

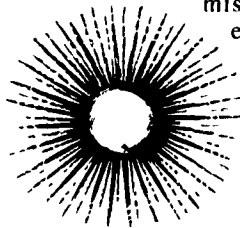


DECEMBER 18-24, 1995

WINTER SOLSTICE, DEC. 22.

"SUN STANDS STILL"

The term Solstice comes from the Latin for "sun stands still." In winter it is the shortest day and longest night, when the sun appears to be at its lowest point in the sky. Traditional Winter Solstice celebrations include the lighting of bonfires, candles, and Yule logs, the gathering of evergreens and holly, and the hanging of mistletoe. Druids considered mistletoe a symbol of friendship and peace, because it grew on the great oak without doing it harm. In northern Europe, mistletoe was reputed to turn enemies into friends.



"Santa Claus has the right idea; visit people once a year."

— Victor Borge

TIP OF THE WEEK

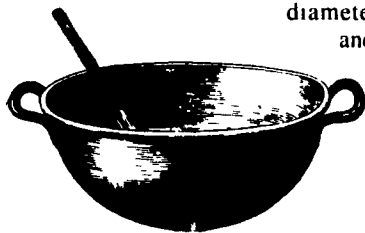
To make a Yule log burn longer, soak it in water first and keep it well back in the fireplace.

SWEDISH COCOA BALLS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 tablespoon strong coffee
- 1 scant teaspoon vanilla
- 1-3/4 cups quick oats
- 1/4 cup ground walnuts

Cream butter, sugar, and cocoa. Add coffee, vanilla, and oats. Chill until cold, then roll into small balls, pressing together firmly. Balls should be about 1 inch in diameter. Roll in sugar, and store in a tin. No baking required!

Makes about 2 dozen.



THE OLD FARMER'S WEATHER PROVERBS



If the New Moon enters its phase between 8 and 10 P.M., (as on Dec. 21), then the weather will be fair and frosty, if the wind is northerly or westerly.

Frost on the shortest day indicates a severe winter.

If the wind follows the Sun's course, expect fair weather.

Central U.S.

Carlot

Beef Report

December 13, 1995

Report supplied by USDA

USDA NATIONAL CARLOT BEEF REPORT (INCLUDES MAJOR PRODUCTION AREAS IN THE MIDWEST AND TEXAS) AS OF 3 P.M.

COW AND BULL CARCASS FOB OMAHA

11.0 LOADS REPORTED COMPARED TO TUESDAY'S 3 P.M. REPORT: UTILITY CARCASSES 1.00-2.00 HIGHER; CUTTER NOT ESTABLISHED; BULLS 1.00 LOWER. DEMAND MODERATE FOR LIGHT OFFERINGS.

UT, BRK 2-4 450 LBS. AND UP, 3.0 LOADS, RANGE 49.00-50.00, LATEST EXT. MKT. 49.00-50.00.

UT, BNG 1-3 400 LBS. AND UP, 6.0 LOADS, RANGE 53.00-54.00, LATEST ESTB. MKT. 53.00-54.00.

CUTTER 1-2 350 LBS. AND UP, UNQUOTED.

BULLS YG1 500 LBS. AND UP, 2.0 LOADS, RANGE 73.00, LATEST ESTB. MKT. 73.00.

COW AND BULL CARCASSES CAF WEST COAST

0 LOADS REPORTED COMPARED TO LAST WEEK: MARKET FOR WEEK ENDED DEC. 8, 1995.

UT, BNG 1-3 400 LBS. AND UP, RANGE 55.00.

CUTTER 1-2 350 LBS. AND UP, RANGE 57.00.

BONELESS PROCESSING BEEF/ BEEF TRIMMINGS

200.0 LOADS REPORTED FRESH 90% BONELESS BEEF IN THE MIDWEST 1.00-3.00 HIGHER, AND IN TEXAS, 5.00-6.00 HIGHER THAN LAST TEST; 85% 2.00-2.50 HIGHER; 75% 1.00-2.00 HIGHER; 65% MOSTLY STEADY. DEMAND FAIRLY GOOD FOR LIGHT TO MODERATE OFFERINGS. BEEF TRIMMINGS STEADY ON MOSTLY MODERATE DEMAND AND OFFERINGS.

FOB OMAHA BASIS 90% FR, 53 LOADS, RANGE 79.0-84.0, WT. AVG. 81.39.

90% FZ, UNQUOTED.

85% FR, 6 LOADS, RANGE 71.5-74.0, WT. AVG. 72.75.

85% FZ, UNQUOTED.

75% FR, 15 LOADS, RANGE 59.0-61.5, WT. AVG. 60.17.

75% FZ, UNQUOTED.

65% FR, 14 LOADS, RANGE 49.0-50.5, WT. AVG. 49.71.

65% FZ, UNQUOTED.

50% FR, 74 LOADS, RANGE 35.0-37.0, WT. AVG. 36.06.

50% FZ, 4 LOADS, RANGE 40.00, WT. AVG. 40.00.

50% BOX, UNQUOTED.

BULL 92-94, 1 LOAD, RANGE 101.00, WT. AVG. 101.00.

FOB EAST TX & OK 90% FR, 11 LOADS, RANGE 82.0-83.0, WT. AVG. 82.23.

90% FZ, UNQUOTED.

85% FR, UNQUOTED.

85% FZ, UNQUOTED.

75% FR, 2 LOADS, RANGE 62.0, WT. AVG. 62.00.

75% FZ, 65% FR, 65% FZ, UNQUOTED.

CAF NORTHEAST AREAS 90% FR, 17 LOADS, RANGE 84.0-87.0, WGT. AVG. 86.65.

