

Farm exports to hit record for 12th straight year

LITITZ — In fiscal year 1981, exports of U.S. farm products are expected to increase about 20 percent from last year's \$40.5 billion, resulting in the 12th consecutive year of record export values.

Agricultural imports are also expected to set a record at \$18.5 billion, leaving the agricultural trade surplus at

\$30 billion — \$7 billion larger than in fiscal 1980.

Export volume is forecast at a record 170 million tons in fiscal 1981, up from 164 million last year. Feed grain shipments are expected to increase about three million tons to 74 million, while wheat shipments could rise four million tons to more than 41 million. Small gains

are forecast for rice exports.

Export volume may decline for soybeans, cotton, tobacco, and vegetable oil.

U.S. export volume and value this year will be shaped primarily by the following: 1) the drought-reduced U.S. harvest of feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton; 2) reduce wheat production and export prospects in

Australia and Argentina; 3) a second consecutive year of poor grain crops in the Soviet Union; 4) a decline in Chinese grain production and a substantial increase in total Chinese imports; 5) continued slow economic recovery in the major developed markets; 6) a sharp deterioration in the current trade accounts of most developing countries; and 7) slower growth in foreign livestock production.

Higher prices will likely account for four-fifths of the increase in the U.S. farm export value this year, with volume increasing about four percent.

Although foreign grain production is up somewhat this year, the 12-percent drop in the U.S. grain harvest — in the face of record export demand — has driven up export grain prices.

Wheat prices are expected to be five to 10 percent higher than in fiscal 1980, while corn, sorghum, and soybean prices are projected up about a third.

Soybean export volume may decline five to eight percent due to higher prices, increased supplies in Brazil and Argentina, and reduced U.S. production.

Rice exports increased sharply in fiscal 1980 because of unusually large shipments to Korea of 725,000 metric tons, and exports to Korea may be even larger this year because of a sharply smaller rice crop there.

Cotton exports, which showed the biggest increase of any U.S. crop in fiscal 1980, will experience a dramatic decline in the current fiscal year as reduced supplies, the resulting higher prices, and a weak world economy dampen demand for U.S. cotton.

The recently signed grain accord with China (Jan. 1981-Dec. 1984) will establish China as the largest U.S. wheat market (about 6 million tons).

Annual exports of six to

eight million tons of wheat and corn were agreed upon, with wheat accounting for 30 to 35 percent of the total. China may import up to nine million tons of U.S. grains without prior notification.

The USSR has already completed purchases of 8 million tons of wheat and corn allowed under the terms of the U.S.-USSR grain agreement, which is in its final year. The Soviet grain crop is now estimated at 185 million tons — the second consecutive poor harvest — portending another year of aggressive Soviet buying on world markets.

U.S. agricultural imports are expected to increase more than \$1 billion to \$18.5 billion in fiscal 1981. Sugar imports are expected to rise about \$1.5 billion, the result of anticipated increases of eight percent in volume and nearly 80 percent in unit values.

Ask the VMD

Leon Riegel



Tim Trayer



Edgar Sheaffer

If you have a question you would like answered by Dr. Leon Riegel and Dr. Edgar Sheaffer of Valley Animal Hospital, Palmyra and Dr. Tim Trayer, Denver, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

Poison Possibilities?

A reader asks:

Could you please fill me in on various poisons to livestock, like prussic acid from sudangrass, black cherry, and any other plants or trees that would be dangerous? What are the symptoms and antidotes for these poisons?

Chris Bonner
1959 Straits Corners Road
Candor, New York 13743

Dr. Sheaffer comments:

Looking at the first poison on your list, prussic acid or hydrogen cyanide, there are several plants that are capable of producing this compound. They are sorghum or sudangrass hybrids, Johnsongrass and arrow grass, black cherry and wild cherry, chokecherry, pinchberry, and flax.

The content of cyanide in these plants is increased by anything that damages the plant parts, such as heavy fertilization, frost, wilting, trampling, plant disease, and herbicide application.

