



DECEMBER 18-24, 2000

WINTER SOLSTICE, DECEMBER 21

O CHRISTMAS TREE?

In *The Christmas Tree Book*, by Phillip V. Snyder (Viking, 1976), the author notes that in the 14th and 15th centuries, the popular miracle play for Christmas Eve was the story of Adam and Eve. Stage props for the occasion included an evergreen tree hung with apples, dramatically recalling the Paradise Tree and the lost innocence of Eden. By the 16th century, German families were bringing evergreen Christbaume ("Christ trees") into their homes on Christmas Eve and decorating them with cookies and fruit. This tradition later extended to England and America, but even into the late 1800s, the practice was more rare than common.



... at any moment, I might rediscover reason to rejoice.

-Castellozo

TIP OF THE WEEK

Keep a piece of chalk with your stored silver; it absorbs moisture and prevents tarnish.

CHRISTMAS CAKE

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 8 egg whites
- 1 cup milk

Cream butter and sugar. Sift together flour and baking powder and add to creamed butter. Beat egg whites. Add half of the milk to the batter, then fold in egg whites. Add remaining milk, only as needed to

make a moist batter. With an electric mixer, beat for 3 to 4 minutes, then pour into three buttered and floured 9-inch round cake pans. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes. Frost as desired.

Makes 1 (3-layer) cake.



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The Old Farmer's WEATHER PROVERBS



Frost on the shortest day is said to indicate a severe winter.

Nature will have her course.



ATTENTION, GARDENERS!

The 2001 Early Spring Gardener's Companion goes on sale on January 9. You can buy it at supermarkets, bookstores, and garden centers. Or to order, call 800-895-9265, ext. 220, or visit www.almanac.com/go/ut.

Okla. National Stockyards

Oklahoma City, OK
December 13, 2000

Report Supplied By USDA

Compared to last week: Feeder steers steady. Feeder heifers steady to 2.00 lower. Steer and heifer calves steady. Demand good for all classes. Quality plain to average. Many cattle off feed bunks due to the lack of wheat. Cattle in medium to fleshy conditions and calves carrying considerably more flesh than last week. Weigh-ups gaunt to average. Light receipts in Oklahoma this fall season is mostly the result of August-October drought which caused calves and yearlings to move early in this area.

Slaughter cows 1.00-3.00 higher. Slaughter bulls 2.00 higher. Packer demand moderate. Total of 280 cows and bulls sold with 60 percent going to packers.

Receipts this week 6464; last week 14,652; last year 10,402.

Supply consisted of 46 percent calves and yearlings over 600 lbs; 50 percent calves under 600 lbs. 4 percent cows and bulls. Heifers comprised 41 percent of feeder and calf supply.

Prices follow with weighted average weight and price in parenthesis.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1: Calves: 350-400 lbs (371 lbs) 116.50-124.50 (118.83); 400-450 lbs (417 lbs) 110.50-119.00 (115.78); 450-500 lbs (483 lbs) 101.00-109.50 (107.00); 500-550 lbs (523 lbs) 95.50-103.50 (99.10); 550-600 lbs (579 lbs) 89.50-95.00 (93.11); 600-650 lbs (625 lbs) 91.75-97.00 (95.05); 650-700 lbs (671 lbs) 86.50-95.00 (91.69); Yearlings: Thin 555 lbs 98.50; 650-700 lbs (691 lbs) 93.00-97.00 (94.70); 700-750 lbs (722 lbs) 92.50-96.00 (94.23); 750-800 lbs (783 lbs) fleshy 86.75-88.25 (87.90); few 800-900 lbs 84.25-90.00; lot 950 lbs fleshy 78.00.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1: Calves: 300-350 lbs (332 lbs) 110.00-116.00 (111.77); 350-400 lbs (380 lbs) 103.00-107.00 (104.82); 400-450 lbs (418 lbs) 98.00-104.00 (100.15); 450-500 lbs (478 lbs) 91.50-96.00 (93.63); 500-550 lbs

(520 lbs) 86.00-94.00 (89.74); 550-600 lbs (571 lbs) 84.50-89.00 (86.86); 600-650 lbs (618 lbs) 85.25-86.50 (85.82); Yearlings: 500-600 lbs (550 lbs) 87.50-92.00 (88.90); 600-700 lbs (650 lbs) 85.00-87.75 (86.11); 700-775 lbs (750 lbs) 81.50-85.50 (82.94); Fleshy 775-925 lbs 76.00-79.50.

Slaughter Cows: Head %Lean Weight Average Dress High Dress Low Dress Breaker 22.75-80% 950-1450 37.50-40.75 40.50-42.00 35.50 Boner 54 80-85% 875-1400 37.00-39.00 38.00-41.50 32.50-36.00 Lean 53 85-90% 850-1350 35.00-37.50 37.00-38.00 29.00-34.00 Light 19 80-92% 700-850 33.00-35.00 24.00-29.75

Slaughter Bulls: Head Weight Average Dress High Dress Low Dress Yield Grade 1-2 18 1300-2050 47.00-49.50 49.00-53.50 40.50-46.75

Estimated dressed cost at Oklahoma National Stockyards: Lean 76.05, light carcasses 70.55; Boners 75.75; Breakers 74.75. Bulls 86.40.

