

York sheep field day set April 21

YORK Sheep shearing, judging, crafts displays and a market lamb and purebred stock sale are features of the York County Sheep and Wool Producers annual field day, planned for Saturday, April 21, at the York Fairgrounds.

Events for the day-long program begin at 9:30 a.m. with sheep judging, and prizes will be awarded to the top scorers in men, women and youth divisions. Winning youth judges will receive certificates to be used toward the purchase of market or breeding

stock at the afternoon sale.

A shearing contest for youth gets underway at 10:30 a.m., open to junior shepherds age 14 through 19. Contestants must be registered for the shearing contest prior to the field day. Cash prizes will go to winning shearers.

Following the contest, David Greene of White Hall, Md., takes center stage demonstrating fine points of shearing techniques.

The sale of market lambs and purebred breeding stock begins promptly at 12:15 p.m. with consignments from noted breeders in several southcentral counties. Market lambs available represent a variety of breeds and are offered as choice club lambs available represent a variety of breeds and are offered as choice club lambs for youth projects. Sale of purebred ewes and lambs follows the market lamb auction.

Top-quality white and colored fleeces are among a variety of craft supplies and related sheep items on sale throughout the field day. County 4-H lamb club members are in charge of lunch, with hot roasted lamb right off the charcoal pit, the featured menu item.

Red meat production rises

HARRISBURG Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during February 1984 totaled 93.9 million pounds, up 42 percent from February 1983, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Beef slaughter at 97.9 million pounds, was up 36 percent from February 1983. Total head slaughtered was 82,200, up 33 percent, and liveweight averaged 1,192 pounds, an increase of 27 pounds. Veal slaughter was 3.8 million pounds, up three percent. Calf slaughter of 22,200 head was down three percent, but the average liveweight increased 11 pounds to 172 pounds.

Hog slaughter at 57.7 million pounds, jumped 64 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 247,600, up 62 percent, and average liveweight

increased three pounds to 233 pounds. Lamb and mutton slaughter was 1.3 million pounds, up 16 percent. The number slaughtered at 12,600 was up 18 percent while the average liveweight was unchanged at 106 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1984 totaled 3.09 billion pounds, up 11 percent from February 1983.

Comparing February 1984 with February 1983, beef production at 1.86 billion pounds was up nine percent. Total head killed at 2.97 million was up 10 percent, while average liveweight decreased 10 pounds to 1,074. Veal production at 36 million pounds increased 13 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter of 255 thousand head was up 14 percent and average liveweight increased one pound to 240 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.17 billion pounds, up 14 percent from a year ago. The 6.81 million head killed was up 14 percent and average liveweight increased one pound to 241. Lamb and mutton production increased 19 percent to 32 million pounds. Total head killed at 561 thousand was up 20 percent and average liveweight was unchanged at 115 pounds.

Egg production declines

HARRISBURG — February 1984 egg production in Pennsylvania totaled 286 million, 22 percent below February, 1983 production, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The average number of layers on hand during February 1984 was 14.0 million compared with 18.1 million on hand a year ago. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,043 compared with 2,032 for February 1983.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.33 billion eggs during February fractionally below the 5.35 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during February averaged 277 million, down two percent from the 282 million a year ago. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,925 compared with 1,899 eggs for February 1983.

FARM EQUIPMENT

IH 656 wide front 3 pt 814-793-4293

JD 730 diesel, electric start, wide front, 3 pt 814-793-4293

Oliver 1850 diesel, dual hydraulics, wide front, 814-793-4293

IH 1066 cab, dual outlets, 3 pt 814-793-4293

New Leader spreader box 18 cu yd dual spinners, 30' wide chain, can be mounted on 10 wheel truck, good for lime or fertilizer. C 11 Mobile Dredging and Pumping Co. 215-363-6677 between 7 AM and 5 PM

JD 4620 power shift with dual hydraulic outlets, excellent condition. Best offer takes it Lancaster County, Pa 717-284-2761

AC D21 tractor with 7 bottom plow, AC WD45 tractor, AC F combine 1974, 13' grainhead with generation 3 floating cutter bar, AC 21' field cultivator with Midwest harrow, IH model 58 8 row planter, 4 row cultivator for AC tractor back mounted, Farm Fan model 350 batch grain dryer, 609-259-3733

FARM EQUIPMENT

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JD 4230 power shift, dual hydraulics, excellent condition, 814-793-4293

JD 4430 power shift, dual hydraulics, 4 post roll guard, 38" rubber, 814-793-4293

40' insulated tandem axle van trailer, \$1500 DENNIS M MILLER Rt 22, Grantville, PA 717-833-1888 anytime 717-469-0937 daily

MILK MARKET NEWS

(Continued from Page C2)

tribution and an average price of \$13 for milk. However, the producer has the responsibility of choosing his handler and should do it with full knowledge of his security program.

The idea of producer payment insurance is not unique in agriculture but there are very few states that go to the lengths of this bill to provide it for dairy farmers. Producers in Pennsylvania have demanded it because of past experiences and the legislators have provided it. However, the producer still has the responsibility of making it work and that includes the opportunity for comments now before the bill is passed as well as exercising some judgment and initiative in knowing the financial

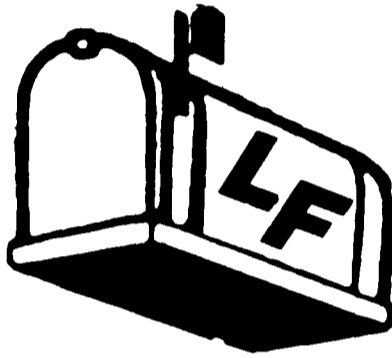
condition of his buyer.

From the dealers' view it's an added cost to doing business in Pennsylvania. Producers may not see that as a problem because they feel the dealer can pass it through in higher prices. That isn't always possible and the dealer still has no protection against non-payment by his buyers. In addition, some farm organizations now favor the removal of minimum retail price setting which offered some dealer protection just as minimum farm prices provided some protection for producers.

If we're starting a chain reaction by changing one part of the system perhaps it's time to take a hard look at all the laws surrounding Pennsylvania's \$1 billion milk industry.

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