

# 1981 livestock prices, costs to jump sharply

**NEW HOLLAND** — Livestock and poultry prices are expected to increase later this fall and throughout most of 1981 as total meat supplies remain below year-earlier levels.

However, despite prospects for much higher 1981 prices, the outlook for producers' profits has been clouded by much higher costs, particularly for feed. Sharply higher meat prices are also in store for 1981. Higher livestock and poultry prices will be necessary to enable producers to cover higher feeding costs, particularly on marketings in the second half of 1981.

If livestock and poultry prices fail to cover production costs, future output may be reduced.

Total red meat and poultry supplies are expected to increase seasonally this fall, but remain below levels of a year ago. Increased fed cattle marketings this fall and winter will be further augmented by continued large nonfed cattle slaughter so beef production will likely be above year-earlier levels.

Pork supplies are rising seasonally, but remain below last year's levels and the rate of decline will accelerate late this fall.

Broiler producers have started to expand production in response to prospects for declining red meat supplies and higher prices. But increases in broiler output may be limited by higher production costs.

Per capita consumption of pork in 1981 may fall about 10 percent from 1980 levels, and beef consumption could be down slightly.

Broiler consumption in early 1981 will about equal last year's levels and should increase throughout the remainder of the year, but not enough to offset the drop in red meat consumption. Consequently, per capita red meat and poultry con-

sumption may decline about two to four percent in 1981.

Retail meat prices in the third quarter increased 4.5 percent from the previous quarter, but were still only 3.9 percent above the third quarter of 1979. The Consumer Price Index for pork rose 9.6 percent from the previous quarter but only 2.9 percent for beef.

Declining meat supplies, rising consumer incomes, and continued high rates of inflation are likely to result

in substantial increases in retail meat prices in 1981.

Pork prices are expected to increase the most, perhaps 25 percent or more. Beef prices may increase 12 to 16 percent and poultry meat prices 15 to 20 percent.

The sharpest price increases may begin in the second quarter as nonfed cattle slaughter slows with the beginning of the spring grazing season.

Fed cattle price gains will likely be held down through the first quarter of 1981 as

the large nonfed slaughter supplements increased fed cattle marketing. Choice fed steer prices at Omaha may average in the upper \$60's this fall before moving to the low \$70's in the first quarter of pork supplies decline.

Prices may reach \$80 next spring before leveling off in the second half of 1980.

Continued large feeder cattle movements and increased feeding costs will hold down feeder cattle prices through much of the first quarter. Yearling feeder cattle prices may average in the mid-to-upper

\$70's until late in the winter quarter before increasing to the upper \$80's as the spring grazing season begins and the forced cattle movement declines.

Feeding margins are likely to be most favorable on cattle marketed in the spring quarter as a result of rising fed cattle prices at the lower prices for feeder cattle when they were placed on feed.

Increased production costs have offset much of the recent rise in hog prices. Hog prices in the fourth quarter are expected to

average about \$46, up from \$36 a year ago and well above \$31 in the second quarter.

Prices will strengthen as pork production declines late in the fourth quarter and throughout 1981 in reaction to large losses in 1979/80.

Hog prices may average near \$50 in the first half of next year and about cover production costs. Prices may increase to the upper \$50's in the second half of the year giving producers a profit margin that could lead to expanded breeding inventories late in 1981.

## 4-H leaders attend national forum

**MEDIA** — Three Delaware County 4-H leaders were sent to National Leaders Forums this fall.

Elsie and Melvin Brown of Ridley Township spent a week at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp in West Virginia with 150 4-H leaders from 12 states. According to C.R. Bryan, Jr., Delaware County 4-H Agent.

The focus of this forum was "4-H and the Family" which was designed to help leaders strengthen family involvement in 4-H. The sessions featured presentations, discussions and workshops to strengthen 4-H leaders ability to share with others the learning experiences in family growth that can happen through 4-H involvement.

Nadine Albany of Prospect Park spent a week at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., exploring ways to involve more disabled youth in 4-H programs. Forty nine 4-H staff and 4-H leaders from 17 states attended this forum which had speakers, workshops, tours and sharing sessions about

needs, accessibility, training and program adaption for disabled youth. Each participant has made plans and set goals for their state and county 4-H programs. 4-H will be actively participating in programs for 1981 - The International Year of Disabled Persons.

4-H Clubs are conducted by volunteer adult leaders with support from the county 4-H organizations and staff. Membership is open to any youth between the ages of 8 and 19 on non-discriminatory basis.

Any one who is interested in becoming a leader in 4-H should contact the 4-H office for more information. Some projects that 4-H offers include gardening, communications, careers, engineering, (bicycle, wood working, electricity, etc), home economics, embryology, and animal science.



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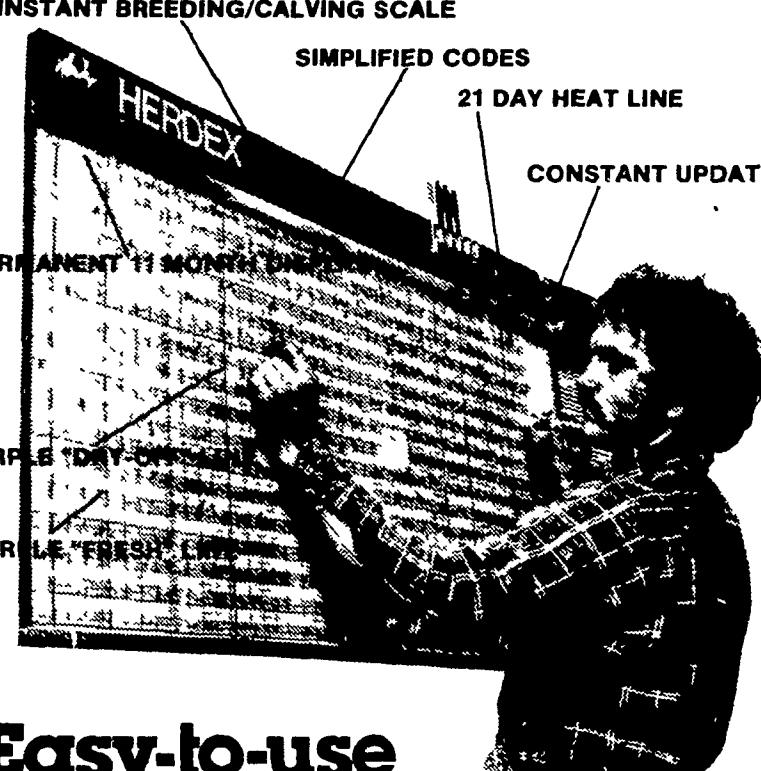
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