

Ethanol

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would be an increase of about 15 percent in the real price of corn over the base period.

Farmers would have to find 97 million acres to plant to corn, opposed to the 80 million planted this year.

Abel predicts a corn yield at that time of 121 bushels per acre, reflecting a small yield increase due to higher real corn prices making it economical to use more fertilizer and other inputs. There would be smaller

levels of domestic and export use of corn compared to the one billion and two billion gallon ethanol production levels because of higher prices, but still significantly higher domestic and export use levels than in the base period.

A whopping 1.57 billion bushels of corn would be going into the manufacture of four billion gallons of ethanol.

Abel leaves himself a few other 'outs'.

He notes that all of the analyses are based on realization of projected yield increases for corn. If those yield increases are not met, either through better genetics, fertilization, cropping methods or whatever, the prices for corn could soar out of sight.

Both world grain demand and world production could grow either faster or slower than the predictions. Depending on the exact case, the entire projection could be thrown awry.

A decrease or increase in yield of four bushels per acre would lower or raise the amount of corn for ethanol production by 300 million bushels.

Government intervention

also remains an unknown factor.

Government programs to moderate variations in grain supplies through the grain reserve program are sufficient to provide an acceptable risk environment for the expansion of ethanol production, Abel says.

Even without government programs, the value of a bushel of corn for ethanol production would be as high as \$6.04 in 1985 and \$9.25 in 1990. That is based on a likely cost of unleaded gasoline as high as \$2.57 per gallon by 1985.

It is likely that U.S. ethanol production based on corn will continue to grow in the 80s, he says.

A two billion gallon production level by 1990 appears to be likely and output of four billion gallons is quite possible if gasoline prices continue to increase in real terms and domestic and world grain production continues to grow at reasonable rates.—CH

Farm labor force up five percent

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's farm labor force was estimated at 143,000 workers during the week of July 6-12. This is an increase of five percent above last July's 136,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Farm operators and unpaid family members working 15 hours or more throughout the Commonwealth numbered 100,000, while hired workers totaled 43,000 during July 1980. This represents a 19 percent increase in hired workers from July, 1979 while the family sector remains unchanged.

The average workweek for Pennsylvania farm operators during the survey period was 50.9 hours. Other unpaid family workers averaged 45.4 hours and hired workers averaged 34.3 hours. National average are 40.4 hours for farm operators, and other family members, and 38.0 hours for hired workers.

Family workers include family members who work 15 hours or more without receiving cash wages. Hired workers include all persons working one hour or more for cash wages during the survey week.

Farm wage rates, for all methods of pay, converted to an hourly rate, totaled \$3.11 in Pennsylvania, up from \$2.91 in 1979. The national average, \$3.52, was up 29 cents from 1978. Commonwealth field workers averaged \$2.83 per hour, compared to \$2.78 last year at this time. Livestock workers took home an average of \$3.05 per hour, compared to last year's \$2.70.

Nationally, the total number of workers on farm July 6-12 was 4,542,600, a decline of 101,000 from last July. Family workers and operators totaled 2,751,200, a decline of 80,700. The number of hired workers dropped 21,000 to 1,791,400 this July.

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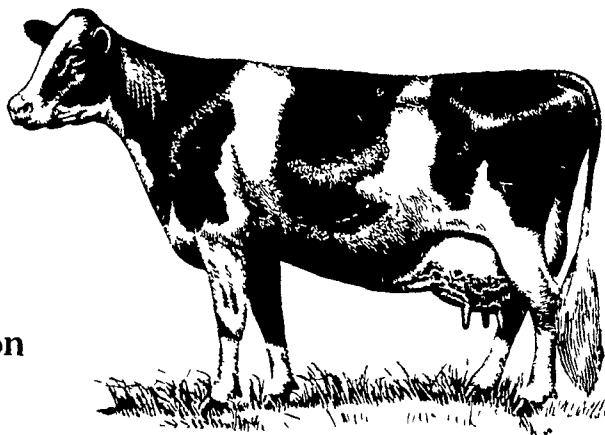
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FACT 3—One out of four dairy men now worm routinely, and thousands



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