

FARMERS THANKFUL FOR RISING PRICES AND ABUNDANT CROP

His Victory In Contest With Nature Means Fatter Purses For Many Folks

Smoke Over Pittsburgh, Coal Cars Creaking To The Coast Tell The Farmer That The Goose Hangs High

By MASON GILPIN
Associate Editor, "Pennsylvania Farmer"

Banners of a thousand hues proclaimed the ending of another growing season as October painted Pennsylvania hills more gaudy than Joseph's coat. And now November brings crisp nights. Cold blasts whistle and the quail shivers in corn shocks, while groundhogs sleep and crows hurry as past a graveyard. Noon silhouettes of tree and barn have shortened with the briefer days. The jousts in corn fields have subsided. Apples, parchment-packed and wax-protected little worlds of cell and cider, are in storage. The backache of potato picking is eased. The farmer has finished a season's work.

What are the results of this annual contest with the elements; this seasonal battle with the bugs; this perennial endurance test of skill and mind and stamina? The life of the tiller of the soil is as arduous, his success as thrilling, and more important than that of ancient armored knight. For on the wisdom of his judgment, the extent of his knowledge and skill, and on the uncontrollable sun and rain, depend the food and clothing of a people. On these things also depend the comfort of the farmer's family and the prosperity of the industries which supply agriculture with its needs. Not only the farmer but all allied industries rise and fall with his fortunes.

Now The Goose Hangs High

When a pall of smoke hangs over Pittsburgh and Pittsburg, when mile-long trains of loaded hopper cars creak out of the coal fields, when autos of factory workers clog parking areas, Pennsylvania farmers know the goose hangs high. For then their millions of customers can each afford two eggs for breakfast, cream in their coffee, lard in their pie crust and roast beef for lunch. To get these things they bid up the price, and the man who has something to sell prospers.

The farmer has risked his capital and given his time to grow certain crops. And now those things he has produced are wanted in the market places. Many a game is won in the last few minutes of play and the market demand at the end of many a year means red or black ink for agriculture. This year it is black, for the rise in prices comes when farmers have an abundance of things to sell.

In the beginning of 1933 farm prices scraped the bottom, and loud was the lament throughout the land. There were those who said a curse was on the people, but others labored on and watched farm prices begin a steady climb. They doubled in three years, outstripping other prices and reaching a peak when a lesser decline set in and of over 130 in the beginning of 1937, extended two and a half years to the summer of 1939, when it stopped and prices soared again. They continue on a satisfactory level.

It Took 200 Years To Learn

A bulge in prices does not make Pennsylvania farmers rich, but as the old lady who drank 25 cups of coffee said, when asked if coffee kept her awake, "it helps". A good corn crop does not make millionaires out of our farmers, nor would a failure bust them. With a national average yield of 41 bushels per acre Pennsylvania is one of the most efficient corn producing states in the Union, and with the prac-

MILK RISE DECEMBER 1 ONE MORE REASON WHY FARMERS GIVE THANKS

The local farmer's immediate future has been brightened more in anticipation of the better price he will receive for his milk after December 1. The income from milk effects the Pennsylvania farmer's economic condition more than that from any other farm enterprise.

A survey made recently on 79 dairy farms in four areas of the state showed that 35 per cent of the total cash income in 1938 was obtained from the sale of milk and cream. The average dairyman had approximately \$178 per cow invested in his business. The gross cost of keeping a cow for one year was \$157.06. Manual labor was estimated at 30 cents per hour.

The average cost of producing milk in the four areas studied was \$1.89 per 100 pounds. But on individual farms the cost of production ranged from as little as \$1.16 per hundred-weight to \$3.40. The summary of the cost and returns shows that the average return per cow was \$157.85, leaving an average net profit of 79 cents per cow.

tice of turning corn into milk, meat and wool it follows the most effective system of marketing. A big wheat crop does not leave our farmers breathless with astonishment. In a poor year they produce more wheat per acre than the specialized wheat growing areas do in a good year. The same is true of many other crops and commodities. Neither bumper crop nor disappointing yield disrupt the even tenor of the Keystone farmer's way, for he puts his eggs in many baskets through his habit of diversified farming which he and his fore-bearers have found good by 200 years of experience.

