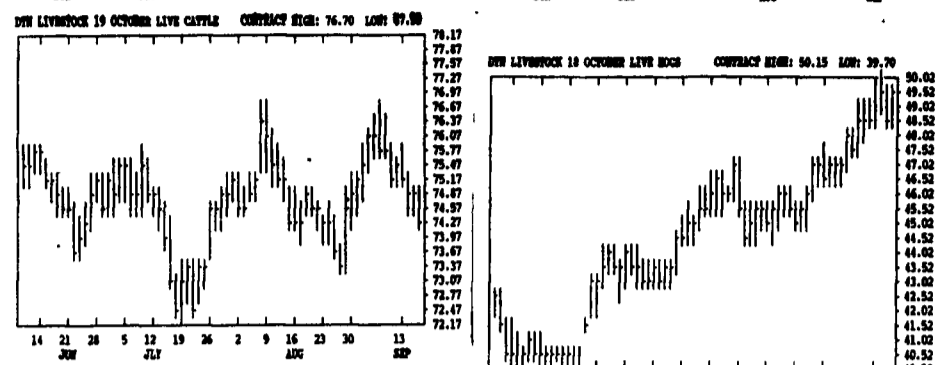
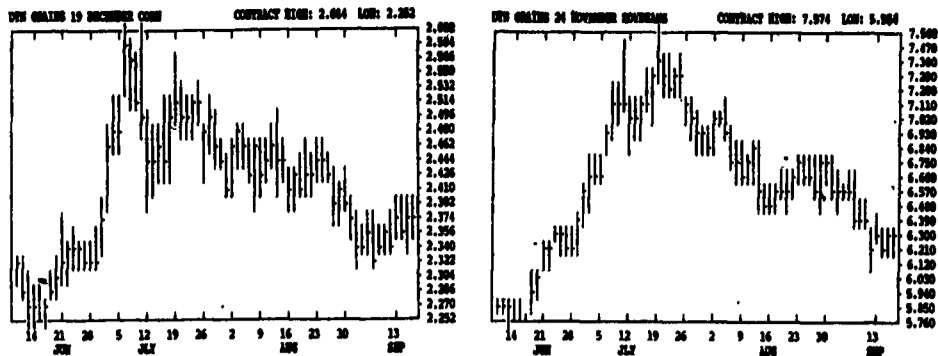


GRAIN, CATTLE AND HOG FUTURES MARKETS

(Closing bids: Thursday, September 16, 1993)

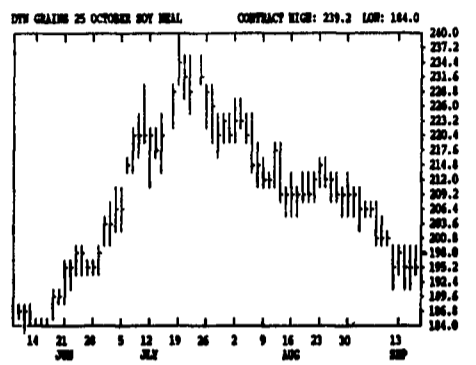
DTN FUTURES	13 09/16/93		TECHNICAL POINTS				SLOW STOCHASTIC						
	CONTRACT	CLOSE	4-DAY	9-DAY	18-DAY	45-DAY	9DAY	14DAY	30DAY	%K	%D	%K	%D
WHEAT	SEP	300.25	297.12	298.83	302.22	306.61	47.2	46.4	48.3	44	25	14	12
WHEAT	DEC	309.75	307.44	308.56	310.89	315.03	47.9	47.0	48.5	47	31	16	14
KCWHT	SEP	320.00	318.00	316.97	315.15	311.74	63.6	60.8	57.5	81	65	68	67
KCWHT	DEC	315.00	312.00	311.69	312.33	314.65	57.1	53.9	52.3	59	41	34	32
HWHT	SEP	359.00	346.50	343.36	335.36	326.02	70.4	67.2	63.1	78	56	60	62
CORN	SEP	235.00	231.81	229.25	230.93	236.21	60.4	54.5	50.9	85	76	38	21
CORN	DEC	238.50	238.19	236.42	238.25	243.06	50.9	48.2	48.0	70	72	36	24
CORN	MAR	246.25	245.94	244.53	246.47	250.53	50.1	47.8	47.9	70	71	33	23
OATS	SEP	136.75	135.44	133.61	135.40	139.75	56.0	50.2	48.2	80	74	30	17
BEANS	SEP	640.50	637.44	639.64	652.35	675.56	43.7	42.9	46.3	67	50	26	17
BEANS	NOV	629.50	630.31	636.58	651.99	675.63	36.4	38.0	43.7	47	37	19	14
BEANS	JAN	634.75	635.44	641.72	657.60	679.76	36.4	38.1	43.8	46	36	18	13
NEAL	SEP	197.90	198.55	201.29	206.47	215.70	30.1	32.6	41.1	34	26	11	9
BWOIL	SEP	23.18	23.01	23.13	23.35	23.67	48.1	47.3	49.4	52	37	24	25
CATTLE	OCT	74.40	74.85	75.35	75.03	74.72	37.3	43.1	48.0	13	13	48	60
CATTLE	DEC	74.78	75.16	75.52	75.33	75.26	35.9	41.5	47.1	13	21	57	70
FCTL	OCT	86.60	86.61	86.81	86.57	86.08	49.4	51.8	53.7	34	26	54	59
HOGS	OCT	49.73	49.56	48.94	47.76	46.20	68.5	67.9	64.5	64	72	88	89
HOGS	DEC	48.33	48.50	48.44	47.33	46.38	59.0	60.6	59.9	39	52	79	84
PKBLS	FEB	50.30	50.01	51.12	50.54	50.01	49.1	50.8	53.1	19	19	54	72

