



## LIVESTOCK MARKET OUTLOOK

Penn State Agricultural Economist Lou Moore did not fit the livestock industry into the "good news" category in 1994, and appreciable improvement may not be realized in 1995.

Hog prices fell through the floor in September and have been at the lowest levels in 20 years. It usually takes three to four months for lower prices at the farm to be reflected at the supermarket. This time, however, very little of the drop has shown up at the retail level.

The chain has become so complex from producer to retail store that retailers seem to have little knowledge of events which shape the world outside the store. There have been a few specials to move more pork, but prices are stuck at unrealistically high levels. Packers and retailers currently are profiting from a record hog supply and the lowest hog prices in two decades.

And the end doesn't seem to be in sight. Pork supplies increased about 3.5 percent in 1994 and may increase to 4 to 5 percent in 1995. Hog prices are not likely to move higher than the mid-\$30s through spring. Beef supplies will probably be up 1 percent in the first half of 1995, but lower-priced feeders, fewer placements, and lower-cost feed will bring some cattle finishing operations back to profitable levels in early 1995 after nearly 18 months of straight losses. Also, poultry supplies will be up 5 percent in 1995 and turkey supplies about 2 percent.

Professor Lou Moore will present his 1995 Market Outlook at both the Lancaster Cattle Feeders Day in January and the Keystone Pork Congress in February.

### Purebred Beef Breeders Forum

The first Northeastern Purebred Beef Cattle Breeders Forum will be held on Feb. 18 at the Toftrees Resort Hotel in State College. The meeting will provide an important coming together for a number of leaders in the generation, publication, and use of expected progeny differences (EPDs) in beef cattle.

The lineup of notable speakers for the forum includes Larry Benyshek, Georgia; John Hough, American Polled Hereford Association; Kent Anderson, North

American Limousin Foundation; Bob Schalles, American Simmental Association; and John Crouch, American Angus Association.

Topics will include the basics of how an EPD is calculated, importance of data submission from breeders, why EPDs change, how to get carcass trait EPDs, and how to use EPDs to merchandise cattle.

EPDs have become one of the most important tools for genetic improvement in beef cattle. These numbers represent the relative genetic value of any individual animal within a breed for a given trait, compared to all other animals in that breed.

Selected traits might include birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, scrotal size, or milk production in female offspring, among others. Recently, the generation of EPDs for carcass traits such as marbling and fat thickness has allowed breeders to select for traits that appeal to both producers and consumers.

The Northeastern Purebred Beef Cattle Breeders Forum will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude about 4 p.m. The cost of the program is \$45 per person, including lunch.

For more information, contact John Comerford, The Pennsylvania State University, 324 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802.

### Pork Expo Moves To Lebanon

The seventeenth annual Keystone Pork Expo will be held Feb. 15 at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center at the Lebanon County Fairgrounds on Cornwall and Rocherty Roads.

This year's meeting will feature a trade show with 48 exhibits and educational seminars for producers. The Expo will once again sponsor a Pork Bowl contest and public speaking competition for FFA and 4-H members.

Kirk Clark, nationally recog-

nized for his work with medicated early wean programs at Purdue University, will speak on the benefits of multiple site production. Gary Maas, president of Agri Careers in Massena, Iowa, will provide tips on keeping top notch employees. Tom Congelton, marketing manager for the Central Kentucky Hog Marketing Association in Springfield, Ky., will provide his perspective on establishing a marketing network.

Lou Moore, Penn State professor of agricultural economics and a favorite speaker over the years at the Pork Expo, will be on hand to deliver his hog market outlook.

Dennis Zimmerman, a producer and member of the Nutrient Management Advisory Board, will discuss the Nutrient Management Law and how it will affect individual operations.

Following the educational seminars, the fourth annual Legislative Activity Fund Auction will be held. There will be no banquet this year following the Expo, but one is tentatively planned for later this year.

Contact your county extension office for a copy of the Pork Expo program.

### Improving Swine Profitability

Beyond hog prices, the production related items with the greatest influence on profit in the swine industry typically include feed costs, maintaining facilities at capacity, and sow productivity. The price of feed is difficult to control. Decreasing building capacity will generally reduce profits per pig. However, increasing sow productivity can add dollars to your bottom-line.

Most sows will wean at least eight pigs/litter. Getting that average up to 8.5 or 9 takes more time - so make sure things go well at farrowing, check sow comfort and temperatures, and watch pigs throughout lactation and transfer as needed.

But of all the things that producers do, according to Dr. Ken Kephart, Penn State extension swine specialist, it's farrowing management that pays major dividends. The extra pigs will basically go to market for the cost of feed, since the overhead costs are covered by the pigs already in the barn. So the profit on these extra pigs, even with today's depressed market, is at least \$25 per head.

### Sheep Shearing School

While sheep producers are most concerned with lambing at this

time of year, it won't be long until the flock will need shorn—again! The demand for sheep shearers remains constant, with many small flock owners lacking the necessary skills or equipment to tackle the job.

As they have for the past 8 years, the Lancaster County Sheep and Wool Growers Association will sponsor a sheep shearing school to train beginners or shepherds with limited experience.

The school is scheduled for April 7 and 8 and will be hosted by Rod Nissley at the site of his flock located in Campbelltown, near Hershey. The two-day school will be instructed by Mike Fournier and Chet Hughes, Penn State extension livestock agents. Equipment will be provided by Penn State University.

