

Lancaster Farming

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U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block accepts a basket full of Pennsylvania food products from the Keystone State's Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell. Block was in Harrisburg last Friday evening to address supporters of the political action committee, FARMER.

Block happy embargo lifts

BY GUYNA MILLER
HARRISBURG — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block addressed the news media and close to 200 Pennsylvania Farmer's Association supporters last Friday evening, the day President Reagan announced the end of the Soviet grain embargo.

Block said he was "elated and happy beyond description" about the embargo being lifted.

"It's been a long 100 days in which the Reagan administration has had to struggle with the inherited embargo," Block remarked.

By lifting the grain embargo, Block said the administration is turning agriculture back to a market oriented industry with expanded, free trade. He decried

the grain embargo's effectiveness in stopping foreign aggression and the fact it actually could have hurt

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Growers expanding crop of cantaloupes

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
BLUE BALL — The designation of the area around Rt. 322 through Eastern Lancaster County as "Cantaloupe Alley" may be more appropriate than ever this year.

Farmers in the region extending south from Ephrata to Blue Ball

and west of New Holland to Bowmansville may be growing upwards of 200 acres of cantaloupes this summer for marketing to three of the area's largest supermarket chains.

This could amount to a 35 or 40 percent increase in acreage in this section of the county where cantaloupes have been an increasing cash crop extending back a decade and a half or more.

Marketing of the cantaloupes to supermarkets began last year with Acme, according to Lester W. Martin, R2 East Earl.

"This year we'll be marketing to Pathmark and Safeway, as well as Acme," Martin said.

"There could be as many as 600,000 to 700,000 cantaloupes in the marketing program."

Martin is on the Board of Directors of the Conestoga Valley Growers, a group of farmers who have organized to participate in the marketing program. There are about 45 farmers in the group, according to Martin.

"We'll also be growing about 20 to 25 acres of cauliflower this year," Martin said.

"Looking ahead to the future, we may be getting into the growing of fall greens, such as broccoli and brussel sprouts."

Martin explained that the program will feature unified pricing, starting with one price and continuing throughout the whole season.

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Component pricing sends Guernsey sale soaring

BARABOO, WISC. — Component protein pricing for milk sent prices for Guernseys to record levels in a consignment sale held at the farm of Lester Lurvey and Sons, Baraboo, Wisc.

The first Boulder View Sale totaled \$228,600, according to John B. Merryman, sales manager of Sparks, Md. Sale average for the 40 head was \$5,715.

"There is more enthusiasm in Wisconsin than any other place in the country for buying Guernseys due to the component pricing," Merryman explained.

"To illustrate this, a total of 33 head were purchased by Wisconsin Guernsey breeders and remained in the state.

"And the heavy majority of these purchasers were farmer-breeders who are making their living off the milk production of their herds."

A sale-topping price of \$25,500 was paid for three-year-old Chedco TH Mamby, consigned by the Chedco Farm of C.C. Cotting, of Berlin, Mass. She was purchased by Donald Alexander, Greg and Tammy Alexander, of Wake, Va., and Dulaney Valley Guernsey

Herd, of Cockeysville, Md.

Mamby is a daughter of Clovelly Top Hornet, the highest rated bull for type and one of the top bulls for production in the Guernsey breed. As a two-year-old she was a grand champion in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Her dam is the Very Good Burgers Place Billy and the grand dam is Lyrene Maestros Mamby, an Ex.-92.

A pair of heifers out of the same family by Clovelly Top Hornet brought \$17,000 each at the sale. They were both purchased by the Wisconsin Syndicate One plus One, Edward Dosch, manager, of Richland Center, Wisc.

Clearbranch Hornets Princess is out of McDonald's Darimost Jean, an Ex.-93, and Bettsward Telestar Jean is out of McDonald's H. Jeannie.

Two daughters out of the world record milk cow of the Guernsey breed brought \$15,000 each at the sale.

The two, Boulder Wern Tellestar Delight and Boulder View Maple Dena, were purchased by J. Hammond Dugan, Longmeadow, Mass.; Dr. Robert Rowe, Middletown, Wisc.; Elizabeth

Merryman, Sparks, Md.; and Thomas Lurvey, Baraboo, Wisc.

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Grand Champion Showman Jerry McCammon, Schellsburg, accepts the silver trophy from Penin State's Assistant Swine herdsman, Dave Hosterman. McCammon competed in the Block and Bridle Club's 64th Little International Livestock Exposition (which was dedicated to Hosterman) held Saturday at the University's Beef and Sheep Center. See story on page D-6.



The sun glints on this grain drying project at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio. Trapping the sun's energy and harnessing it for agriculture has gone from the experimental fields to the farm. Maryland farmer-engineer Frank Wilmot has pioneered a solar hay dryer on his Potomac Valley where high humidity makes conventional curing of mown hay next to impossible. See story on page A 22 and other solar stories throughout this week's issue.