

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

It is high time that the farmers protest the marketing techniques they are subject to and conditioned to work under. When a farmer sells his produce, it is generally over the auction block, in contrast to his purchases of grains, medicines, machinery, and repairs, that are over the counter.

Compare for a moment the two systems. Over the counter the price is determined by the seller. If the buyer (farmer) chooses not to buy, he either does without or scrounges until he finds a lower price.

However, feed supplements, grinder costs, machinery parts, fuel, electricity, new equipment to replace the old and broken-down, are not negotiable. The farmer pays what he is told to give. The seller sets the price and the farmer pays, and complains, going back to his herd or fields.

When the crop is in, the milk produced, or the steers are fattened, does the farmer set the price he knows he needs to get to pay his bills? Can he guarantee that his wages or interest will be paid? No, not over the auction block!

The auction is a buyers market, and the seller (the farmer) only

get what the buyer chooses to give. What alternative does a farmer have for selling cattle for dairy cows?

Most prices outside of the auctions are set by the auction averages, and as usual the farmer does not control the purse. He can not hold out until his price is met, he ships the animal (load of hay, or grain) and takes the check that comes back.

This is unfair to all farmers, and probably is a major reason so many small farmers are going under.

In ancient Europe and in early America the method of selling for a farmer was at a farmer's market. There, his wares were displayed and he himself would dicker with the buyers until he got his fair price, or else he took his animals or produce back home. If the farmer was too busy to spend a day at the market he could ask a friend who was going, or who had time to sell it for him. He got a fair commission for his time and the farmer got his price.

With grain as high as it is from the mill, it doesn't pay to raise cattle to sell at current prices. With gas, diesel, parts, seed, and

fertilizer so high, farmers lose money selling their grain.

I cannot see why farmers today are selling for 1978 prices in 1981, except that they have no alternative to the auction system—yet!

J. Meyer
R1 Bethel

Dear Editor:

We in the Veal Industry think its about time for the truth about veal. These past several months were very hard for the veal grower and the consumer alike.

We've seen the price drop 50 cents per pound or more, we've watched T.V. programs and read articles about veal calves. After which people have asked, "How could you do such a thing to those calves?" After looking at our calves they can't see how the truth got so distorted.

Most of the opposition comes from Dr. Michael Fox coming from England, where he devastated the veal industry, trying to do the same here. What Dr. Fox neglects to say that England imports 80 percent of its meat from the United States.

Dr. Fox thinks we're cruel to our calves and says we almost starve them to death. Why does Dr. Fox keep an animal of the wild, his so-called pet wolf, caged in his own backyard? Why also is it that when our calves are ready for market that they are 95 to 100 percent prime kosher veal?

According to Dr. Fox, by the time our calves go to market they are so weak and malnourished they just fall over and die. I guarantee you, Dr. Fox, that if you were to leave anyone of our finished calves out of their pens it would pull you and your kind back to England. But we wouldn't want that, would we? Well maybe the calf could just set you down for a soft landing somewhere in the middle.

Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page A10)
Tuesday, March 17

York-Adams Calfarm Sale, 7:30 p.m., Avalong Farms, York
Forage Crops Day, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Morgantown Fire Hall.
Hedging workshop, second session, Embers Restaurant, Carlisle, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Natural resource meeting,

I don't think most people realize the repercussions that would be felt if the veal industry were to suddenly cease. After all Agriculture is America's largest industry. First of all to fill the pinch would be the dairy farmer losing from \$40 to \$60 per culled bull sent to market.

I'm sure every dairy farmer remembers what he got for calves 15 to 20 years ago, and also where those calves went to from the sale barn.

Also the dairy farmer would have a tremendous supply and surplus of dried feed grade milk on the market going nowhere. And also more of a debt for the Federal Government to buy it. It would also be detrimental to the trucking industry. For we depend on them to deliver us milk, haul our calves to market, and deliver the meat to retail and wholesale markets. Also affected would be the butchers and meat cutters.

So, in reality, everyone would loose in the end, causing more unemployment and higher food costs. We veal growers think its time the truth should be told before its too late for everyone.

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory A. Plovish
R1 Friedens

Dauphin County, 7:30 p.m., Lower Paxton Twp. Bldg.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers, 7:45 p.m., high school vo-ag room.
Solanco Young Farmers estate planning meeting, 7:30 p.m., Solanco ag room.
Lancaster County Holstein Club tour to N.J., leaves Farm & Home Center, 8 a.m. and Gap Diner at 8:30 a.m.
Lancaster Farm & Home Directors meeting, 7:30 p.m., F & HC
Wednesday, March 18
10th annual Pennfield dairy awards luncheon, Good & Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown, 11:30 a.m.

Adams County Poultry Assn. annual spring banquet, 6:30 p.m., York Springs Fire Hall.

Pa. Broiler, Egg, Turkey Councils, Host Corral, Lancaster.

ELCO FFA Chapter Banquet, 7 p.m., Elco Middle School, Myerstown.

11th annual Pa. Environmental Council meeting, Marriott Motel, Harrisburg, concludes tomorrow.

Horse management meeting, 8 p.m., Hunterdon Extension Center, Flemington, N.J.

Berks Goat Herders meeting, County Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.

Forage Crops Day, LeHi Dairy Farmers auditorium, Allentown, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, March 19

Today is Agriculture Day. Lancaster County Poultry Assn educational meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm & Home Center.

Lancaster Conservation District annual meeting, 6:30 p.m., Harvest Drive Restaurant.

Adams County swine management meeting, Vo-ag room, Gettysburg High School, 7:30 p.m.

Delaware swine reproduction meeting, 7 p.m., State Highway - Dept., Dover.

Chester-Delaware Counties' (Turn to Page A38)

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