

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 31 No. 28

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 10, 1986

\$8.50 per Year

Chernobyl Disaster Affects Commodities Prices

BY MIRIAM GREENFIELD
Lebanon Co. Staff Correspondent

When the nuclear disaster occurred at the Soviet power plant in Chernobyl two weeks ago, the effects were not immediately known. Even now, the large damaged reactor is reportedly still burning. Experts can only guess the short and long-range effects of the unknown quantities of radioactive particles released by the meltdown and fire. Scientists haven't been able to measure the radioactive fallout, but many people think there was enough fallout to have ruined agricultural

products in the Ukraine for this year and probably decades or centuries to come.

On Wednesday, April 30,

Futures Stay Strong

LANCASTER — Wheat futures continued the strong upward trend which began last week following the nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Dry weather which has been plaguing the wheatbelt and southeastern portion of the country for the last four months is responsible for maintaining a high futures market this week, said H.

following news of the disaster, the July futures price of wheat peaked at \$2.93½ and farmers were able to "forward price" their quality

Louis Moore, Extension ag economist.

Present futures are higher than last week, when the nuclear accident in Chernobyl sparked the market last Tuesday to near the limit. The market responded to news of a second problem reactor in the area by reaching the limit.

(Turn to Page A38)

wheat to be delivered in July at that price. "Forward pricing" means locking in a contract for future delivery. On the following Monday, May 5, a farmer could have "forward priced" at \$2.85 per bushel; and on Tuesday, May 6, at \$2.90.

Farmers agree that whether it's plowing, planting, harvesting, or breeding, "timing is all." According to the marketing division managers at PFA, the adage is as true for marketing as it is for producing: "timing is all."

It's Spring. In the fields, farmers are out on tractors reading pat-

terns and colors of clouds in the sky for rain, or interpreting the behavior of birds and insects as signs of the quality of the crop they will be harvesting in late summer and early fall. At the same time, in an office at the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association in Camp Hill, Michael A. Orndorff, Director of Futures Trading, is sitting at his desk reading patterns on the financial charts on the electronic screen of his computer and listening to the wire reports for signs of the futures market prices

(Turn to Page A17)

Court Orders New Regulations For Buyout Program

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture filed a motion this week asking the federal judge to reconsider and clarify his directive to issue new regulations for the Dairy Ter-

mination Program.

The judge, ruling on a suit filed by the National Cattlemen's Association, determined that USDA did not follow an orderly marketing of the animals in the

buyout program.

The judge directed USDA to issue new regulations to solve this problem no later than June 1. The court order also specified that no more than 7 percent of the national dairy herd can be slaughtered in each calendar year, with a proportionate number for the period from April through September.

Until the June deadline, the program will continue under the original guides and be administered by the present regulations.

Cattlemen complain that the marketing procedures employed in the buyout have maximized rather than minimized the adverse effect on the beef industry.

However, the secretary followed orderly marketing procedures established in the statutory requirements, according to National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) Chief Executive Officer Jim Barr.

Roger Bergland, vice president of communication for the National Cattlemen's Association, said cattlemen are seeking a plan that would force the dairymen to market their buyout animals in a specific week rather than selling

them randomly within each period.

Barr, disputing the claim that the termination animals depressed the market noted, "There is no

documentation that huge numbers of cattle are going out at this point."

(Turn to Page A38)

Ag Sec. Discusses Disease Control at PEMA Meeting



Richard E. Grubb

LANCASTER — Promotion, egg inspection and disease control were topics discussed by Secretary of Agriculture Richard Grubb who was scheduled to speak at a Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meeting at Lancaster's Old Hickory Inn last night.

Touching on Pennsylvania's three-pronged egg inspection program, the keynote speaker noted that one phase involved quarterly USDA inspections mandated by Congress. Some 146 egg packing plants and 28 hatcheries are involved in this program, said the Secretary.

A second inspection phase involves a voluntary program initiated by the state. Fifty-nine of the state's packers are visited once to twice a month by state in-

(Turn to Page A38)

County Extension Agent Retires

BY CRAIG BINGMAN
Snyder County
Staff Correspondent

To work with Harold Holt is a learning experience. To know him as a person is a privilege.

On April 30, Harold Holt retired as county agent in Dairy for Snyder, Union, Northumberland, and Montour Counties. For twenty seven years, Harold served area dairy farmers by assisting them with herd health, marketing, and dairy promotion.

An Indiana County native, Holt was raised on a dairy farm near the small town of Marion Center. After a short stint in the army during World War II (he was wounded in action in 1945), he attended Penn State University and earned a bachelors degree in Agricultural Economics in 1950.

After eight years with two private milling dealerships, Holt began his career with the Hun-

(Turn to Page A39)



Harold Holt retired as Snyder County agent after years of service to dairymen in Snyder, Union, Northumberland and Montour Counties.

Dairy Month Is Coming!

June is dairy month, but this dairyman doesn't wait for June to promote milk. He tells everyone who drives past his Scattered Acres Farm on Rt. 183 near Bernville in Berks County to "Drink Milk." Dairy Editor Martha Gehringer took the photo of the calf hutches as a reminder that the June 7 issue of Lancaster Farming is especially designed for dairy news, special dairy features, interviews and the annual dairy recipe feature.

To have your favorite recipe that contains at least one dairy product included in this year's feature, send it to this newspaper right away. Your recipe will be published in one of the June issues of Lancaster Farming. A lot of milk products will get used when everybody makes the recipes at home and Lancaster Farming will send you a gift in appreciation sharing your favorite recipe.

PRV Outbreak Affects Hogs, Cattle, Sheep

BY JACK HUBLEY
EPHRATA — Concern in the livestock community mounts as a particularly virulent strain of pseudorabies virus takes its toll among hogs, beef cattle and other livestock.

Centered in northeastern Lancaster County, the current outbreak began showing up in January. Ephrata-area livestock farmers assembled at Ephrata High School Tuesday night for an update on the disease by Pork Council and Extension personnel.

Describing the current pseudorabies (PRV) outbreak as a

"hot strain," Penn State Extension swine veterinarian Dr. Larry Hutchinson said that clinical signs have been noted in all 10 of the Ephrata-area farms infected. Located in the Ephrata-Hinkletown area, the outbreak involves nine commercial breeder herds and one feedlot, bringing the total number of PRV-quarantined swine herds in the state to 27.

"It can be a fooler," said Hutchinson, noting that clinical signs of the disease can range from nothing at all to deaths among baby pigs. Other symptoms in-

(Turn to Page A36)