

# Hog producers respond to cheap feed

UNIVERSITY PARK — The September Hogs and Pigs Report indicates hog producers will soon be expanding hog production despite the lack of profits during the past two years, says H. Louis Moore, Penn State Extension agricultural economist.

Producers in the 14 states conducting quarterly surveys on September 1 had 5 percent fewer hogs on farms than a year ago. Back in June these producers expected to cut 8 percent by September 1.

"The major factor contributing to producer optimism in hogs is the development of what is going to be a bumper corn crop," says Moore

"The price of corn has dropped about 20 percent since early June. Producers feel it will be less expensive to feed hogs in the months ahead with little chance of a major recovery in corn prices."

Moore adds that producers have analyzed the situation and feel it will be more profitable feeding their corn to hogs rather than selling corn at depressed prices.

Since June, there were important developments which made producers more inclined to slow the cutback in production. Hog prices improved from June 1 and are currently over \$50 at Pennsylvania markets. The breeding inventory at 7.6

million head in the 14 states was down 5 percent from last September but just 3 months ago producers intended to have a 12 percent smaller breeding herd on September 1. Iowa, the leading hog state, had 2 percent more hogs on inventory in September but had 8 percent more breeding hogs.

The cutback in hog production had definitely slowed in the last 3 months. Marketings in the

remainder of 1981 will be 7 to 8 percent below a year ago and prices should hold near current levels. But the prospects for additional supplies after the first of the year will dampen the price prospects for the first half of 1982.

Pennsylvania hog industry was last surveyed in June. At that time producers planned a 15 percent cut in farrowings in the June-November period. If Pennsylvania

follows the lead of the 14 survey states the cuts have been sharply reduced. The next national hog survey will be conducted on December 1.

Moore says that Pennsylvania is not included in quarterly survey because when the survey was set up the state was not among the top 14 producers. Pennsylvania now has more hogs than Texas — the lowest producer in the survey.

## Martin wins in honey show

ROHRERSTOWN — The entry of Weaver Martin, R2, Paradise, won the grand championship of the Lancaster County Beekeepers' Association Honey Show Monday night.

The amber entry was tops among 18 in the show held at the

Dutch Gold Honey processing and distribution plant. Martin also won in 1978.

Reserve champ was Dan L. Fitzkee, R6, Manheim, with a light amber entry. Best of Show went to a honey walnut pie made by Kay Johnson, of Christiana.



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