

U.S. pork finds welcome market overseas

LANCASTER — U.S. pork exports jumped more than 33 percent during the first seven months of 1981.

The U.S. exported 64,820 metric tons or \$175.4 million of pork during the January to July period — a 33% increase in export tonnage and a 68% increase in export dollar value compared to the same period in 1980.

The U.S. Meat Export Federation, a private-sector trade association representing the U.S. meat industry in foreign market development programs, predicts that Japan and Latin American will be the growth markets of the future.

According to MEF's Asian Director, L.B. Tennison, Japan could import up to 50,000 MT of American pork during 1981, compared to 27,000 MT imported during 1980. During the first seven

months of 1981 alone more than 32,700 MT have already been shipped to this key Asian market.

The MEF/Tokyo office also arranged for leading Japanese restaurants to feature U.S. pork spareribs on their menus this summer, while continuing to work with local trade and industry.

New markets in Latin America also looks promising for increased pork export activity.

A feed grains shortage coupled with declining domestic production has produced a strong Venezuelan import market. The MEF estimates some 7,000-9,000 MT of our pork meat will be shipped to Venezuelan ports in 1981.

In the Dominican Republic, an outbreak of African Swine Fever forced the country to eradicate its swine herds during 1979. The Dominican Republic will import up to 25,000 head of U.S. breeding

swine over the next three years, as well as up to 10,000 MT of U.S. pork this year.

Aside from these short-term markets, other countries offer long-term export opportunities because of their respective tourist

industries. These include Mexico, the Bahamas, Barbados, Aruba and other Netherland Antilles countries.

In order to tap these markets, MEF is conducting market survey

tips, product promotions and demonstrations throughout the area featuring U.S. pork. The Federation has also sponsored foreign trade team visits to the U.S. as well as trade servicing programs.

Country	Metric Tons	Dollar Value
Japan	27,733	\$ 95.8 million
Canada	15,098	26.7 " "
Mexico	10,271	8.9 " "
Venezuela	4,271	9.8 " "
Bahamas	2,432	4.9 " "
WORLD TOTAL	84,218	\$189.3 million

Schuylkill home economist to retire

UNIVERSITY PARK — Ruth M. Hand, Schuylkill County Extension home economist, retired September 30 after 18 years of service with The Pennsylvania State University's Cooperative Extension Service.

In her years with Extension she has become much in demand for her upbeat and humorous treatments of serious topics. She has spoken on "How To Add Years To Your Life," "The Many Hats You Wear," "For Women Over Forty — The Look You Like" and other self-improvement topics to Extension associations, rural and agricultural organizations, and service clubs in several counties across the state as well as in Schuylkill County.

She has presented programs ranging from money management to furniture care for women during breaks and lunch hours at the manufacturing plants where they work. Homemakers and professionals alike have attended her in-depth clothing programs.

Mrs. Hand has worked with county craftsmen since the 1960's and was instrumental in forming the County Guild of Craftsmen as

part of a Bicentennial project in 1976. Recently, she helped organize the County Nutrition Council and has been particularly involved with the Diabetic Club, part of the new council. She considers this club essential because Schuylkill County has one of the largest diabetic populations in the state. She has co-sponsored, with the Department of Health, and local dietitians and nutritionists, workshops on "Living With Diabetes" for diabetics and their families.

Her housing program has helped would-be homeowners get the most satisfying house for their money, and has offered a variety of "do-it-yourself" programs on home improvement and home repair. These have often been set up in shopping malls with local resource people demonstrating different skills to reach the greatest number of people.

Each year she coordinates an update for county home economics teachers on a specific topic. Yarn crafts, a program developed in cooperation with DuPont, was last year's topic. She has also arranged for in-service training for school food service workers covering

their own health-related problems as well as safety and sanitation on the job. In all her programs she stresses motivation and involvement.

In her monthly newsletter, the "Schuylkill Homemaker Post," Mrs. Hand reaches 4,000 people with information ranging from tips for better use of the microwave oven to the reasons for writing a will in Pennsylvania. Another newsletter, "Living Alone," reaches over 500 widowed, divorced or separated people. She has also offered workshops for those who are newly alone and regularly speaks to groups on this topic.

A native of Tremont, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Hand received a bachelor of science degree from Mansfield State College. Before joining the Extension Service in 1963, she taught high school home economics for 22 years.

She is a member of the American Home Economics Association and is past president of its affiliate, the Pennsylvania Home Economics Association. She is also a member of the National and Pennsylvania Associations of Extension Home Economists; Epsilon Sigma Phi, Extension honorary; and the Federation of Women's Clubs.

The National Association of Extension Home Economists honored Mrs. Hand with a Distinguished Service Award in 1978.

In 1980, she was promoted to senior Extension agent, the highest rank attainable in county Extension work.

Lebanon holds farmland preservation meeting

LEBANON — The Lebanon County Cooperative Extension Service is sponsoring an informational meeting on the Agricultural Area Security Act on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting is designed to help landowners farmers, township

officials, engineers, and others to learn more about this legislation's effects and implications.

Penn State's Stanford Lembeck will be the main speaker. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the courthouse.



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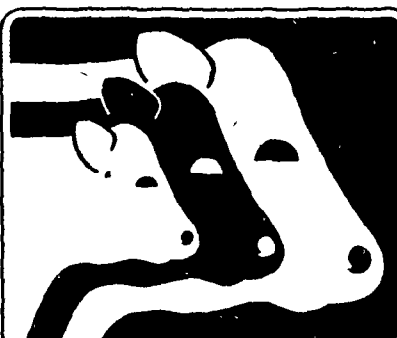


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