

Record production, low demand push livestock prices down

LANCASTER — Meat and livestock prices averaged well below year-earlier levels during the second quarter of 1980—primarily because of record pork and poultry production, year-to-year increases in beef production, and declines in real consumer income.

Record supplies allowed consumers to substitute meat whenever the price of one rose relative to another, keeping downward pressure on all meat prices.

Retail pork prices, averaging about \$1.25 per pound, were down 16 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since the second quarter of 1977.

Beef averaged about \$2.32 per pound, down two percent from a year earlier.

The drop in livestock prices at the producer level was even more severe. Hog prices in April and May fell below \$30, about \$15 below a year ago and the lowest price since June 1974. Fed cattle prices were about \$10 below a year ago. These low prices continued to keep returns to producers below the cost of production, and this is likely to result in a cutback in meat production later in the year.

Beef and broiler production will likely drop from year-earlier levels in the third quarter, and pork production may decline in the fourth quarter. However, total meat production will

stay large with third quarter production remaining above year-earlier levels.

Fourth quarter production, while falling slightly below 1979 levels, will still be up one to two percent from 1978.

Pork production is expected to continue above year-earlier levels during the third quarter of 1980, but may fall from last year's level by the end of the year.

The June 1 inventory of market hogs and pigs was three percent above a year earlier. These hogs will be marketed over the next 6 months. The weight distribution indicates hog slaughter will be five to seven percent above a year ago in the third quarter inventory and farrowing intentions were both eight percent below a year earlier, suggesting hog slaughter will decline sharply in the first half of 1981.

Beef production in the second half of the year will fall below year-earlier levels, reflecting the sharp reduction of cattle placed on feed during the first half of the year.

The number of cattle on feed on June 1 in the seven-major feeding states was down 11 percent from a year earlier and the lowest June 1 number on feed since 1975. Fed beef production is expected to decline, but increased slaughter of cows

and nonfed steers and heifers may offset most of this decline.

However, continued hot, dry weather and deteriorating pastures could further boost nonfed slaughter.

With a seasonal drop in meat production this summer to near year-earlier levels and a year-to-year decline late in the year, second half 1980 livestock and meat prices are expected to be higher than they have been this spring.

The retail price of pork in the second half of the year may average around 15 percent above this spring's

low level, but it would still be only about five percent above a year earlier.

On the other hand, retail beef prices could rise about five percent from the spring and be about 10 percent above a year earlier.

At the producer level, hog prices rose from below \$30 to the low \$40's by the end of June. However, hog prices are expected to decline seasonally by late summer and average in the upper \$30's for the second half of the year, about the same as a year ago.

Choice steer prices may average near \$70, \$3 to \$4 above a year ago.

Junior Cooking Edition

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HEALTHY CANDY

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 2 cups Rice Krispies

Mix all and roll into balls, then roll in coconut.

RUTH B. King, Age 8, Lancaster

DUTCH POTATO SALAD

- 4 slices bacon
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon flour
- ¼ teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 3 tablespoons vinegar
- 4 frankfurters, sliced
- 3 cups hot diced potatoes
- 3 hard boiled eggs
- 1 cup thin sliced celery

Dice and fry bacon crisp. Remove bacon from fat and fry the onion. Blend in flour, mustard, salt and sugar and heat to boiling. Add franks and heat. Pour hot sauce over potatoes, celery and eggs and toss lightly with bacon. Serve at once.

Miriam S. Zimmerman, Age 9, New Holland

MILK SHAKES

- 3 cups cold milk
- fresh strawberries or other fruit
- sugar to taste

Pour milk and cold fruit into a blender and beat until thick and foamy. Add more fruit for thicker shakes. Add sugar and blend.

LaJane Martin, Stevens

SHOOFLY COFFEE CAKE

- ¾ cup soft butter
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 3 eggs
 - 1½ teaspoons vanilla
 - ½ teaspoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon soda
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - 3 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1½ cups dairy sour cream
- Filling:
- ½ cup brown sugar
 - ½ cup chopped walnuts
 - 1½ teaspoons cinnamon

Combine butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla and molasses in a large bowl. Beat. Stir together baking powder, soda, salt, and flour. Add to creamed mixture alternately with sour cream. For tube pan, pour ½ of the batter into the pan. Sprinkle with ½ of the filling. Repeat. Bake in 350° F. oven for 55-60 minutes.

Marie W. Martin, Age 15, New Holland

SAUCEPAN OATMEAL COOKIES

- 2 cups sugar
- ¼ cup cocoa powder
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup margarine
- 2 cups quick oats
- ½ cup peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup

In heavy saucepan, combine sugar and cocoa. Stir in milk. Add margarine. Bring to boiling and boil vigorously for 3 minutes. Stir in oats, corn syrup and peanut butter. Return to boil. Remove from heat. Stir until slightly thickened. Cool a little. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper. Cool. Makes 3 dozen.

June W. Martin, Age 17, New Holland

Local ASCS office reviews high export potential

LANCASTER - The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that farm exports could increase more than \$6 billion in Fiscal Year 1980 to a record high \$38 billion, said Paul B. Kline, Chairman of the Lancaster County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Farm exports rose 34 percent from year-earlier levels during the first half of Fiscal 1980, according to a recent USDA report. The export value was up for all commodities except tobacco.

If the present rate of exports continues, U.S. agricultural exports would exceed \$40 billion for Fiscal 1980, the report stated.

However, prospects for much larger foreign grain crops in 1980, slower economic growth, and

reduced shipments to the Soviet Union may reduce the export rate in the last part of the year.

Cotton exports showed the most dramatic growth among the commodities, rising to an estimated 50 percent in value. Poor corn and sorghum crops in Argentina, coupled with reduced foreign feed supplied in major importing areas bolstered feed grain exports.

Wheat exports are expected to total over 35 million metric tons, compared with 31.3 million last year. While soybean prices have declined from last summer, record shipments have kept the export value at an alltime high.

USDA officials say the positive export picture will be good for the economy and for farm income.



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