To receive more details, fees, and registration information, contact Penn State Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County at (717) 394-6851.

### Winter Care Of Horses

Just because winter is here, it's easy to confuse overkindness with necessity. Horses do not have to be kept in their stalls and buried under layers of blankets and hoods to be happy. In fact, they're much happier and healthier outside.

Nature provides horses with a winter coat designed to keep them warm without a lot of human assistance. A horse's winter coat traps body heat between the hair fibers. Placing a blanket on a horse with a winter coat actually compresses the insulating hair fibers, eliminating the air layer and reducing the horse's natural protection against the cold.

Horses start to grow their winter

coats when the days begin to shorten. The shorter length of day-light, not temperature, stimulates hair growth. Very cold temperatures will not affect healthy horses, but cold, soaking rains or drafts can make them sick. As a conscientious owner, all you really have to do is provide horses with a place to get away from the wind, rain, and snow.

Horses who live outdoors most of the time need a three-sided shelter. Build the shelter tightly and position the opening facing away from the prevailing winds. Consider seasonal wind directions and take advantage of natural wind-breaks by locating the shed on the leeward side of small hills or groups of trees. Be sure the site and the shelter floor are well drained to prevent muddiness. Natural wind-breaks of trees or brush also offer barriers to prevailing winds and will help protect the pastured horse.

Provide draft-free stabling if horses are kept inside. However, horses shouldn't be cooped up in an airtight overheated barn. If satisfactory ventilation cannot be provided by opening the doors and windows to allow for a draft-free air exchange, then mechanical means, such as ventilating or exhaust fans, would be considered a necessity.

Ventilation removes moisture that accumulates quickly in a tightly closed barn. This moisture can predispose the horse to pneumonia and related illnesses; therefore, it should be eliminated.

Ample straw, sawdust, or shavings provide warm bedding for cold nights. An important thing to remember is to keep our horse off of the cold ground.

## Outreach Luncheon Set

WESTMINSTER, Md. — The Central Maryland Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers will hold its Eighth Annual Outreach Luncheon on Saturday, March 4 from 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., at Wilhelm LTD.

This year's speaker is Dr. Max Lennon from Peach Tree City, Ga., former president of Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. He is the president & CEO of Eastern Food Inc.

Lennon served as president of Clemson University from 1986 to 1994. Previously he was the dean

of the College of Agriculture and director of the Agriculture Experiment Station at the University of Missouri.

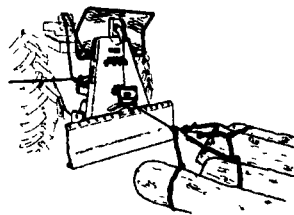
Having owned and operated a crop and livestock farm in the early 1960s, he was awarded the Outstanding Young Farmer Award in 1966 and received the National 4-H Alumni Award in 1989.

Tickets are \$7.75 each and will be available for reservations. For more information, contact Dave Sparks, (410) 239-8480 or Lawrence Cooper, (410) 374-4868.

## FRANS GARD TIMBER WINCHES

Quality built, tractor-mounted winches with few moving parts.

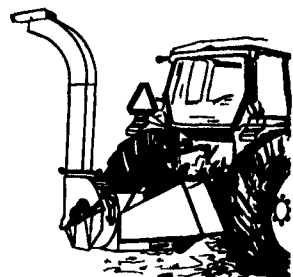
Model	Capacity	Min. HP
V2800	6200 lbs.	25 HP
V4000	8800 lbs.	40 HP
V6500	14200 lbs.	80 HP



## PATU CHIPPERS

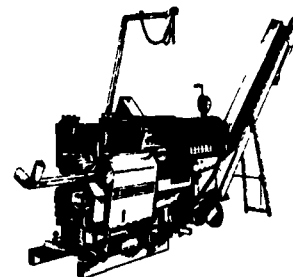
Tractor-mounted models chip limbs, slabs or whole trees. Adjustable chip length.

Model	Capacity	Min. HP
DC40	4"	15 HP
DC65	6.5"	30 HP
DC100	10"	40 HP



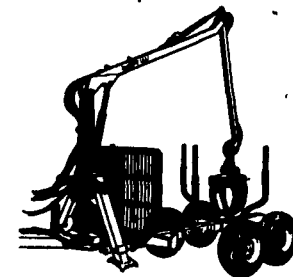
## PALAX WOOD PROCESSOR

Cuts, splits and conveys wood up to 12" diameter. Available as PTO tractor-mounted version or trailer model equipped with 13 HP Honda engine.



## PATU LOADERS & TRAILERS

Knuckleboom loaders and forwarding trailers with continuous grapple rotation. Six models with outreach range of 13'5" to 26'5" and load capacities of 7 to 12 tons.



## J.S. WOODHOUSE CO., INC.

ESTABLISHED 1943

P.O. Box 1169  
1914 Union Street  
W. Springfield, MA 01090  
(413) 736-5452 FAX (413) 732-8700

Branch Warehouses:  
Lewisberry, PA (717) 938-5100  
Snyder, PA (610) 461-5201  
Reading, PA (610) 772-2200

## B&B SPRAY PAINTING SANDBLASTING SPRAY - ROLL - BRUSH

Specializing In Buildings,  
Feed Mills - Roofs - Tanks -  
Etc., Aerial Ladder Equip.  
Stone - Barn - Restoration

574 Gibbon's Rd.,  
Bird-In-Hand, Pa.

Answering Service (717) 354-5561