

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 27 No. 39

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 31, 1982

\$7.50 per year

Browncroft cow tops Sire Power Sale



Browncroft Jetson Elsie topped Wednesday's Sire Power Sale held at the Kutztown Fairgrounds. The four-year-old was purchased by Odyssey Farm, New York for \$19,500. Pictured with the high-selling animal are: from left, consignors William and Janet Brown, buyer representatives for Odyssey Farm, New

York, Sire Power's Lloyd Ebersole, and Howard Binder, Jr., contending bidder, along with members of Remsburg Sales Service and R. Austin Backus, Inc., from left, back row, Charles Backus, Doty Remsburg, Horace Backus and Sire Power general manager DuWayne Kutz. See story page A26.

Conestoga Growers expanding markets

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

BLUE BALL — Only in its third year of operation, the Conestoga Valley Growers Association continues to expand, marketing a greater variety of Lancaster County vegetables across an ever widening area.

As the local cantaloupe season prepares to move into full swing, the cooperative marketing venture in Eastern Lancaster County now includes 115 farmers growing a half-dozen different truck crops on some 260 acres.

"We have a 100 percent increase in our marketing outlets over last year and expect about a 45 percent increase in gross volume of shipments," according to Lester W. Martin, R2 East Earl, president of the Conestoga Valley Growers.

The loading dock and transfer point for shipments, located along Rt. 322 east of Blue Ball, has been expanded over the past winter to accommodate the expected increased shipments.

This year's truck crops include a new specialty item that is being tried for the first time — horseradish.

"We have 75 acres of horseradish out," Martin said.

"There are only three processor markets for horseradish in the country, but we'll be giving it a try. Also, it has possibilities in the future in the export market."

This year's crop list also includes such items as broccoli and Sugar Baby watermelons, which were tried on a limited basis last year and expanded this year.

Acreage totals this year include 15 of fall broccoli, 31 of fall cauliflower, the 75 in horseradish, 15 in Sugar Babies, 9 in sweet corn and 115 in cantaloupes.

As the figures show, cantaloupes remain the dominant crop. The cooperative marketing venture started three years ago with a volume of about \$15,000 largely in

cantaloupes. This year, total volume of shipments may approach a half million dollars.

And there are plans for continuing the mix of vegetables. Next year, stake tomatoes will be grown and acreage plans will be determined at a meeting later this year.

Shipments thus far have included spring broccoli and cauliflower, along with sweet corn.

During the coming week, the cantaloupes will start coming in and the loading dock will be kept quite busy receiving the lopes from growers and loading them for shipment to supermarkets and other customers along the Eastern Seaboard.

Approximately a 25 percent increase in cantaloupe shipments may be achieved this year.

"It looks like a good crop but not as good as last year," Martin said.

"Yields will be down from last year unless there's a lot of production during the next three or four weeks.

"There was too much rain during the first set of pollination, producing a lot of small melons which won't be shipped."

As a counterpart to the cantaloupes, the smaller Sugar Baby watermelons were tried on an experimental basis last year.

The Sugar Babies, the smaller original watermelon, is considered to have a better taste, but also has a thinner skin and is not grown by the larger commercial operations, which favor the tougher skinned hybrids.

If the Sugar Babies continue to catch on, their numbers will also be increased next year.

Conestoga Valley Growers Inc., organized by Martin, is designed to achieve orderly marketing of suitable cash crops that can be grown on limited acreage on the farms of Eastern Lancaster County that stretch roughly from Hinkletown along Rt. 322 down through the Blue Ball area.

Dairy plans narrow to one

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — While the U.S. Senate Agricultural Committee, last week, ignored all proposed dairy legislation during budget discussions, the U.S. House Ag Committee reported on the National Milk Producers price stabilization and promotion program, said USDA spokesman Tom Kay.

The NMF program remained the only piece of dairy legislation, still very much alive in Congress.

"Everything else has bitten the dust," Kay reported.

In attempting to reduce the federal ag budget by \$779 million required by the 1982 Congressional budget resolution, the Senate ag committee recommended a proposal to establish the minimum price support for milk at \$13.10 per hundredweight through September 30, 1985.

Savings achieved by the committee's milk price support

proposal are: \$150 million in fiscal 1983; \$520 in 1984; and \$845 in 1985.

The Senate committee, however, has regarded the price freeze as a short term action taken to meet the budget savings and is expected to meet again to consider pending dairy legislation, said committee chief economist Bill Bailey.

"The full committee agreed that further action would be needed but what and when have not been decided," Bailey announced.

However, Senator Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) is expected to introduce an amendment, next week, on the Senate floor, which calls for an immediate 50 cent reduction in the current support price. According to Hawkins' spokeswoman Mary Kenkel, the Florida senator also is calling for a \$12 per hundredweight support level for January 1, 1983.

Meanwhile, full U.S. House ag committee approved the NMF proposal, but recommended

combining the price stabilization and promotion resolutions into one program, said NMF spokeswoman Doni Dondero.

To stabilize the support level, the NMF plan calls for a support price of \$13.10 per hundredweight of milk for fiscal 1983. In subsequent years the support price would be established to reflect the same level of parity that \$13.10 was at the beginning of fiscal 1983 (\$13.10 will be 67 to 68 percent of parity for manufacturing milk estimated for October 1, 1982).

To administer the program, the proposal calls for a dairy board appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Other segments of the stabilization program include: government financing sufficient to purchase and manage up to the equivalent of 5 billion pounds of milk annually; producer financing sufficient to purchase dairy products in excess of 5 billion pounds milk equivalent; producer assessment percentage related to the national surplus.

For example, if the national surplus is estimated at 10 percent, farmers would receive full market price for 90 percent of their milk. The remaining 10 percent will receive a reduced price, related to the world market price.

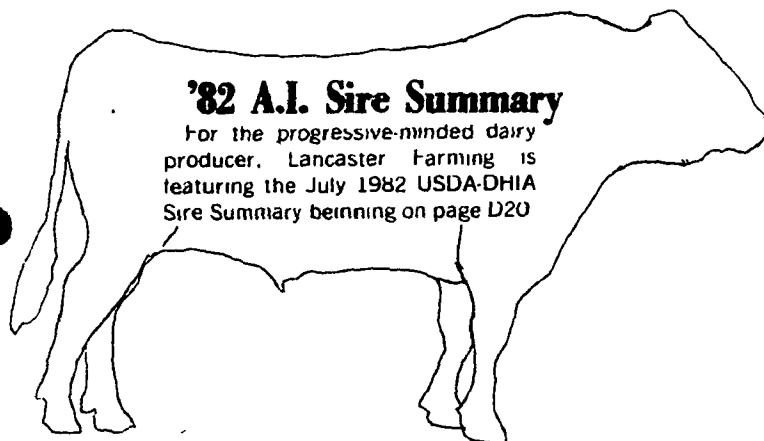
The difference between the full market price and the world price will be collected into a fund. The money will be used to purchase the portion of milk not used in federal programs.

The NMF product promotion

(Turn to Page A35)

'82 A.I. Sire Summary

For the progressive-minded dairy producer. Lancaster Farming is featuring the July 1982 USDA-DHIA Sire Summary beginning on page D20



DHIA winners



At the 57th Annual DHIA Supervisor's State Conference held last week in State College, Floyd Zook of Lancaster County and Martha Ohl of Erie County were presented Distinguished Service Awards. See story, page A32.