

Indiana Livestock

Homer City, Pa.
Thursday, Dec. 20

Report supplied by PDA

CATTLE: Compared with last week's market: Sl. steers 50-1.00 lower. Sl. cows: fully steady. Sl. steers: Choice 59.50-65.00, Good 56.00-60.00, Standard 50.00-55.00. Sl. heifers: few Choice 60.00-61.00, Good 53.00-55.50, Standard 43.00-51.00. Sl. cows: Breaking Utility & Commercial 36.00-40.00, Cutter & Boning Utility 34.00-37.00, Canner & low Cutter 29.00-34.50. Sl. bulls: Yield Grade 1 1300-1800 lbs. 44.00-47.00; few Yield Grade 2 1000-1400 lbs. 39.00-42.50.

FEEDER CATTLE: Steers, few Medium Frame 1 400-600 lbs. 48.00-54.00; heifers, few Medium Frame 1 380-650 lbs. 44.00-50.00, few Large Frame 2 500-650 lbs. 38.00-42.00.

CALVES: 179. Few Choice 77.00-80.00, few Good 62.00-73.00, Standard & Good 90-120 lbs. 44.00-52.00, 60-85 lbs. 37.00-46.00, few Utility 50-100 lbs. 22.00-35.00; hol. bulls 90-125 lbs. 60.00-80.00.

HOGS: 272. 1.00-1.50 lower. US 1-2 200-250 lbs. 50.00-51.50; 1-3 200-245 lbs. 49.50-50.25; Sows 1-3 300-550 lbs. 40.00-43.00, 2-3 350-600 lbs. 39.00-40.50; Boars 27.00-29.50.

FEEDER PIGS: 27. 50-70 lbs. 31.00-37.00 per head.

SHEEP: 45. Few Choice 70-85 lbs. 60.00-60.50; Good 70-85 lbs. 55.00-58.00. Sl. sheep 15.00-20.00.

Nov. lamb prices strong, dip slightly at end

DENVER — Wholesale lamb prices continued strong for most of November—hitting a record-breaking 16 weeks at \$1.35 per pound. But the last week of the month, a slight price spread developed, with a nickel discount for heavyweight carcasses.

Most of the lambs going to market at this time of year are fed lambs, and due to ideal lamb feeding weather in most of the country, lambs gained quicker than usual. This led to bunching, and packers were unable to keep up with the supply. Many lambs had to remain on feed, throwing them into the heavyweight category. This overabundance of heavyweights was more than the market could bear, and East Coast wholesalers dropped their prices to \$1.30 per pound for carcasses weighing 65 pounds and up. Prices for carcasses weighing less than 65 pounds remained stable at \$1.35 per pound.

On the West Coast, prices started the month strong, weakened at mid-month, then returned to levels comparable to last year's prices. Live lamb prices held steady for most of November, and prices took off for feeder lambs as they became scarcer.

Middlemeats continue to be in demand, with loins and racks topping \$4 per pound in some areas of the country. Because of low prices for chucks and legs, some retailers featured front and hind-quarter meat this month.

Reports from the Imperial Valley of California and Arizona indicate 20,000 fewer lambs are on feed there than usual, despite good pasture conditions. Other reports indicate that fewer lambs are on feed this year in the Midwest, while more are on feed in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas.

The wool market was quiet for most of November. Due to the strength of the dollar, imported finished products are able to enter the country at prices well below that which American mills can produce. Thus, U.S. mills have had a hard time generating new business, but sales of top improved by the end of the month.

A few loads of fleece wool sold for \$1.40 per pound clean delivered to the mill. One clip out of Idaho sold with whiteface staple length 58's going for \$.90, whiteface lambs wool for \$.80, blackface lambs wool and aged ewe wool for \$.65. Another clip from Idaho sold for

\$.8186, which was staple and French combing 54's with some 56's.

Shearing season is underway in the Imperial Valley. About 170,000 pounds of lambs wool were sold were blackface 58/60's bringing \$.685 to \$.71, and whiteface 60/62's bringing \$.80 to \$.81. About 55,000 pounds of mixed grade lambs wool

from Northern Colorado feedlots moved at \$.68.

