

Pennsylvania Tobacco

Intercourse, PA
Monday, Feb. 17

Total Volume Type 609: 165, 360 lbs.; Avg. Overall: 1.07 per lb.; Top Grades: 1.18-1.19 per lb.; Out Grade: -.30-1.02 per lb.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Total Volume Type 41: 199, 771 lbs.; Avg. Overall: .43 per lb.; Top Grades: .50-75; Bottom Grades: .20-45 per lb.

Keister's Livestock

Middleburg, Pa.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 1986

Report supplied by auction

CATTLE 301. Choice slaughter steers 54-58.25, Holsteins 48.00-51, Good 50.00-55, Holsteins 45.00-48, Standard 45.00-50, Holsteins 40.00-45, Utility 42.00-45...Choice slaughter heifers 51-55.25, Good 45-50.75, Standard 40.00-45, Utility 35.00-40...Breaking Utility & Commercial slaughter cows 36-40.35, Cutter & Boning Utility 34.50-38.75, Canner & Low Cutter 30-34.50, Shells down to 26...Yield Grade No. 1 1200-2135 lbs. slaughter bulls 46-51.10, one 55.10, #2 800-1200 lbs. 43.00-46...**FEEDER CATTLE:** 350-750 lbs. steers 45.00-58.50; 350-750 lbs. heifers 32-48.50; 350-700 lbs. bulls 38.00-55.00.

CALVES 208...Choice vealers 80.00-91, Good 65.00-80, Standard & Good 90-110 lbs. 55.00-65, 60-90 lbs. 45.00-55...**FARM CALVES:** Holstein Bulls 90-125 lbs. 75.00-109.00.

A recent article in the *New York Times* stated that dangerous drugs, unapproved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), "...are routinely fed to farm animals."

Such articles, using selective facts and assumptions will bear a direct relationship on the efficiency of future food production, development of new food products and higher food costs to the consumer.

"Chemical Phobia is getting out of hand," said Dr. Elizabeth Whalen, Director of The American Council on Science and Health.

Dr. Whalen stated that the

HOGS 447...US No. 1 220-235 lbs. barrows and gilts 47.00-49, No. 1-2 215-235 lbs. 46.00-47, No. 2-3 2-250 lbs. 45.00-46, No. 2-4 190-270 lbs. 41.00-45...**US No. 1-3** 270-600 lbs. sows 36.00-41, No. 2-3 250-500 lbs. 30.00-35...**Boars** 29.50-32.00.

FEEDER PIGS 377...US No. 1-2 20-35 lbs. feeder pigs 25.00-38, 35-50 lbs. 39-44.50 - all per head.

SHEEP 15...Choice wooler slaughter lambs 65.00-70.00, Good 50.00-65.00.

American food supply is the safest, most plentiful, varied and inexpensive in the world. In fact, like natural food supplies everywhere, it contains naturally occurring toxins and cancer-causing agents. "The human race has long been consuming naturally occurring toxins. When one understands the omnipresence of toxins and carcinogens in nature's own food supply, one can see the absurdity of panicking over minute levels of man-made chemicals," said Dr. Whalen.

Unfortunately the average consumer, who is becoming more and more concerned over health risks, reacts to food scares. For example, in 1978, a scientist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology stated that nitrate, a food preservative in meat products, was carcinogenic. This study was later disproven and discredited, and in 1980 the USDA publicly acknowledged that the statements about nitrate use was not valid. When the nitrate scare happened, hog futures prices dropped dramatically. Pork producers were never compensated for these losses.

Farmers cannot afford this type of irresponsibility.

Now, a recent Congressional study has again stirred up the debate over the safety of drugs and feed supplements for livestock and poultry. And while FDA officials agree with some of the findings, Dr. Gerald Guest, of the Center for Veterinary Medicine of the FDA, was critical of the report stating, "This is a sweeping indictment. It's (sic) full of gross statements that just aren't accurate."

The report was especially critical of the unauthorized, and illegal drugs which they claim are used indiscriminately by producers. Such drugs remain in the animals far beyond the withdrawal periods of approved drugs. Additionally, the report indicated that many producers do not abide by mandated withdrawal periods. As a result, feed antibiotics, say critics, create antibiotic-resistant bacteria that can spread to humans. Such bacteria in theory, could make certain antibiotics ineffective in treating human disease. They also are alleged to cause a resistance to selective bacteria which can cause illnesses

in humans.

This is a conclusion and an assumption which had never been proven by the scientific community. The University of California at Berkeley reviewed the claims in this allegation and said, "The main lesson from these findings is that food poisoning can result from contamination of meat followed by inadequate cooking."

Farmers have three major concerns in the controversy surrounding the sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics in animal feed. First, American producers have the enviable reputation of producing the most wholesome food products at the least cost to the consumer. We are, therefore, interested in any issue which will increase production costs or affect the quality of our products. Second, since we are exposed directly to livestock feed, we are concerned for our own immediate health and safety. Third, farmers are also consumers of red meats and poultry.

Feed antibiotics are under attack, the strongest yet. The controversy will not go away. Pennsylvania Farmers' Association policy states: "That use of antibiotics, feed additives and hormones which are essential to efficient modern day production of high quality animal products be continued where necessary safeguards are employed by producers to eliminate harmful residues, and oppose proposals to ban use of such materials in livestock and poultry production."

All farmers need to be aware of the controversy...and, all farmers need to make a commitment to follow practices which will not add to the controversy.

The Farmers' View is a column that is compiled by the Public Relations Division of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA). It expresses the views of PFA's policy positions on key issues as adopted by the organization's 23,313 family members.



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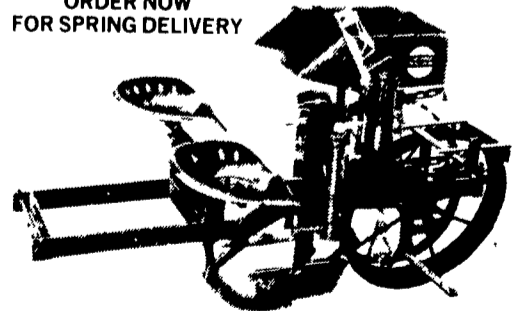
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