This year's 55,191,000-bushel corn crop, while smaller than last year, is 5,000,000 bushels above the ten-year average. If sold from the farm it would bring 8c a bushel more than last year, but since it is sold to hens and hogs and cattle it brings to the farmer considerable more than the market price. This practice of selling corn is a double-barreled defense against depression. The manure it makes produces more corn the following year. The average yield of corn in Pennsylvania over a period of years is 41.5 bush-

NOW NOVEMBER BRINGS CRISP NIGHTS . . . THE FARMER'S SEASON ENDS



Chill blasts whistle across the hardening earth. The tiller of the soil has finished another year's joust with nature. The fields lie silent as a graveyard. Peace and (take note, Postscripter) a split rail fence rule this autumn scene near Harvey's Lake.

els, while the national average is 27.9 bushels.

This year's 19,230,000-bushel wheat crop was nearly a million bushels above the ten-year average and is worth 21c a bushel more than last year. Safe in farm bins, it is a certified check for \$15,000,000. Wheat in Pennsylvania yields about 6½ bushels more per acre than the national average. Wheat is often a side-line, raised to promote a desirable rotation and used to bed hens.

Hay For Horsepower

Oats was about the same and barley twice the total yield of a year ago. Buckwheat was a short crop, but 1,725,000 bushels will burn many griddles for careless cooks. Pennsylvania is the second state in buckwheat production. Hay was less than average in amount but \$1.80 a ton more in value. The 2,687,000 hay crop if cashed and turned into armor plate would build a \$27,407,000 battleship, while last year a similar hay-built battleship would cost the same and in addition provide \$170,000 worth of gilding for gun turrets. Our hay, however, will go into horsepower, milk and mutton. Pennsylvania is not so important a sheep territory as Australia, but two counties in this state produce a million pounds a year of the best wool grown in the world, without apologies or exceptions.

Potatoes rolled out a light crop—3½ million bushels under the ten-year average, but the 21,750,000

bushels this year was worth \$19,561,000 or 50% more than the 22,002,000 bushel crop last year. Spuds bring 25c a bushel more than a year ago, thanks to more "folding money" in pay envelopes of workers this autumn.

Apple pie for breakfast has long been a staple item on the Pennsylvania Dutchman's menu, but now even the humble college professor, the timid banker and the distracted lawyer can afford it, for the Pennsylvania apple crop runs over 6,000,000 bushels. It is a way ahead of any crop in recent years and places Pennsylvania fifth among all states in the total production of apples. Priced 15c a bushel under last year, the crop is worth to growers 50% more than they got in 1938. In coin of the realm it is bringing in three and six-tenths million dollars—and a few jugs of cider.

With cash to meet his current needs and capital intact; with adequate equipment and a surplus of credit; with well-built barns full of well-fed livestock; with a system of soil management based on ten generations of experience; with a buyer for all he can grow within trucking distance of his farms, and with general business conditions favorable, the Keystone farmer is not a candidate for the poorhouse. He can eat his roast turkey and pumpkin pie with considerable satisfaction in being engaged in the stable business of farming in a state where agriculture "never booms and never busts."

Pomona Grange, No. 44 To Meet Saturday

Pomona Grange, No. 44, will meet on Saturday at Mountain Grange, Carverton. Sessions will be called at 10:30 and will be devoted to business and reports of officers of various granges. The afternoon session will be open to the public.

Mrs. Ira Gross, lecturer of the State Grange, will speak. There will be an interesting program. At the evening session the Lackawanna degree team will confer the fifth degree.

Five-Legged Calf Born At Meshoppen

A five-legged calf has been born on the farm of Albert Gilmore, Meshoppen. The calf, which weighed 120 pounds, was normal, except for the extra leg, which was appended to the rear of the body.

