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**Lancaster County
Weekly**

Lancaster, Pa.

Friday, May 14, 1999

	Cattle	Calves
This Week	2223	1306
Last Week	3638	1456
Last Year	2645	1448

CATTLE: Compared to last week's closing prices; slaughter steers ended the week .50 lower. The market is fading from late last month's highs and the outlook is not good, with the spot futures market trading near 61.00. Western cattle feeders received 1.00 less for their cattle this week. Feedlots traded at 64.00 live and 102.00 dressed, but packers are well into the black as they continue to sell boxed beef at a cut-out value near 110.00. Local Holstein steers closed weak to .50 lower and slaughter heifers ended near steady on a light week's offering. Slaughter cows sold .50 to 1.00 higher on a thriving boneless beef market, leading up to the big cookout holiday. The slaughter bull market ended fully steady after active trading. Supply included 56 percent slaughter steers, 5 percent slaughter heifers, 28 percent slaughter cows, 6 percent slaughter bulls, with the balance made up of feeder cattle.

SLAUGHTER STEERS: High Choice and Prime 2-4 1150-1485 lbs 63.75-67.75, few up to 69.25. Choice 2-3 1165-1480 lbs 62.50-65.50, high dressing 1-2 up to 67.25; 1485-1560 lbs 60.50-63.50. Select and low Choice 2-3 1035-1490 lbs 58.25-63.50; 1510-1720 lbs 56.50-60.25. Select 1-3 1050-1490 lbs 54.00-59.25, few returning to feed 900-1165 lbs 56.00-63.00.

HOLSTEIN STEERS: High Choice and Prime 2-3 1350-1550 lbs 56.50-58.25. Choice 2-3 1280-1620 lbs 54.25-56.85; package 1656 lbs 49.50. Select and low Choice 2-3 1115-1620 lbs 52.00-54.75. Select 1-2 1075-1410 lbs 49.00-52.75.

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: Few high Choice and Prime 2-4 1105-1330 lbs 64.00-65.75. Choice 2-3 1090-1345 lbs 61.00-64.50. Select and low Choice 2-3 980-1355 lbs 56.25-61.75. Heiferettes: Few Commercial and Standard 2-4 880-1475 lbs 48.00-55.00.

SLAUGHTER COWS: PERCENT LEAN WEIGHT BULK LOW DRESSING Breakers 75-80 pct lean over-1400 lbs 39.00-44.75 37.75-40.50 Boners 80-85 pct lean over-1200 lbs 37.25-43.00 34.50-38.25 Lean (Hi-Yield) 85-88 pct lean over-1200 lbs 36.00-41.75 34.00-36.75 Lean 88-90 pct lean over-1000 lbs 34.00-37.25 32.00-34.75 Lean (Light-Wt) 85-90 pct lean 750-1000 lbs 31.00-35.00 29.00-33.00.

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1 1250-2290 lbs 48.00-57.50, Charolais 1635 lbs 61.75. Yield Grade 2 960-2055 lbs

42.50-48.75. Bullocks: Few Choice 2-3 1295-1545 lbs 59.00-63.00. Select 1-3 960-1515 lbs 46.50-56.75, few up to 59.25.

CALVES: Compared to last week, calf trading was active late in the week on a limited supply. Veal calves closed steady to 6.00 higher, but slaughter calves were 5.00-10.00 lower. Holstein bulls returning to feed ended the week 28.00-30.00 higher and Holstein heifers were fully steady with last week's active market.

VEALERS: Good and Choice 70-110 lbs 18.00-36.00, few late in the week up to 56.00. Standard and low Good 60-90 lbs 10.00-22.00.

SLAUGHTER CALVES: Good and Choice 200-350 lbs 75.00-100.00; 350-550 lbs 50.00-75.00. Standard 300-600 lbs 40.00-60.00.

RETURNED TO FARM: Holstein bulls 90-125 lbs 90.00-138.00. Plainer type bulls 80-120 lbs 45.00-115.00, late mostly 82.00-115.00. Holstein heifers 80-120 lbs 220.00-300.00, few late in the week up to 320.00. Plainer heifers 70-100 lbs 122.00-217.00. Few beef type bulls and heifers 75-100 lbs 60.00-140.00.

Berks Livestock Judging Team Participates In Contest

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The Berks County 4-H livestock judging team participated in the Block and Bridle contest at Penn State University in March.

