

Cattle stay on downward trail

CATTLE ON FEED IN 23 STATES DOWN 9 PERCENT
 WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cattle and calves on feed Jan. 1, 1982, for slaughter market in the 23 States totaled 10.1 million head, 9 percent below a year earlier and 14 percent less than 2 years ago, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

This is the lowest Jan. 1 number on feed since 1975. Numbers on feed in all weight groups for both steers and heifers are below a year earlier except numbers of steers in the 900 to 1099 pound weight group which are 3 percent more than last year.

The Jan. 1, 1982, Cattle on Feed inventory included 6.96 million

steers and steer calves, down 7 percent from a year ago and 12 percent from 2 years ago. Steers and steer calves represented 69 percent of the total Jan. 1, 1982 number on feed compared with 67 percent a year ago. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.08 million, 13 percent below a year earlier and 17 percent below Jan. 1, 1980.

Placements during the Oct.-Dec. quarter totaled 6.90 million, 6 percent less than the same quarter a year earlier and 15 percent below the comparable period in 1979. Placements for the Oct.-Dec. 1981 quarter were the lowest since 1974. Other disappearance of 383

thousand head leaves net placements of 6.52 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during Oct.-Dec. totaled 5.45 million, down 4 percent from the same quarter a year earlier and 5 percent below October-December of 1979. Marketings for the Oct.-Dec. quarter were the lowest since 1975.

JAN.-MAR. EXPECTED MARKETINGS DOWN 1 PERCENT

Cattle feeders in 23 states expect to market 5.93 million head during the Jan.-March quarter of 1982. If these intentions are realized, the first quarter marketings would be 1 percent below 1981 and 4 percent under 1980.

7 MONTHLY CATTLE ON FEED STATES DOWN 8 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed Jan. 1, 1982 in the seven estimated monthly states totaled 7.20 million

head, 8 percent below a year ago and 15 percent less than Jan. 1, 1980. The 7 states accounted for 71 percent of the 23-State total on feed.

Placements during December amounted to 1.29 million head, 9 percent lower than December 1980 and 23 percent below December 1979.

Marketings in December totaled 1.33 million head in the 7 States, a 4 percent decline from 1980 and a 2 percent drop from 1979. Seven-

state marketings during the Oct.-Dec. 1981 quarter accounted for 75 percent of the 23-state total compared with 76 percent a year ago. Other disappearance in December at 88 thousand head was below the 130 thousand and 133 thousand in 1980 and 1979, respectively.

Expected Marketings for the 7 states during the first quarter of 1982 were estimated at 4.51 million head, down fractionally from this quarter in 1981.

Hickes heads Game Commission

HARRISBURG — Paul E. Hickes Jr. of Alexandria, Huntingdon County, is the new president of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, succeeding Robert E. Fasnacht of Ephrata, who has served as head of the group for the past two years.

Hickes has been a member of the

Game Commission since 1980.

The new vice president is Donald R. Craul of Lewisburg, who also joined the Commission in 1980. He succeeds Hickes as vice president.

James A. Thompson of Pittsburgh, a member of the Commission since 1957, succeeds Craul as secretary.

Leafhopper, weevil populations

at opposite extremes

UNIVERSITY PARK — The populations of two major pests reached opposite extremes during last year's growing season in Pennsylvania.

According to Stanley Gesell, Extension entomologist at Penn State, large numbers of potato leafhopper moved into the state in mid-June, inflicting severe damage on untreated alfalfa. However, alfalfa weevil populations were at their lowest level in 20 years.

Alfalfa weevil populations have been on a downward trend throughout Pennsylvania over the past five years. There are still a few concentrated areas of the pest in southcentral and southwestern counties, but in 1981 the economic losses because of these populations were low. Gesell said this low weevil level is expected to continue for several years.

Several parasites of the alfalfa weevil are well established in the state and this had a stabilizing effect on the weevil population. This means that fields should not be sprayed for weevils unless it is necessary. If a spray is needed, Gesell recommends a short residual insecticide.


Gesell adds that there is no need to spray for weevils unless the expected damage will exceed the cost of the spray application. Check your fields in early May. Those with noticeable injury should be monitored.

The potato leafhopper was the cause of severe damage to alfalfa throughout the state in 1981. After several years of low to moderate populations, the leafhopper struck with force this season. New seedlings were the hardest hit, but second and third cuttings were also infested heavily.

Though Gesell has no predictions for 1982, he does suggest that you keep your bug net handy, and be ready to use it during the first week of June.

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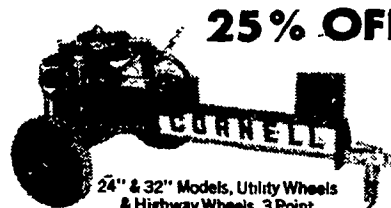


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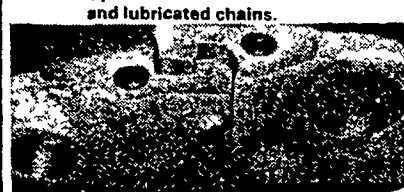


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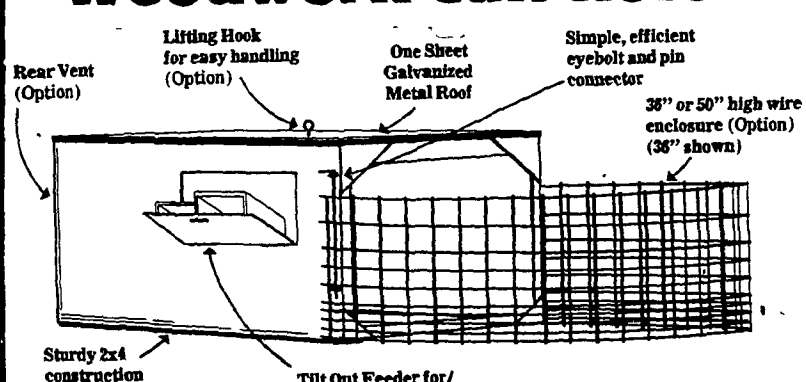
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