Replacement Cows: Pretested for bangs, pregnancy, and age Medium and Large 1 Age Weight Months Bred Quality Price 4-7 yr old 975-1200 2-4 months Avg, black 520.00-580.00; 7 yr old 975-1100 2-3 months Avg quality 500.00-510.00.

Belleville Livestock Auction

Belleville, Pa.

Dec. 13, 2000

Report Supplied By PDA

CATTLE 332, CALVES 94, HOGS 68, SHEEP 13, GOATS 24. LAST WEDNESDAY CATTLE 121, CALVES 91, HOGS 84, SHEEP 9, GOATS 23.

CATTLE: Compared with last Wednesday's auction, slaughter cows sold 2.00-3.00 higher. Other classes were not well tested.

SLAUGHTER STEERS: Choice 2-3 few 1125-1170 lbs 68.25-68.75. Select 2 individual 67.50. Standard 2 individual 57.00.

HOLSTEIN STEERS: Choice 2 individual 1445 lbs 60.50. Select 1-2 50.00-56.00.

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: Select 1-3 few 58.00-60.50. Standard 1-2 few 51.00-55.25.

SLAUGHTER COWS: Breakers 75-80 percent lean 356.75-40.50 Boners 80-85 percent lean 34.00-37.50. Lean 85-90 percent lean 27.25-35.75.

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 2

couple 1170-2035 lbs 41.50-44.25. Bulls: Select 2 individual 53.00.

FEEDER STEERS: Medium and Large 1 375-466 lbs 74.50-83.00. Medium and Large 2 700-970 lbs 46.50-59.00.

FEEDER HEIFERS: Medium and Large 1 240-485 lbs 68.00-75.00; 580-615 lbs 62.00-64.00. Medium and Large 2 495-685 lbs 47.50-64.50.

FEEDER BULLS: Medium and Large 1 couple 495 lbs 64.00-64.50; 650-800 lbs 50.00-55.00.

CALVES: Compared to last week's auction, Holstein bulls returning to the farm were uneven, 10.00 lower to 10.00 higher. VEALERS: Standard and Good 70-110 lbs 30.00-50.00. Utility 60-90 lbs 10.00-27.50. RETURNED TO FARM: Holstein bulls Number 1 85-125 lbs 127.50-157.50, bulk of the sales 135.00-152.50. Number 2 80-125 lbs 65.00-137.50. Holstein heifers Number 1 few 90-100 lbs 280.00-325.00. Number 2 few 85-115 lbs 135.00-260.00.

BARROWS AND GILTS: PERCENT LEAN WEIGHT PRICE 45-50 235-255 lbs 32.75-37.00 40-45 Individual 320 lbs 37.50

FEEDER PIGS: All sold by the head. US 1-3 40-50 lbs 15.00-20.00 53-75 lbs 25.00-46.00

SHEEP: Slaughter lambs sold steady with last Wednesday. SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Choice 65-75 lbs 72.00-105.00; individual 100 lbs 60.00. NEW CROP LAMBS: Choice individual 40 lbs 118.00. SLAUGHTER EWES: Utility 1-3 21.00-53.00.

GOATS: All sold by the head. Billies: Large individual 76.00. Medium few 36.00-66.00. Nannies: Large 50.00-70.00. Medium individual 32.00. Kids: Large few 28.00-30.00. Small 3.00-6.00.

New Holland Horses

New Holland Sales Stables

Report Supplied by Auction

Monday, Dec. 11, 2000

142 HEAD, MARKET STEADY. WORK HORSES 875.00-1400.00. DRIVING HORSES 485.00-1075.00. RIDING HORSES 410.00-1000.00. REGISTERED RIDING 1 AT 1850.00. BETTER RIDING 2 AT 1700.00. PONIES 150.00-425.00. LARGE PONIES 510.00-585.00.

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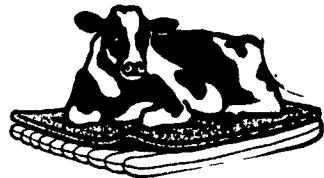
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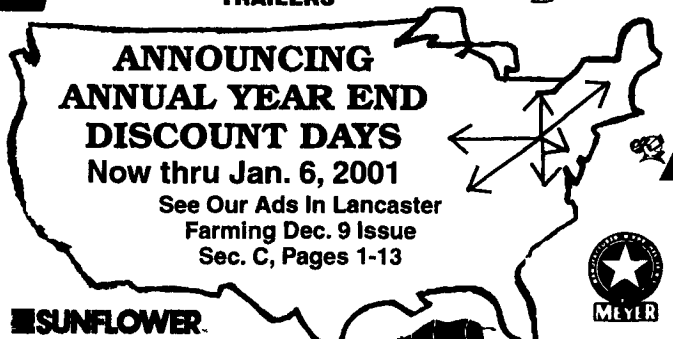
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See Our Ads In Lancaster Farming Dec. 9 Issue

Sec. C, Pages 1-13

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