

## Prices received by U.S. farmers continue to decline

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Prices received by farmers declined 1 point (8/10 of 1 percent) in November, from its revised October total to 129 percent of its Jan.-Dec. 1977 average.

Lower prices for cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, grapefruit and lemons were mainly responsible for the decrease. Higher prices for oranges, eggs, strawberries, potatoes and milk were partially offsetting. The index was down 15 points (10 percent) from a year earlier and its lowest since June 1980.

Beef cattle prices, at \$53.90 were down \$1.90 per hundredweight, the lowest since November 1978. Hog prices were off \$2.80 per hundredweight to \$42.20, the lowest since May. Corn prices, at \$2.33 per bu., were down 12 cents, the lowest since November 1979.

Soybeans, the \$6 per bu., were down 6 cents, the lowest since June 1980. Grapefruit prices declined from \$4.18 to \$2.65 per box. Lemons

declined from \$5.64 to 99 cents a box.

But oranges moved up from \$2.37 to \$4.50 per box. Eggs, from 63.8 cents to 69.5 cents a dozen. Strawberries from 70.4 cents to 90.5 cents a pound. Potatoes from \$4.38 to \$4.81 per hundredweight. All milk sold to plants from \$14 to

\$14.10 per cwt.

Meanwhile, the Index of Prices Paid by farmers remained at 151 — a record high. It first reached 151 in June, declined a point in July, but has been at 151 each month since. The index was up 7 points (4.9 percent) from a year earlier.

With the Index of Prices Received down 1 point and the Index of Prices Paid unchanged, the Ratio of the Index of Prices Received to Prices Paid declined 1 point to 85 — the lowest on records in the current series which began in 1965, but the Statistical

Reporting Service says it's the lowest since 1933.

Under the old 1910-14 formulas, Prices Paid declined 2 points to 591, Prices Received remained unchanged at 1,039, and the Parity Index remained unchanged at 57 — the lowest since April 1933.

## How are parity prices treating farmers?

WASHINGTON, D.C. — How are farmers doing insofar as receiving parity prices goes?

Here is the rundown: At \$2.80 per bu., wheat is only 53 percent of parity, which is pegged at \$7.11. At 2.33 per bu., corn is 48 percent of parity, now pegged at \$4.89.

Soybeans, selling for \$6 per bu. are at 48 percent of parity, now seen at \$12.50. Barley that's selling for \$2.41 per bu. is 53 percent of parity's \$4.46. At \$53.90 per hundredweight, beef cattle are selling at 58 percent of parity's \$92.50. At

\$42.20 per cwt., hogs are selling at 51 percent of parity's \$82.70.

At 63.8 cents per dozen, eggs are

60 percent of parity, pegged at \$1.11 and turkeys, at 35.6 cents a pound are 49 percent of parity's 71 cents.

Realistically, oats seems to be doing best. At \$1.91 per bu., it's 73 percent of parity, which is pegged at \$2.63.

## LCCD posts meeting dates

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Conservation District has announced its meeting schedule for 1982.

The board's monthly meetings are held at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, and begin at 7:30 p.m.

The following meeting dates have been set: Feb. 3; March 3; April 7; May 5; June 2; July 7; Aug. 4; Sept. 1; Oct. 6; Nov. 3; Dec. 8.

# BLESSINGS AT CHRISTMAS

What a humbling experience it must have been some 2,000 years ago when Christ, our Lord, was born in a lowly manger in Bethlehem.

It is with a deep sense of thankfulness at this most blessed time of our Christian year that all of your friends that work for Beacon Feeds along with all of our Beacon dealers would like to extend to you and your families best wishes for a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy new Year".



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