LIVE CATTLE				FEEDER CATTLE				LIVE HOGS						
	HIGH	LOW	LAST	CHG		HIGH	LOW	LAST	CHG		HIGH	LOW	LAST	CHG
OCT	7480	7435	7440*	-50	SEP	8707	8682	8705*	0	OCT	4985	4872	4972*	+85
DEC	7502	7462	7477*	-27	OCT	8680	8630	8660*	+5	DEC	4850	4750	4832*	+55
FEB	7590	7550	7565*	-27	NOV	8670	8622	8662*	+15	FEB	4742	4670	4720*	+32
APR	7660	7627	7642*	-17	JAN	8575	8535	8562*	-17	APR	4550	4505	4550*	+25
JUN	7297	7272	7292*	-10	MAR	8380	8357	8375*	-2	JUN	4985	4945	4985*	+12
AUG	7180	7165	7175*	-7	APR	8315	8285	8305*	+5	JULY	4875	4845	4860*	-10
OCT	7265	7252	7260*	-2	MAY	8245	8230	8230*	-5	AUG	4745			+15



CORN				
	HIGH	LOW	LAST	CHG
SEP	2360	2322	2350*	+22
DEC	2394	2370	2384*	-2
MAR	2472	2450	2462*	0
MAY	2526	2504	2514*	0
JULY	2556	2534	2544*	0
SEP	2510	2500	2502*	+4
DEC	2464	2444	2454*	0

SOYBEANS				
	HIGH	LOW	LAST	CHG
SEP	6450	6350	6404*	+4
NOV	6340	6234	6294*	-20
JAN	6392	6294	6346*	-16
MAR	6444	6354	6400*	-20
MAY	6460	6382	6430*	-20



**GLENN'S
UDDERINGS**

By
Glenn A. Shirk,
Lancaster Extension
Dairy Agent

herd, as the culling trends discussed above might indicate. Even though the raw count for the high groups was 150,000-200,000 or so less than the lower producing herds the distribution of cows by cell count code did not vary very much.

The higher producing herds also tended to have slightly better genetics as indicated by the AIPLS of the cows and their sires. The quality of the service sires used, as indicated by service sire PTAS, was almost identical for all groups.

How productive and how profitable a herd will be is determined in part by genetics and management, with management having the greatest influence on variations in production from farm to farm. Table 1 tends to reflect that.

While production has an effect on herd profits, higher-production levels do not necessarily guarantee higher profits. One must consider ALL costs related to production. Feed is a major cost but don't overlook costs related to herd health, reproduction, cow turnover, etc.

considered are: veterinary and medical costs, breeding expenses, feet and leg problems, mastitis, cow turnover, etc. The DHIA records don't reflect veterinary and medical costs, but at \$500-700 more income over feed costs, we can afford some extra costs and still have a better bottom line.

Let's jump down to the bottom of the table and look at reproduction and culling. Note that there is almost no difference in calving interval and cow removal rates! The good herds are getting cows bred as well as most other producers. They do have a few more services per cow and their percent successful services is slightly lower. In spite of this their days to first service and calving interval is about the same as that for other farmers, which suggests they might be missing fewer heats or are using their veterinarians and other technology to shorten days open.

The highest producing group does tend to sell a few more cows involuntarily for reproductive and mastitis reasons. Because of that, fewer cows are voluntarily sold for dairy purpose or culled for low production.

