

Bear of a story



Dairyman Merv Sauder, Manheim, Lancaster County, right, took a vacation away from his cows this week for a hunting excursion to Tioga County. Sauder, who has been tracking black bruins in the state for about 10 years, finally bagged his first — a 119 pound (dressed), two-year-old adult male black bear. Along with his 40-head milking string, Sauder also fattens about 2,500 hogs and 400 steers a year. He is a member of the Garden Spot Hunting Club and part owner of L & L Pig Producers. Ray Shenk, of Shenks Farm Service, Lititz, also shot his first bear — a 235-pound (dressed) adult male. Sauder's bear was shot Monday, while Shenk killed his bear on Tuesday.

Economist forecasts '83 poultry consumption drop

UNIVERSITY PARK — The per capita consumption of eggs, poultry and red meat for the last quarter of 1982 and the first quarter of 1983 will be less than last year if production forecasts are realized, predicts Penn State agricultural economist A. Kermit Birth. He reports the per capita consumption of broilers, beef and veal are expected to be up while the consumption of egg, turkey and pork are likely to be down.

Changes in the quantities of red meats produced and consumed influence the quantities of poultry meat which can be sold at profitable prices, Birth explains. Total meat and egg consumption in 1981 was within 3.2 pounds per person of the quantities consumed in 1980, but the total was 36 pounds higher than was consumed in 1960.

"The increase, exclusive of eggs, for the 21-year period was 44 pounds per person," Birth reports. "This was 14.2 pounds more than the combined increase of broiler and turkey consumption for the same period."

Beef consumption increased with the exception of two years, each year from 1960 through 1976 to 95.7 pounds per person. However, from 1976 to 1982, beef consumption decreased 18.4 pounds per person to 77.3 pounds.

"Although pork consumption fluctuated from 1960 through 1971,

the trend was upward and reached a high of 68.2 pounds per person before dropping to a low of 51.2 pounds in 1975," he says. In 1980, pork consumption was 68.3 pounds per person, an increase of 17.1 pounds over 1975. This increase was 1.6 times the turkey consumption in 1981.

Lamb and mutton, which is not included with red meat statistics, was 4.3 pounds in 1960 and 1.5 pounds in 1981, Birth points out.

"The increase in retail price of poultry meat has been smaller than that of red meats largely because of a more favorable feed conversion and percent yield of salable meat," explains the Penn State economist. For each 100 pounds of live weights, the retail weights would approximate the following percentages: beef 47; broiler 76; and turkey 80.

"Thus a hundred pounds of live broilers and turkeys would yield 1.6 and 1.7 times, respectively, as much retail sales of beef," he adds. Percentage increase in average U.S. retail prices from 1966-80 are: broilers 78; turkeys 93; beef 183; and pork 108.

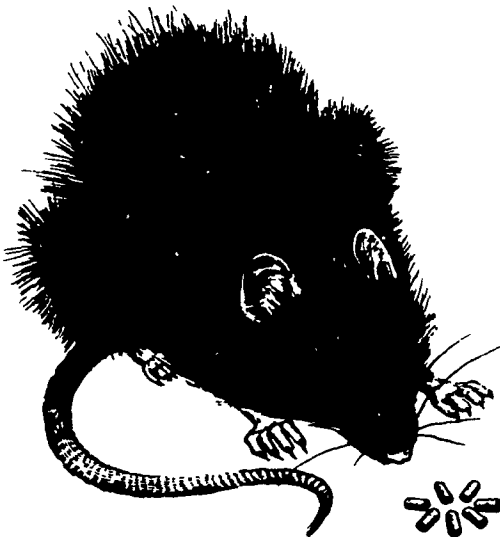
What can we expect to happen to these trends over the next decade? According to Birth, broiler, fryer and turkey consumption per person will likely continue to increase largely because of the

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