

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 33 No. 15

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 20, 1988

Five Sections

\$8.50 Per Year

Experts Optimistic On Future Of Pork Industry

BY
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Managing Editor

CAMP HILL — While we have more uncertainties in this election year, H. Louis Moore, Penn State's Livestock Economist, told the Keystone Pork Congress here Tuesday that he expects 1988 to be a good year for pork producers. Especially better than was anti-

State Corn Conference Set

CARLISLE - More than 500 Pennsylvania and Maryland corn growers are expected to attend the Third Annual Pennsylvania Corn Conference and Trade Show, according to Curt Rakestraw, president of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers' Association, co-sponsor of the event.

The day-long Show, to be held at the Quality Inn - Embers Restaurant near Carlisle, will get underway with registrations and the opening of the exhibits at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 1. Opening remarks will be made at 9:15 a.m.

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pated just three months ago.

Moore gave a major part of the credit for the better outlook to the expected three to five percent reduction in beef production. "We have the lowest number of cattle we've had since 1961," Moore said. The hog futures market indicates more optimism now than back in December when the February contract was in the 40's. After the new year, prices increased until the February contract closed at 47.25 last Friday.

"However, if we slide into a recession, the outlook could be vastly changed for pork products," Moore said. About half of the economists think this may happen. Because of this possibility, interest rates will be kept lower as more money is pumped into the economy.

Moore listed factors in the general economy that affect agriculture. "Growth that started in November 1982 has run much longer than usual. And while there was concern about the agricultural economy after the October stock market crash, this hasn't really affected agriculture adversely," Moore said.

"Since last April the agricultural economy has been helped by overseas grain sales and farmland values have turned upward. But the surplus grain problem hasn't gone away. We've reduced it," Moore said, "but it's still there."

Moore thinks the days of really cheap feed are probably over. Feed prices have risen some and are likely to stay rather strong. Farm income is on the rebound with a record \$57 billion in 1987. With this income, some of it from government subsidies, farmers paid off debt. Income will likely be down in 1988; not because agricul-

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RCMA Coordinator States Case

BY HAROLD ELY

PA RCMA Coordinator

The Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency (RCMA) is continuing its battle against Farmland Dairies of Wallington, N.J. Farmland is virtually the only dairy processor in the Northeast which owes RCMA's dairy farmers money - over \$600,000 - but refuses to pay. In a recent letter to farmers, Farmland continued its misinformation campaign in an effort to break RCMA.

FARMLAND CLAIMS: RCMA may take deductions from your milk check.

THE FACT IS: When RCMA was organized in 1973, the by-laws did allow for deducts. However, the by-laws were amended in 1987 to allow independent producers to join RCMA and to allow deductions up to 2 cents per hundredweight only from the RCMA premiums. This amendment was put in the by-laws to prevent any deductions from your milk check. The only money RCMA has access



At the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Banquet are (L to R) David Reinecker, President; Stephen Burkholder, 1988 Pork All American; and Clark Bruner Jr., 4-H Youth Award Winner.

to is the over-order premium money which you would not receive anyway had it not been for RCMA.

FARMLAND CLAIMS: RCMA deducts salaries for RCMA delegates from RCMA member milk checks.

THE FACT IS: RCMA by-laws do not provide for delegate salaries though they do allow for a per cent directors. Most farmers that when a dairyman has to be away from his farm to attend an RCMA meeting, he

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Beef Check-Off Administrator To Speak At Cattlemen's Conference

The National Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board's check-off coordinator will speak at the 1988 Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association Conference held this year at Pennsylvania State University on February 26 & 27.

Gary J. Enright, of South Dakota, was hired by the Beef Board to coordinate the first-ever national \$1 00 per head cattle assessment and promotion program. He will discuss beef and veal promotion and the referendum which will be

held May 10th.

The National Board, which consists of 108 beef, dairy and veal producers as well as 5 importers, administers the check-off and promotion program. Pennsylvania has two representatives on the Board -- J. Paul Espy, beef producer from Tyrone, and John Cope, dairy producer from Grantham.

As Chief Executive Officer of the Beef Promotion & Research Board, Enright is responsible for daily operations of that organiza-

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Fifty Year Members



Robert E. and Ruth Kulp, Kulpdale Farm, Manheim, were honored at the Atlantic Dairy District #7 dinner Thursday. The family includes: (L to R) David and Laraine, Dennis, Ruth and Robert. Andrew Marvin is the field representative.



Earl and Helen Groff reminisce about the active years of Earl's involvement with the Holstein breed, which he promoted through sales and shows.

Reminiscing With Groff

BY SALLY BAIR

Lancaster Co. Correspondent
STRASBURG — When Earl L. Groff took a short course at Pennsylvania State College in 1923, he probably did not realize that it would start him on a lifetime of dedication to registered Holstein cows. His outstanding service to the breed was recognized when he was named to the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame in 1982.

Though his father, Enos, had grade cattle, when Earl took over the farming with his new wife Helen in 1926, he sold off the grade cows and replaced them with

purebreds. By the 1930s all his herd was purebred, and he recalls that he made the decision "largely on their sale value." He adds, "They naturally got better and by knowing their ancestry, you could measure their producing ability."

Groff, now 86, and living his home farm close to Strasburg, is a man who came to know a lot about the value of sale cattle, and certainly gained a reputation for knowing cattle through his long association with the Garden Spot sales.

Groff says, "We started a little series of sales with the Lampeter

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