The higher the production level, the lower the somatic cell count (SCC). This could be attributed to better mastitis prevention and control measures in these herds. Or, they could have been less tolerant of mastitis, and were more quick to cull mastitis cows from the

Herd Comparisons by Rolling Herd Averages

I had the opportunity recently to look at a set of Raleigh DHIA Herd Summary Reports that enabled me to compare herds according to their rolling herd averages.

I have summarized these comparisons in Table 1. The table includes data for 588 Lancaster County DHIA Holstein herds on official test. Herds with rolling herd averages of less than 15,000 lbs. were excluded from the comparisons, even though they are included in the county average.

The most productive herds tended to be the larger herds. The cows were slightly younger, but not by much. As you would expect, the higher the rolling herd average, the higher the cows peaked. For all production groups, peak milk for first calf heifers was 78-80% that of second lactation cows, and the peaks for second lactation cows were 94-96% that of third lactation and older cows.

The group that had the lowest feed cost (15,000-16,999) also had the lowest income over feed cost and the highest feed cost per cwt. of milk produced. Even though the two highest groups spent about \$180 more per year for feed, their income over feed cost was \$500-700 more per cow, and feed cost per cwt. of milk was 45-85 cents less.

There is more to profit than income over feed cost. Also to be

Table 1 Holstein Herd Comparisons by DHIA Rolling Herd Averages (Lancaster County, Pa. - August 1993)

Criteria	County Average	15,000	17,000	19,000	21,000	Over 23,000
		thru 16,999	18,999	20,999	22,999	
No. of official herds	588	61	188	225	92	14
Herd size (no. of cows)	60	61	54	60	65	89
Age of herd (mo.)	53	53	54	53	50	50
DHIA RHA	19,487	16,543	18,259	20,092	21,787	23,659
Peak milk on test day:						
1st. lactation	69	63	66	71	75	80
2nd. lactation	88	78	85	91	97	105
3rd. lactation and over	94	83	89	97	103	112
Total feed cost	993	892	944	1,022	1,077	1,078
Income over feed cost	1,506	1,224	1,393	1,564	1,721	1,856
Feed cost per cwt. of milk	5.14	5.43	5.21	5.12	4.98	4.58
Raw SCC this yr. (1,000's)	336	449	358	312	285	282
% cows with SCC scores of:						
0-3	54	52	50	54	55	57
4	18	17	17	18	17	17
5-6	20	22	22	20	20	18
7-9	8	9	11	8	8	8
AIPLS - cows	+80	+67	+77	+79	+94	+111
- sires	153	140	154	150	165	175
Service sire PTAS	222	220	221	221	228	224
Projected calving interval (mo.)	13.6	13.7	13.7	13.8	13.5	13.7
Days to first service	83	96	91	93	91	95
% of all services successful	48	47	48	47	49	42
No. of services per cow (all cows)	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4
Cows leaving herd (total %)	30	34	32	30	28	29
% leaving voluntarily for:						
Dairy and low production	22	10	25	21	18	19
% leaving involuntarily for:						
Reproduction	22	40	25	21	22	27
Mastitis	17	15	13	16	18	19
Feet and legs	11	10	13	11	11	12
Disease and injury	22	25	25	21	22	19

Farmland Trust Announces Fund Drive At Picnic

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — More than 200 people attended Lancaster Farmland Trust's annual Farm Tour and Picnic on Saturday, September 11 at the preserved farm of Eugene and Ada Mae Martin in Earl Township's Mill Creek Valley.

The farmland preservation group kicked off their annual fund drive during the event. The group announced that Caroline Steinman Nunan will serve as honorary chairperson and Dorothy Lyet as chairperson of the trust's 1993-1994 funding campaign.

The campaign goal is \$125,000.

The group also presented Mrs. James Binns with the 1993 Distinguished Donor Award for her outstanding generosity to the organization.

The trust announced the preservation of the third farm in Earl Township, an Amish dairy farm. The farm is 50 acres and the farmer, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated the conservation easement to the trust.

The Eugene Martin Farm, site of the day's picnic, was the first farm preserved in Mill Creek Valley and neighbor Frank Ludwig

made the commitment to preserve his farm shortly thereafter.

Families toured the Mill Creek Valley south of New Holland in hay wagons, ran relay races, walked through tobacco barns, and enjoyed picnic food throughout the afternoon. Alan Musselman, executive director of the farmland preservation group, noted "this event has become an annual favorite of many of our supporters, and is a time for many of our members, who do not often get to spend time on farms, to connect with Lancaster County's farm families and scenery."

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