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weak to .50 lower and closed mostly steady to .50 higher. The bulk of this week's advance came late in the week where prices regained from Tuesday's lower market. A good run of slaughter heifers sold mostly steady. Midwest feedlots traded cattle fully steady from 72.00-73.00 live and 114.00-115.00 dressed. Local holstein steers closed mostly steady. Slaughter cows traded weak to 1.00 lower for the week. Slaughter bull prices sold steady to 1.00 higher. Supply included 31 percent slaughter steers, 7 percent slaughter heifers, 48 percent cows, 4 percent bulls with the balance feeders.

SLAUGHTER STEERS: High Choice and Prime 2-4 1220-1425 lbs 72.85-76.25 Choice 2-3 1090-1495 lbs 70.00-74.85, high dressing 1-2 up to 74.50; 1495-1710 lbs 61.75-68.75, individual 1505 lbs 72.00. Select and low Choice 2-3 1000-1480 lbs 62.25-71.00. Select 1-3 1020-1440 lbs 60.00-68.00. Standard 1-2 few 1160-1555 lbs 53.50-61.25.

HOLSTEIN STEERS: High Choice and Prime 2-3 1405-1620 lbs 61.25-64.10. Choice 2-3 1275-1660 lbs 59.75-62.75. Select and low Choice 2-3 1170-1375 lbs 55.00-60.00. Select 1-2 1030-1565 lbs 52.25-57.00.

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: High Choice and Prime 2-4 1070-1355 lbs 70.25-74.25, few late 69.00-69.75. Choice 2-3 1030-1465 lbs 64.50-68.85, high dressing individual 1330 lbs 78.25. Select and low Choice 2-3 1060-1205 lbs 62.00-64.75 Heiferettes: Commercial and Standard 2-4 1315-1475 lbs 52.00-57.75.

SLAUGHTER COWS: PERCENT LEAN WEIGHT BULK LOW DRESSING Breakers 75-80 pct lean over-1400 lbs 38.75-43.25 35.00-39.25 Boners 80-85 pct lean over-1200 lbs 37.00-42.25 34.00-38.00 Lean (Hi-Yield) 85-88 pct lean over-1200 lbs 34.00-39.25 33.50-36.00 Lean 88-90 pct lean over-1000 lbs 33.00-38.00 32.00-34.25 Lean (Light-Wt) 85-90 pct lean 750-1000 lbs 31.00-35.50 29.00-32.50.

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1 1245-2090 lbs 53.50-59.50, high dressing 61.50-62.75. Yield Grade 2 1245-2170 lbs 43.50-53.50. Bullocks: Select 1-3 935-1445 lbs 51.00-61.50.

CALVES: Compared to last week, vealers, large slaughter calves, fresh holstein bulls, and holstein heifer calves have no comparison.

VEALERS: Standard and Good 70-120 lbs 42.00-70.00. Utility 55-85 lbs 15.00-42.00.

SLAUGHTER CALVES: Choice individual 210 lbs 109.00. Good and Choice 165-250 lbs 70.00-90.00; 250-505 lbs 50.00-82.00.

RETURNED TO FARM: Holstein bulls 80-125 lbs 122.00-162.00; 75-80 lbs 50.00-102.00. Plainer-type bulls 85-125 lbs 100.00-130.00; 75-85 lbs 78.00-97.00, weaker calves 70-110 lbs 30.00-77.00. Holstein heifers 80-120 lbs 235.00-370.00. Plainer heifers 80-105 lbs 130.00-355.00. Beef-type bulls and heifers 70-135 lbs 130.00-260.00.

Greencastle Livestock Hay

Greencastle, Pa.

Report Supplied By Auction November 27 and 30, 2000

TOTAL LOTS: 23. 23 LOTS OF HAY. ALFALFA: 56.00. MIXED HAY: 38.00-92.50.

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — To Pennsylvania's human population, an abundant acorn crop means more debris to sweep off the sidewalk.

To the state's wildlife, however, lots of acorns on the ground spell good fortune, according to a wildlife expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Across the United States, almost 100 animal species rely on acorns as a major food source," said Gary San Julian, Penn State professor of wildlife resources. "In Pennsylvania, at least 20 to 25 species use acorns as a major source of food."

San Julian said a variety of factors can account for a bountiful acorn crop. White oak species mature acorns every year, and red oak species mature acorns every two years, but both can drop acorns every year.

Weather conditions, such as too much or too little rain or late spring frosts can affect the number of acorns produced in a season.

"In low crop years, the birthrate for some species of wildlife, such as gray squirrels, will decline the following year," San Julian said. "Because of the increased competition for food, some species will have a tough time."

"This year's crop means that more young are likely to be produced by animals that forage for acorns."

Abundant acorns are available for a relatively short period during the fall, requiring each wildlife species to develop specific methods to take advantage of the crop. Acorns, which are highly digestible and rich in carbohydrates, serve a wide range of animals in a variety of ways.

Bears and deer, for instance, eat acorns to put on a layer of fat that sustains the bear through its hibernation and helps the deer make it through severe winter conditions. Such animals as squirrels, chipmunks, blue jays and forest mice store acorns in caches and burrows or by burying them.

"The public tends to think of squirrels and chipmunks as the big consumers of acorns," San Julian said. "In fact, some studies have shown they are not even in the top three."

Several years ago, a School of Forest Resources study found that the white-footed mouse, a forest-dwelling rodent, consumed more than 90 percent of the acorn crop at a few sites in central Pennsylvania. San Julian also points out that an

Abundant Acorn Crop Means Good Year For Wildlife

insect pest, the acorn weevil, can decimate an acorn crop.

Wildlife plays a big part in forest regeneration, San Julian said. Squirrels can bury hundreds of acorns, at least some of which will take root. "Acorns drop like marbles out of the trees and many animals help distribute these seeds in the forest," he said. "Squirrels, blue jays, and other wildlife are crucial to oak regeneration."

In recent years, even huge acorn crops have not resulted in bumper seedlings growing in forests. In some circles, much of the blame for poor regeneration is placed on feeding by wildlife, principally deer. San Julian

agrees to an extent, but warns that interrelationships between food and wildlife are rarely that simple.

"Deer predation on acorns may be a major reason for poor regeneration, but other factors, such as small animals eating acorns, timber harvesting practices, and site characteristics all interact, and it's difficult to say that more trees would grow if there were fewer deer," San Julian said.

To illustrate the intersecting relationships between wildlife and forest regeneration, San Julian said that white-footed mice can consume large portions of an acorn crop. However, the

mice also prey on acorn weevil larva during the winter. "If you eliminate the mice, the weevil might cause more problems," he said.

"We're dealing with a completely different scenario in the forest ecosystem in Pennsylvania than we were 200 to 300 years ago," San Julian said. "I don't think you can put the blame on just one species."

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