An animal that has consumed any stressed plant in the above list will show sudden distress, usually within five to fifteen

minutes. Symptoms are muscle tremors, rapid heart beat, collapse and ultimately death. The mucous membranes and blood may be cherry red in color.

If the animal is seen within the first few minutes of distress, treatment is possible. But immediate action is vital because death generally occurs within a short time.

One treatment calls for sodium nitrite to be administered intravenously — slowly and carefully. This should be followed by sodium thiosulfate, also intravenously.

Methylene blue therapy is another antidote.

Another potentially poisonous plant is Bracken fern, which grows in wooded areas under large trees, especially evergreens. This plant is poisonous to all classes of livestock, but is most severe in ruminants and horses.

In horses, the signs of poisoning are loss of appetite, weakness, and incoordination. There may be blood in the urine, but this is not a common symptom.

The poison destroys all the Vitamin B₁ in the horse's system. Treating the horse with high level doses of B-vitamins, especially thiamine, and moving it to another pasture should counteract the poisoning.

In sheep, cattle, and other ruminants, Bracken fern ingestion causes a bloody diarrhea, with many large blood clots in the manure. Sheep that ingest low levels of Bracken fern develop bladder tumors and are blind in bright light.

Death is due to rapid blood loss, weakness and anemia.

Treatment consists of changing pastures and feeding a good quality diet, high in protein and energy. Severely anemic animals should be given blood transfusions.

Pork producers to fund scholarship

KUTZTOWN — The Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council has decided to establish a scholarship in memory of Dwight E. Younkun to be awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate student at Penn State University.

The award will go to a student whose primary

interest is in the field of swine industry.

For further information write to Herb Schick, Secretary-Treasurer, Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, R2 Kutztown, PA 19530.

Checks should be made out to the Dwight E. Younkun Memorial Fund and sent to Herb Schick.

Berks Grange

(Continued from Page A16)

also recognized for their achievements during the year.

In the Women's Activities Department, chaired by Ella Bachman, the following were recognized: Sewing Class-D - Sandra Dietrich, non-member; Log Cabin Quilt - Dorothy Fritz, Bernville Grange; Crewel Pillow - Sally Burkhart, Gouglerville Grange; Bar Cookies - Doris Hoffman, Virginville Grange; and Macrame - Sally Burgert.

State Bowling Tournament winners included Woman's Hi Triple - Ruth Miller, Marion Grange; Men's Hi Triple - Gary Moyer, Marion Grange; Woman's Hi Average - Sandy Manbeck, Marion Grange; Men's Handicap Single - Dennis Wagner, Virginville Grange; Men's Handicap Triple - Jeff Dreibelbis, Virginville Grange; Men's Hi Triple Roll-Off - Oscar Manbeck, Marion Grange; Champion

Team - Nancy and Ralph Kieffer and Sandy and Oscar Manbeck.

Robert Sattazahn, Master of Marion Grange, accepted an award for Open House Class 2 with 100 to 200 members and Leon Kirkhoff, past master of Pomona Grange presented a plaque to Feryl Treichler for being the recent past Master of Berks County Pomona Grange.

Non-member Community Citizen Award was presented to George M. Meiser IX, of Reading. Meiser has been preserving the history of Reading and Berks County and is presently working towards a research project to record the history of Berks County's smaller communities.

Entertainment was provided by the Dreibelbis Brothers, Virginville Grange and Pomona Master, Ernest Miller made the closing remarks.

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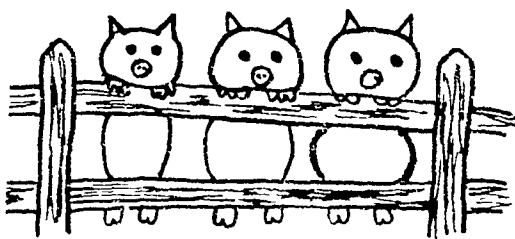
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YOU BE
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6?**

**SEE PAGES
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