming in and condemning farmland."

Barley noted that the Pennsylvania Journal will contain a notice to all local municipalities, however, informing them of the board's existence. It will let

them know that anytime a municipality or anyone in any level of government plans this sort of land use, they must have the prior approval of the condemnation board, he said.

One area that bothers Barley about the board's responsibilities is that the board members will review individual cases and point out feasible alternatives to proposed land uses affecting farmland.

"How feasible must our alternatives be if our purpose is to preserve farmland — is the land our first choice?"

Admitting he doesn't have the answer to the question, Barley said he'll just have to wait and see, as a member of the board.

Barley was personally involved in a land use conflict between a local refuse authority and his farm several years ago.

As far as work ahead of them, Barley said the board has nothing on their agenda yet.

"We're not meeting on a regular basis — just as the need arises. But we did set the policy that the board will review and answer all requests within 60 days."

Barley commented he was impressed with Tom Larson of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell's attitudes that the board was not created to add another monster to the bureaucracy.

"They both said they felt the board wasn't there to create more paperwork and extra work."

Barley added that Larson seemed to indicate Penn DOT will be cooperating with the board not only in new highway construction (which is unlikely due to their financial situation), but also with projects started previously but delayed.

Barley pointed out the condemnation board is not an appeal board. It hopefully

will stop cases where farmland would be condemned before they're started, he said.

"When a township or borough applies to the Department of Environmental Resources for a permit for a land fill or highway, DER will then refer the plans to our board for our review.

"If farmland is involved the farmer will be notified and will be allowed to present a case in his own behalf to the board. The board will try to keep farmers out of binds where they are trying to reverse decisions and spending lots of money.

"I feel it will be an effective board," Barley concluded.

## Eastern meeting Monday

TROY — Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc will hold a meeting at the Legion Hall in Troy, Pa on Monday at 8 p.m.

Top officials of the Cooperative will be present to hold a question and answer

session for District 1 members.

Among possible subjects will be the status of reblends. June's reblends was 31 cents and there is the likelihood it will increase to 50 cents or more for the current month.

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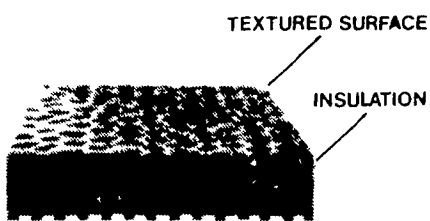
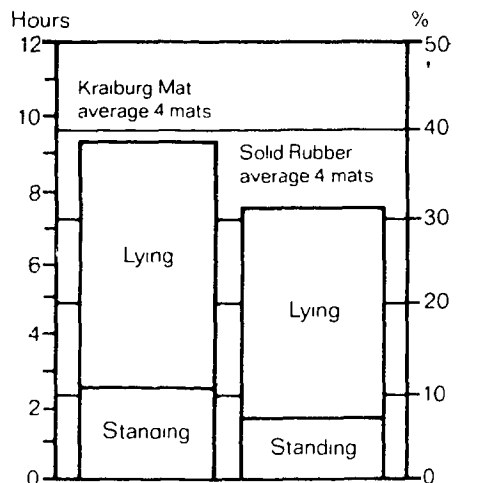
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