



DECEMBER 7-13, 1998

ST. NICHOLAS, DEC. 7.

**ANCIENT VOWS AND SUPERSTITIONS**

At medieval feasts, a roasted peacock, with its feathers and head intact, was what a woman of high position served. Knights would put a hand onto the peacock's back and make a vow for the coming year, much like our New Year's resolutions. Sometimes the peacock was baked in a pie, the head and tail protruding from opposite sides of the crust. Ancient Christmas superstitions include: Groom a horse with a washcloth on Christmas and it will grow fat; Christmas Day babies have the gift of prophecy; and it's bad luck to wash a Christmas present before it is given or wear new shoes on Christmas.



*Virtue and happiness are mother and daughter.*

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

Pipe cleaners make easy gift tag ties and Christmas bulb hangers.

**WINTER CHICKEN-MUSHROOM SOUP**

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 cup peeled, sliced carrots
- 1 cup peeled, chopped onions
- 1 cup peeled, sliced leeks
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1 teaspoon fresh (or 1/2 teaspoon dry) thyme
- 2 pounds mushrooms, sliced
- 6 cups chicken broth
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 4 teaspoons minced chives, for garnish

thyme and mushrooms and cook 5 minutes. Add broth and seasonings. Simmer covered for 30 minutes. Puree soup in a blender and serve hot, garnished with chives. (If desired, the mushrooms can be sautéed separately and added after the soup is pureed.)



Makes 8 servings.

Heat oil, add vegetables (except mushrooms) and sauté. Stir in

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**The OLD FARMER'S WEATHER PROVERBS**



*A winter's fog will freeze a dog.*

*When winter is not early, it will not be late.*

*December changeable and mild, the whole winter will remain a child.*

*If the first snow sticks to the trees, it foretells a bountiful harvest.*

**Lebanon Valley Livestock**

Fredericksburg, PA

December 1

Report Supplied by Auction

STEERS: CHOICE 63.00-64.25; SELECT 58.75-61.00.

HOLSTEIN: CHOICE 1290 LBS. 55.00, SELECT 50.25-51.25. STANDARD 42.25-43.50.

HEIFERS: CHOICE 1290 LBS. 64.00, SELECT 52.00.

COWS: BREAKING UTILITY AND COMMERCIAL 34.25-37.75; CUTTER AND BONING UTILITY 33.25-34.00; CANNER AND LOW CUTTER 31.75-32.75; SHELLS 24.00-30.00.

BULLS: YG#1 1365-2065 LBS. 37.75-38.50, YG#2 905 LBS. 32.00.

FEEDER CATTLE: HEIFERS 350-616 LBS. 49.75-54.50, BULLS 820 LBS. 40.50.

FARM CALVES: #1 HOLSTEIN BULLS 95-115 LBS. 90.00-100.00; #2 HOLSTEIN BULLS 95-115 LBS. 60.00-75.00; #1 HOLSTEIN HEIFERS 90-100 LBS. 160.00-175.00. #2 HOLSTEIN HEIFERS 100 LBS. 60.00-70.00, BEEF CROSS BULLS & HEIFERS 90 LBS. 77.00.

HOGS: US#1-3 210-270 LBS. 14.00-16.50.

SOWS: US#1-3 390-645 LBS. 12.00-16.00.

BOARS: 240 LBS. .07, 590 LBS. 5.75

**Mercer Livestock Auction**

Mercer, Pa.

Dec. 1, 1998

Report Supplied By PDA

CATTLE 351 [PDA] Compared to last week's sale slaughter steers 75 to 175 higher, sl cows steady to 2 00 higher

SLAUGHTER STEERS Choice 2-3 985-1350 lbs 60 00-63 75, Select 1-3 53 75-60 25, Standard 47 00-53 00

HEIFERS Choice 2-4 925-1300 lbs 56 25-62 25, few Select 1-3 56 00-58 00, few Standard 1-2 48 00-52 00

COWS Breakers 75-80% lean 30 00-37 75, 70-75% 24 25-28 00,

Boners 80-85% lean 27 50-34 25, Lean 85-90% lean 24.25-31 50. Shells down to 21.50

BULLS Yield Grade 1 940-1990 lbs 40 00-46 75, few Yield Grade 2 995-2085 lbs 25 00-38 00

