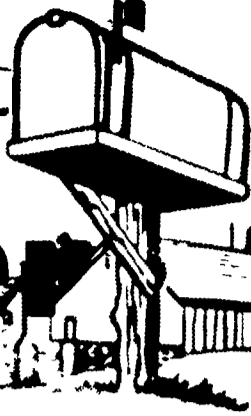


050.101.12.10 CUM  
 PERIODICALS DIVISION  
 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
 HUNTSVILLE CAMPUS PA 16802

Pennsylvania State  
 University Libraries  
 AUG 29 1985

# Lancaster Farming



VOL. 30 No. 42 Sections Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 24, 1985 \$7.50 per Year

## Crowds gather at Ag Progress



Equipment displays, instructional areas, tours and demonstrations were the order of the day at Penn State's annual Ag Progress Days celebration. For more on the events at Rock Springs, turn to page A20-21.

## July milk output jumps 8 percent

**BY JAMES H. EVERHART**  
 WASHINGTON — The nation's milk production rose to 12.4 billion pounds in July, exceeding year-ago totals by eight percent and setting an all-time high for the month. Last month's increase in output was the latest in a series of large production increases, which have been recorded since the dairy diversion program ended April 1. The July increases, however, were the largest in recent months and gave further indication that production is continuing to build momentum.

"We always had the capacity there," said Lackawanna County extension Director Tom Jurchak. "We didn't lose that many cows during the diversion program. So, now, the feed is cheap enough, and they can pour it to them and you'll get more milk."

Cow numbers were up 2.8 percent, to 111 million, while production per cow climbed 5.3 percent to 1,120 pounds, according to Charles Cunningham, deputy director of USDA's Commodity Analysis Division.

In Pennsylvania, milk production went up seven percent, to 858 million pounds, while per-cow production jumped 5.4 percent to 1,160 pounds. Cow numbers were

up slightly less than two percent, to 740,000.

Around the region, New York recorded a four-percent increase in July over year-earlier levels, while Maryland dairymen recorded an 11 percent increase.

And while most experts believed that falling milk prices would eventually bring production into line, Jurchak noted that milk output will continue to rise as long as the cost of feed remains relatively low.

The price of milk has been going down, that's true," said Jurchak. "But the feed's going down in price even faster."

Asked what he thought would have to happen to slow down the flood of milk, Jurchak said a good grain harvest and ample supplies of cheap feed probably mean production will continue to increase.

"I don't see anything in the woods to drop it down any," he added.

The timing couldn't be worse, he added, coming as it does as the Congress is preparing to go back in session to resolve farm policy for the next four years.

"With so much at stake," he said, "this thing's going to stick out like a sore thumb."

## Block says Reagan to press Congress on Farm Bill

**BY JAMES H. EVERHART**  
 WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary John Block said the Administration will put the pressure on Congress to write a Farm Bill before current legislation expires Oct 1.

The Administration, including the President, will be pushing hard to get the job done on time," Block said at a telephone press conference Tuesday in Washington.

He used the term "cruel" to describe the effect of the indecision on farmers who must make crop decisions for next year, based on a farm policy that has yet to be drafted.

"We started this year with a lot of high hopes, about helping to boost our exports, and ending this buildup in stocks of grain, and backing away from acreage controls and reducing the cost of government and writing a sound farm program to help this industry out of some of the problems we face.

For the most part, he added, I'm not sure how much closer we are now than we were two, three or four months ago."

The Reagan Administration, he said, will insist that Congress stay within its budget resolution on spending. And that means, he said, that legislators will have their work cut out for them when they return from their recess next month.

Farmers, he said, want less

government involvement in agriculture. And the Administration is attempting to cut down that involvement, and make American products more competitive on world markets, by gradually cutting back on farm spending, though in a compassionate way.

The Farm Bill budget figure accepted by the legislators and the administration, he said, would include "a considerable amount of money as an income transfer to farmers during this transition period."

That \$35 billion spending level, he said, is "a record amount of money. It's not chintzy, it's generous and if it is spent properly, we'll be able to help farmers during this transition."

The money, he added, will be directed toward family-size farms, with a payment limitation of \$50,000 per farm.

Block said he is convinced that Congress can create "a program that looks toward growth, looks toward exports and still is within the budget guidelines."

On other topics, the USDA secretary made the following comments:

**Livestock prices:** "I am very much aware of the depressed state of livestock, beef in particular, and as a hog farmer myself, I'm not that excited about the hog prices

## Pa. peach crop smallest in years

**BY SUZANNE KEENE**  
 LANCASTER — This year's Pennsylvania peach crop is one of the smallest in recent history due to extensive frost and hail damage in some counties.

Peach production in the state is forecast at 30 million pounds this year, far below the 85 million pounds produced in 1984, said Wally Evans, director of the Crop Reporting Service.

We wind up with a crop for Pennsylvania this year that would probably be the smallest crop since 1967," he said.

Pennsylvania is the fifth largest peach producing state in the nation, following behind California, South Carolina, Georgia, and New Jersey.

Peach production in the nation is expected to be down about 20 percent from normal.

For Pennsylvania peach producers, the frost damage translates into approximately a \$6 million loss in income, according to Larry Yager, Penn State Extension marketing agent.

The small crop is primarily the result of winter freeze and frost damage and some hail damage in the spring Adams and Franklin Counties, the state's two largest peach producers, were the hardest hit, while Lancaster County's peach crop received less severe damage, Yager said.

A warm Christmas season, followed by severe cold in mid-January, killed many of the early-



While Jim Erb and daughter Diana report an excellent peach crop on the family's Brook Lawn Farm near Lancaster, many producers elsewhere in the state have suffered from slim pickings. (Photo by Jack Hubley)

(Turn to Page A31)

(Turn to Page A10)