Two junior teams consisted of Anita Manbeck, 17, Womelsdorf; Kelly Dietrich, 16, Hamburg; Kristy Dietrich, 14, Hamburg (Berks Team 1); and Emilie Miller, 14, Womelsdorf; Cathy Levan, 14, Hamburg; and Renee Phillips, 12, Mohrsville (Berks Team 2). The girls judged six classes of livestock: two sheep, two beef, and two swine classes.

In the judging swine classes, Kelly Dietrich placed second and Kristy Dietrich was 10th, with Berks Team 1 placing third. In the beef classes, the Berks team 1 again placed third. In the sheep classes, the Berks Team 1 placed first.

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge has signed an executive order strengthening the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council and recognizing its work on behalf of Pennsylvania's almost 4 million rural residents.

The Council advises the governor and state agencies on rural issues and promotes interagency and intergovernmental cooperation.

In 1995, Gov. Ridge moved the Rural Development Council's office to Harrisburg from a state agency regional office and greatly expanded the resources available

to the Council.

"Rural Pennsylvanians — who constitute almost a quarter of our population — have an advocate right in the governor's office," Gov. Ridge said. "This is extremely important, because Pennsylvania has the largest rural population of any state in the nation."

Under Ridge's executive order, the Rural Development Council's responsibilities include:

- Fostering expanded economic and social opportunities for rural residents;

- Serving as an advocate for rural communities and their residents;

- Working to improve the coordination and effectiveness of federal, state and local government programs affecting rural areas, and to promote enhanced intergovernmental cooperation;

- Serving as a liaison with federal and local government agencies; and

- Promoting community-based problem-solving strategies to meet the challenges faced by rural communities in an innovative, holistic and effective way.

"Collaborative partnerships, like the Rural Development Council, work well in breaking down the artificial barriers that stand in the way of what government agencies, the private sector and others must do to meet the needs of our fellow Pennsylvanians," Gov. Ridge said.

"The Rural Development Council provides a neutral forum where representatives of various interests can come together to address issues of common concern. Its goal is not to duplicate what others are doing, but rather to make others' efforts more productive."

Among the current projects of the Council's committees are identifying value-added economic development strategies for agricultural and forest products; coordinating the commonwealth's Timber Bridge Program; developing innovative techniques to help small communities with the installation of water and sewer systems; reducing the administrative burden of government agencies' environmental assessment requirements; and promoting the development of affordable housing.

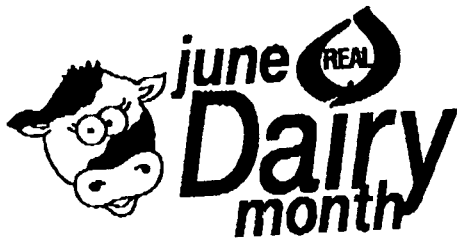
The Council hosts quarterly Rural Issues Forums which provide rural residents with an opportunity to interact with senior level government officials.

Topics at the forums range from welfare reform and education reform to transportation planning and environmental issues. The forums connect 11 sites across the state via two-way, fully interactive video-conferencing technology.

The Pennsylvania Rural Development Council is governed by a board of directors consisting of six members from each of the five membership groups and is presided over by three co-chairs: one representing state agencies; a second representing federal government agencies; and the third representing others who participate in its activities.

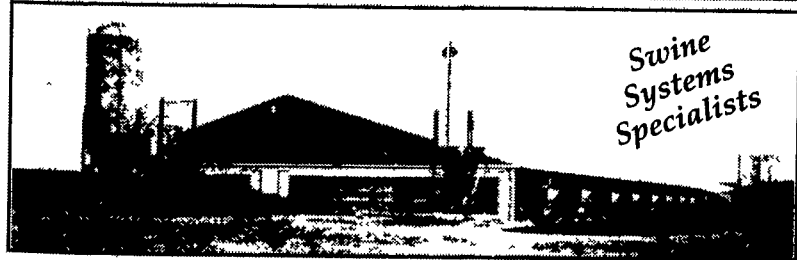
Information on the Council, its quarterly forums, or other activities can be obtained by contacting: 506 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; (717) 705-0359; or judick@goi.s.state.pa.us.

The Pennsylvania Rural Development Council is one of 36 state rural development councils nationwide.



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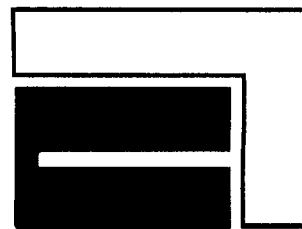


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