The biggest news from the wool market was the \$1 million sale of choice South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming wool for export to Mexico. The wool included 19 to 22 micron matchings which were skirted and bellies removed at the shearing pens.

Check coastal zone requirements

NEWARK, Del. — Rural community leaders and state officials should be aware of their responsibilities when using funds from community development block grants (CDBG) or urban development action grants (UDAG) in a coastal zone area. According to University of Delaware extension community resource development specialist Daniel S. Kuennan, local projects involving either type of grant must comply with their state's coastal zone management plan.

"It's important for public officials to know whether a project is covered by this plan, since in that case it must be reviewed by the appropriate state officials," the specialist says.

If the project is in a coastal state with an approved coastal zone management plan and impacts on the coastal area, the proposal must be submitted to the state coastal zone management director and a determination made as to whether the proposed actions are consistent with the state's plan.

"This is one of the responsibilities which the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) passes along to rural communities which accept CDBG or UDAG funding."

Kuennan explains. "A community cannot submit a request for release of funds for either program until it has received approval from its state's coastal zone management program."

Coastal waters, adjacent shorelands, land-ocean areas, salt marshes, wetlands and beaches are all covered areas.

"Local officials can usually breathe one short sigh of relief, since certain CDBG or UDAG activities are 'categorically excluded' from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)," the resource development specialist says.

Exclusion from the NEPA requirements does not mean automatic exclusion from coastal zone requirements, however. "Unfortunately," says Kuennan, "there has been some confusion about these two distinct sets of regulations."

Although local coastal zone management plans vary from state to state, they generally address development and environmental issues. And by law, HUD cannot release funds for a community's CDBG or UDAG projects if these are inconsistent with a state's coastal zone plan.

Japanese fungus may fight U.S. gypsy moth

WASHINGTON — A fungus that destroys gypsy moths in Japan may be field-tested against the pests' tree-damaging American cousins next spring, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

"The fungus is a potent parasitic killer of gypsy moths in its Honshu Island homeland," said Richard S. Soper Jr., an insect pathologist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service and leader of the fungus research team.

The fungus — Entomophaga aulicae — is known to attack only gypsy moth larvae, Soper said. But before USDA uses it to fight these destructive pests, he said, thorough laboratory and field experiments must be conducted to ensure it will not harm beneficial insects.

"Early 20th century Japanese scientists first reported on the fungus and how it controls gypsy moths, but it was impossible to isolate living specimens and maintain them," he said. "For example, a New England entomologist collected specimens in 1908, but was unable to propagate them."

Soper said today's biochemical technology enables scientists to keep strains of the fungus alive while they are shipped to this country for research.

In Japan last spring, Soper searched for dead gypsy moths and isolated from them four living strains of the fungus. The strains are now thriving in his laboratory at the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

Soper injected spores from his collected specimens into native gypsy moths and got a kill rate of over 90 percent under laboratory conditions. A USDA rearing facility in Otis, Mass., supplied the gypsy moths.

The fungus lies dormant in the soil most of its life, Soper said. After the fungus becomes active, it releases tiny spores that land on the gypsy moth larva's body. The spores then germinate and bore into their host to feed and grow, eventually killing it.

"In Japan, the fungus sweeps through gypsy moths like a disease epidemic until the moth population simply collapses," he said.

Recently, entomologist Mitsuaki Shimazu of the Forest and Forest Products Institute, Tsukuba,

Japan, joined Soper for biological studies aimed at determining the conditions under which the imported fungus would thrive in U.S. forests. The scientists are using growth chambers programmed with environmental conditions that approximate those of Pennsylvania, New York and the New England states where gypsy moths are particularly destructive.

According to Soper, the fungus might someday be used as a microbial insecticide against gypsy moths:

"The fungi would be raised in deep-tank fermentation," he said. "Then they would be harvested, and their threadlike structures — called mycelia — would be ground into a wettable powder for spraying over moth-infested forests. As the powder regained moisture, it would produce the spores that attack the pest."

Technology already exists for producing microbial insecticides against such pests as spruce budworms and leafhoppers, he said.

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