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COMPARATIVE YIELDS AND PRICES IN STATE

CROP	1939	10-year-average (1928-1937)
Corn	56,191,000 bu.	51,087,000 bu.
Wheat	19,230,000 bu.	18,486,000 bu.
Oats	26,590,000 bu.	25,937,000 bu.
Barley	3,245,000 bu.	1,468,000 bu.
Buckwheat	1,725,000 bu.	2,620,000 bu.
Hay	2,687,000 tons	3,004,000 tons
Tobacco	35,270,000 lbs.	37,923,000 lbs.
Potatoes	21,735,000 bu.	25,584,000 bu.
Apples	6,000,000 bu.	4,137,000 bu.
Peaches	2,618,000 bu.	1,678,000 bu.
Pears	856,000 bu.	617,000 bu.
Grapes	23,800 tons	23,020 tons

Southerner Seeks Goss Coat Of Arms

Mrs. Berkely Reed of 132 West Chestnut Street, Asheville, N. C., has asked The Post to help her in her search for a copy of the Goss family coat of arms. Mrs. Reed also is interested in information about the LaBar and Kunkle families. She is a niece of Anna E. Kunkle, whose history of the Kunkle family was published in The Post last year.

Moving Pictures At Trucksville Church

A three-reel moving picture, "Mgona and her People", will be shown at Trucksville Methodist Church tonight (Friday) at 7:30. The entertainment will be sponsored by the Junior and Senior divisions of the Women's Missionary Society. There will be refreshments and good music. A free will offering will be taken.

Noxen Hunter Shot

Clifford Mansfield, 17, Noxen, was shot in the hand Saturday when his gun went off accidentally while he was hunting.

Doctor Bags Bobcat

Dr. Malcolm J. Borthwick of Shavertown bagged a 45-pound bobcat, one of the largest shot in this region in recent years, while hunting near Forkston, on South Mountain last week.

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If your property should fall victim to fire, a dozen problems may confront you. What should you do first? With whom should you get in touch? How should you present your claim? That is when you'll be doubly glad you have a home-town Agent to whom to turn for advice and assistance. For the home-town Agent is on the job not only to help you plan your insurance program wisely and economically but also to help you when disaster comes.

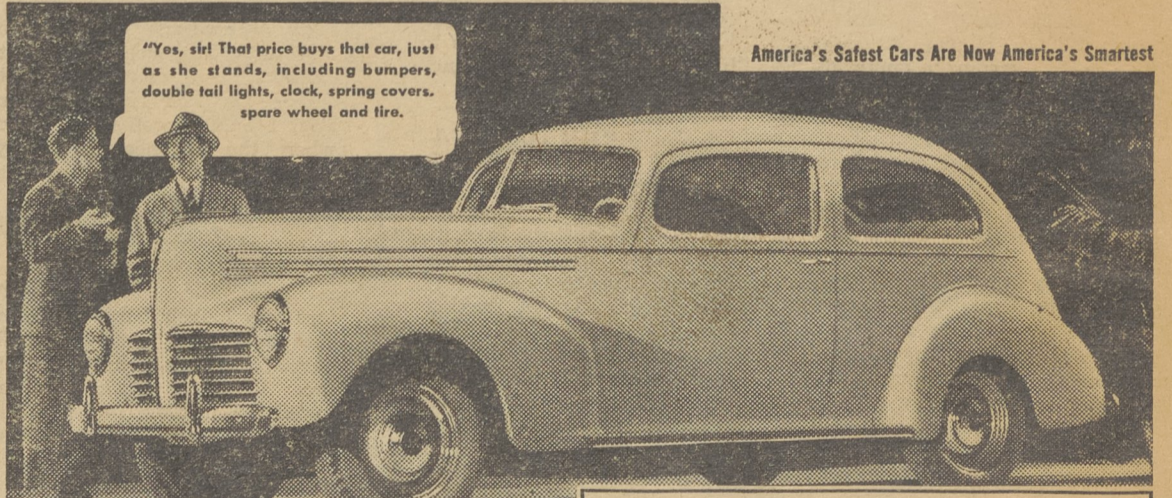
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