

1981 hog expansion slows

UNIVERSITY PARK — Despite the lack of profits in hog production since mid-1979, the industry continued its rapid expansion in Pennsylvania through last year.

"As recent as the mid-1960's there had been little expansion in Pennsylvania's hog industry," according to H. Louis Moore, Penn State Extension agricultural economist. In 1966 hog marketings in the state totaled just over a half million head. Expansion began in the late 1960's.

Hog marketings in Pennsylvania totaled 1.2 million head in 1981 up 28 percent from 1980. National hog numbers declined 4 percent during 1981 as a cyclical decline in

numbers began. Moore points out that Pennsylvania expansion in recent years has not come from an expansion in number of hog producers but is the result of an expansion in size of operations. The growth in operations with 300 to 500 sows has accounted for a major portion of the expansion in the past 5 years. Pennsylvania ranked 15th in hog marketings in 1981, up from 20th in 1980.

"The sharp cyclical downturn in hog numbers which began late in 1981 will reduce Pennsylvania hog marketings in 1982," says Moore. Pennsylvania producers last December indicated they would cut production more than 30 percent in 1982.

Farms with hog operations totaled 17,000 at the end of December down 3,000 from the previous year. Smaller operations are discontinuing hog production at a rapid rate. Larger operations now account for a growing share of total hog production.

At the end of 1981, hog operations in the United States which had over 500 hogs each, accounted for only 4.7 percent of the total hog operations but 45.5 percent of the total hogs. Even in the smaller states such as Pennsylvania the impact of the larger operations is evident. In these states operations

with over 500 hogs in inventory accounted for only 1.1 percent of the total operations but 32.7 percent of the hogs at the end of 1981.

Nationally over the past 3 years, hog producers have generally operated at a loss because of low prices and high production costs. However, pork production has now declined substantially, and hog prices rose about a fourth between early January and early February as the weather reduced marketings.

Large corn and soybean crops have resulted in lower grain and supplement prices. These lower

feed prices, along with moderating prices of other inputs, may lower the cash costs of farrow-to-finish operators below 1981's.

The hard winter has affected hogs more than other livestock, because about 80 percent of the nation's hogs are produced in the North Central region, where the winter has been especially severe. The weather has slowed weight gains and may result in longer feeding periods, which increase the feed-conversion rate.

Pork production in first-quarter 1982 has been forecast 8 to 10 percent a year earlier.

Pa. red meat down

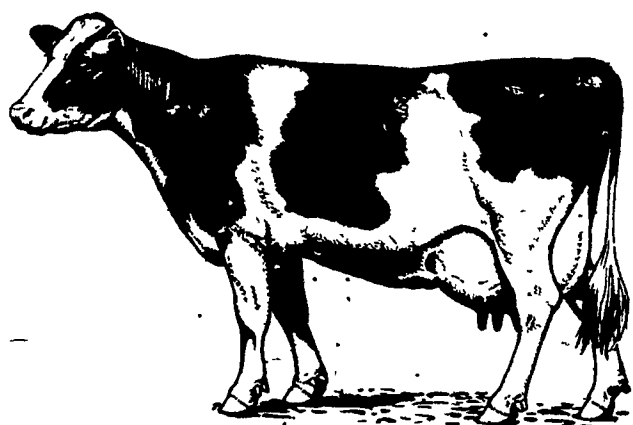
HARRISBURG — Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during March totaled 77.1 million pounds, down 13 percent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Cattle slaughter at 70,800 head increased 15 percent from last March. Calf slaughter increased 31 percent to 28,600 head. Hog slaughter at 188,800 head dropped 37 percent from March 1981. The

number of sheep and lambs slaughtered totaled 15,000, up four percent from a year ago.

Nationally, commercial red meat production during March totaled 3.30 billion pounds, down three percent from March 1981.

Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.



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★ Uneven Distribution
★ Type Of Unloader System

EFFECT: Center filling with forages results in particle separation (heavier particles in middle - leaves to the outside) and consequently uneven compaction. The hard core in the middle is very dense but, the outside areas are fluffy. Since the angle of repose of forages can be 45 to 60 degrees, many times the top of the pile will slide off causing random hard spots in the mass. Air can readily travel thru the lighter, fluffy compacted areas during and after filling, especially in larger diameter structures. Air can actually be trapped in these less dense areas, resulting in higher heating and/or extended fermentation of the forages evidenced by large wafers of white mold.

Because the particles are arranged in such a steep angle (45-60 degrees) the dome formed by the unloading action follows the angle of the placement, resulting in a high steep sided dome and in some instances a hole clear thru to the top of the mass, called donuting, will occur. Some unloaders actually pull air back into the dome area because of the revolving action of their carry out device.

The whirling action of other types of unloaders will invariably suck air back into the dome. Depending on how long you run the unloader, how large the dome area and how well the hatches are sealed will determine the amount of cave mold formed. Since air will readily travel thru light compacted forages, further damage to the dry matter and subsequent nutrients may not be physically evident.

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