FEEDER CATTLE: STEERS few Medium 1 325-450 lbs 61 00-71 00, Large 2 400-725 lbs 38 00-56 00, Medium 2 375-550 lbs 50 00-53 00, HEIFERS: Medium 1 300-525 lbs 57 00-70 00, Large 2 425-975 lbs 39 00-51 00, Medium 2 325-700 lbs 37 00-53 00, BULLS Medium 1 325-500 lbs 56 00-71 00, Medium 2 325-800 lbs 35 50-45 00

CALVES 137 VEALERS Standard and Good 80-130 lbs 20 00-30 00, Utility 60-85 lbs 9 00-20 00

FARM CALVES No 1 Holstein bulls 120-130 lbs 57 50-70 00, 90-115 lbs 60 00-82 50, No 2 90-110 lbs 32.00-60 00, few No 1 Holstein heifers 85-95 lbs 140 00-150 00, No 2 80-120 lbs 37 50-125 00 Beef type bulls & heifers 75-105 lbs 30 00-90 00

HOGS 57 BARROWS AND GILTS 49-54% lean 225-280 lbs 22 25-25 75, 45-50% lean 20 00-21 00, 40-45% lean 260-270 lbs 17 50-18 00

FEEDER PIGS 0 NO MARKET TEST!

SHEEP 2 NO MARKET TEST! GOATS 6 .Few Medium Nannies 48 00-51 00

**New Wilmington Livestock Auction**

New Wilmington, Pa.

Nov. 30, 1998

Report Supplied By PDA

CATTLE 96 [PDA]. Compared to last week's sale slaughter cows steady to 3 50 higher

SLAUGHTER STEERS one Select 1-3 52 00

HEIFERS: few Choice 2-4 1460-1545 lbs 52 50-55 00, few Select 1-2 46 00-48 50

SLAUGHTER COWS Breakers 75-80% lean 30 50-35 75, few 70-75% 20 50-27 00, Boners 80-85% lean 27 25-32 00, Lean 85-90% lean 22 00-27 50 Shells down to 18 25

FEEDER CATTLE STEERS one Medium 1 300 lbs at 65 00, HEIFERS Medium and Large 2 290-735 lbs 35 50-42 00, few Large 2 Holstein replacement heifers 400-700 lbs 68 00-81 00,

BULLS: Medium 2 300-550 lbs 38 50-53 00

CALVES 106...VEALERS: Standard and Good 80-100 lbs 18.00-27 50, Utility 60-90 lbs 5 00-20.00

FARM CALVES: few No 1 Holstein bulls 120-140 lbs 52 50-62 00, 95-115 lbs 60.00-78 00, 85-90 lbs 30 00-50 00, No 2 95-125 lbs 28 00-40 00, few No 2 Holstein heifers 90-115 lbs 40 00-130 00 Few beef type bulls and heifers 85-120 lbs 40 00-92 50

HOGS 214 Barrows and gilts 2 50 to 5 50 lower

BARROWS AND GILTS 49-54% lean 210-260 lbs 15 00-17 00, few to 19 00, 45-50% lean 210-280 lbs 13 50-15 50, 40-45% lean 250-320 lbs 14 50-14 75

SOWS: US 1-3 370-660 lbs 16 75-22 25

BOARS couple 645 & 730 lbs 6 50 and 7 00

FEEDER PIGS 28 US 1-3 20-30 lbs 4 00-6 00 --- per head.

SHEEP 84 SLAUGHTER LAMBS few Choice 60 lbs 80 00-100 00, 65-125 lbs 50 00-80 00

SLAUGHTER SHEEP. 20.00-34 00

GOATS 3 Couple Large Billies 97 50 & 108.00, one Small 40 00 --- per head.

**North Jersey Livestock**

Hackettstown, NJ

Report Supplied by Auction Tuesday, December 1, 1998

CALVES .01-.80.

COWS .18-.36% .

EASY COWS .05-.31% .

FEEDERS 300-600 LBS. .32-.90.

HEIFERS .22-.65.

BULLS .27% -.55.

STEERS .35% -.57.

HOGS .10-.34.

ROASTING PIGS 10.00-34.00 EACH.

BOARS .02-.21.

SOWS .17.

SHEEP .02-.58.

LAMBS EACH 10.00-76.00.

LAMBS PER LB. 40-1.71.

GOATS EACH 37.00-115.00.

KIDS EACH 6.00-90.00.

TOTAL 944.

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Bob Zook, VP Ag Lending

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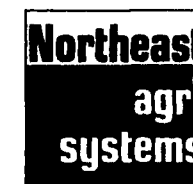
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