90% FZ, UNQUOTED.

85% FR, 3 LOADS, RANGE 81.0, WT. AVG. 81.00.

85% FR, 85% FZ, 75% FR, 75% FZ, 65% FR AND 65% FZ, UNQUOTED.

CAF WEST COAST BASIS WEEK ENDED 12/08/95

90% FR, RANGE 80.0, WT. AVG. 80.00.

90% FZ, RANGE 83.0-86.0, WT. AVG. 84.50.

85% FR, RANGE 71.0, WT. AVG. 71.00.

85% FZ, RANGE 75.5, WT. AVG. 75.50.

75% FR, UNQUOTED.

75% FZ, UNQUOTED.

65% FR, RANGE 50.0-53.00, WT. AVG. 52.00.

65% FZ, UNQUOTED.

50% FR, RANGE 38.0-40.0, WT. AVG. 39.00.

50% FZ, UNQUOTED.

ABCDE AFTER QUOTES REPRESENTS DAYS SINCE LAST ACTUAL MARKET TEST. QUOTES ARE DROPPED AFTER 5 DAYS OF NO TEST OR BEFORE IF THEY NO LONGER REFLECT CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS.

SOURCE: USDA MARKET, DES MOINES, IA.

Lebanon Valley Livestock

Fredericksburg, PA

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Report supplied by Auction

STEERS. CHOICE 1190 LBS. 65.25;

HOLSTEIN'S SELECT 1150 LBS. 55.75; STANDARD 1165-1780 LBS. 45.00-46.75.

HEIFERS: CHOICE 1220-1285 LBS. 65.00-67.00; SELECT 1185-1225 LBS. 61.00-64.25.

COWS: BREAKING UTILITY AND COMMERCIAL 32.00-35.00-38.75 HY; CUTTER AND BONING UTILITY 29.00-31.75; CANNER AND LOW CUTTER 26.00-28.75; SHELLS 26.00 DOWN.

BULLS: YG#2 1150-1320 LBS. 30.00-32.00.

CALVES: CHOICE 80-120 LBS. 30.00-35.00; GOOD 70-100 LBS. 25.00-30.00; STANDARD AND GOOD 70-100 LBS. 20.00-25.00; FARM CALVES #1 HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES 105-120 LBS. 90.00-107.00; #2 HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES 90-105 LBS. 80.00-97.00; #1 HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES 95-110 LBS. 125.00-137.00; #2 HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES 90-100 LBS. 92.00-120.00.

HOGS: US#1-3 247-265 LBS. 42.75-44.25.

SOWS: US#1&3 445-710 LBS. 29.00-32.00; #2&3 465-550 LBS. 26.50-29.00.

BOARS: 470-580 LBS. 24.00-25.00.

SHEEP: GOOD AND CHOICE 110 LBS. AT 63.00.

New Holland Dairy

New Holland Sales Stables

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Report supplied by auction

DAIRY COWS 113; HEIFERS 110; 5 BULLS. MARKET STEADY.

LOCAL FRESH COWS 360.00-1010.00.

FRESH HEIFERS 675.00-1260.00.

LOCAL SPRINGERS 450.00-1060.00.

UPSTATE LOADS FRESH 685.00-1385.00, SPRINGERS 750.00-1100.00.

BETTER FRESH COWS 1150.00-1285.00.

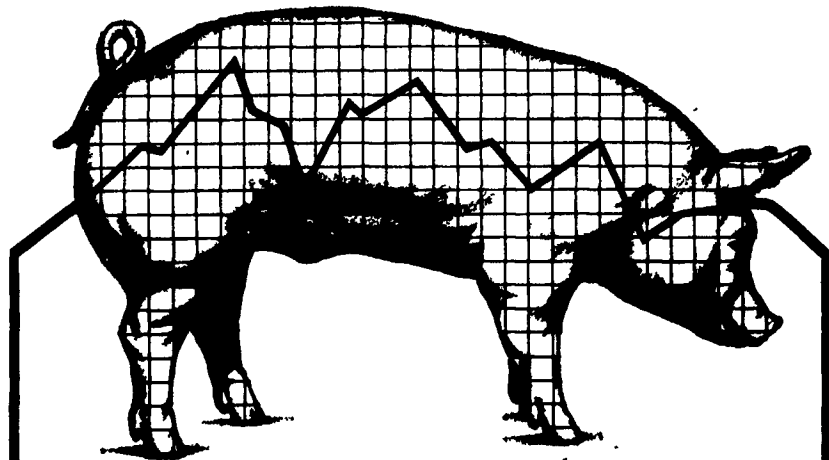
34 HEAD PUREBRED HEIFERS, BRED AND OPEN 625.00-1360.00.

SPRINGING HEIFERS LARGE 1000.00-1210.00, SMALL 500.00-950.00.

SHORT BRED HEIFERS 535.00-710.00.

OPEN BREEDING AGE HEIFERS 600.00-725.00, SMALL OPEN HEIFERS 175.00-510.00.

BULLS: 385.00-635.00, PUREBRED 700.00-775.00.



HOW HAS YOUR CASH FLOW BEEN?

Purina Mills, Inc.

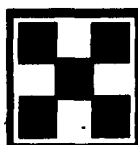
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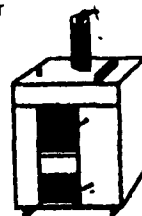
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Advertisement for various farm equipment brands including Case, DeGelman, Sunflower, Kinze, Kelderman, Woods, Monosem, and others. Includes a map of Pennsylvania and the text '1995 YEAR-END TOY SALE SALE PRICE EFFECTIVE THRU JAN. 6th 1996'.

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