

Food prices slowly going up

Associated Press
Slowly, over weeks and months, but in pennies that add up to dollars, the prices you pay for food are going up.

The Agriculture Department says food prices as a whole may go 3 to 4 percent higher through June of 1977 than they did in the first half of this year.

Sugar producers say the price of their product should go up because President Ford's actions Tuesday tripling the tax on sugar grown outside the United States.

And the Agriculture Department

also announced that the second increase this year in price supports for manufacturing-grade milk will have some effect on consumers.

The government announced on Tuesday that consumer prices increased by five-tenths of 1 per cent in August. The rate of increase has not changed in the last three months.

Labor Department statistics showed that inflation is running at an annual rate of about 6 per cent, in line with administration forecasts. The department said a decline in meat prices failed to offset higher costs for most other foods, fuel and

clothing.

On the eve of the first debate of the presidential campaign, the White House noted that consumer prices have been relatively stable for nearly six months, and spokesman Ron Nessen said President Ford feels "it is essential to continue steps to hold down inflation."

And Ford, under pressure from Southern congressmen from areas he will visit next week, took steps to bolster sagging sugar prices.

Saying he was protecting domestic sugar producers, Ford tripled the imported sugar tariff from 62.5 cents per hundred pounds to \$1.87½.

Sugar producers predicted that the decision by Ford would mean retail prices will increase in the short run by about a penny a pound. Some producers complained that the tariff hike wasn't enough.

At the same time, the Agriculture Department said Americans are eating more red meat than they have in four years, and it said that if the trend continues it will insure stability for beef prices.

But Rep. William R. Cotter, D-Conn., said Tuesday the department is ignoring the drought and its effect of cattle feed. He said taking the drought into consideration indi-

cates consumers will have to pay up to 50 per cent more for beef by the second half of 1977 and 1978.

Some economists say short production of beef next year will push food prices higher than the Agriculture Department predicts.

The department also said Tuesday that the second increase this year in price supports for manufacturing-grade milk will have only a slight effect at most for consumers.

On Oct. 1, the support price for milk used in making butter, cheese, ice cream and other by-products will increase 13 cents a hundredweight, to \$8.26.

Ecological fantasies' cited

Scientist decries doom warnings

By RAYNER PIKE
Associated Press
NEW YORK — True or false?
1. Lake Erie is dead.
2. DDT causes cancer.
3. The world's oxygen is being depleted.
4. Watermelons falling from airplanes are a major threat to life.
If you think the first three are true, then you may as well say "yes" to No. 4, too, says a New York scientist who believes Americans are under the thrall of what he calls ecological fantasies.

Cy Adler, oceanographer and engineer, says messengers of ecological doom often raise alarms about dangers almost as remote as airborne melons.

"During the 1960s I began to notice that many of the technical reports crossing my desk conflicted with stories of environmental disaster then rampant," he said.

For example, technical data indicated air quality improving in cities, but one day his mail brought another message.

"This pamphlet from the air pollution commissioner said the average New Yorker was breathing 730

pounds of air pollution a year. Now that's a lot. It's two pounds a day. I figured I should at least be gaining weight from it."

As an engineering consultant and former teacher of physics, math and oceanography, Adler says he'd be the last to claim pollution is not a problem. But he maintains that much of human progress is marked by acceptance of some undesirable consequences in exchange for tremendous advances.

"Before the era of mass communication, myths propagated slowly from individual to individual," Adler writes in his book "Ecological Fantasies." "But now a lunatic with a microphone and money can spread his version of unreality across the face of the land."

In a recent interview in his journal-cluttered office in downtown Manhattan, Adler said ruefully that scientists who share his outlook haven't access to large audiences.

"The media," he said, "are interested in scare stories: 'Lake Erie is dead!' 'Big TV thing, 'Who killed Lake Erie?'"

Paul Ehrlich, the Stanford University biologist Adler calls a "stern

minstrel of fairy tales," wrote an obituary of the lake that said: "No one is his right mind would eat a Lake Erie fish."

"He's wrong," said Adler.

"People in New York and all over the country are eating them, and they're not lunatics."

Adler depicts the lake water as wretched smelling and evil looking around industrial sites on its south shore, but says it otherwise is clean, potable, supports more fish than all the other Great Lakes combined.

Ehrlich, reached by telephone on a field trip, stood by his description of the lake as dead and added: "The

alarm that was raised by environmentalists about 10 years ago has done a lot to start it on the road to recovery."

As for Alder's general view of the environmental movement, Ehrlich commented: "If you understand exponential growth and the data that exist on the assaults mankind is launching on the ecological systems of the planet, you'll see that historical experience is no guide whatsoever to the present-day situation, which in fact is unprecedented."

The record shows, Adler counters, that individual well-being and life expectancy have improved even

as industrial pollution has mushroomed.

"I'm not arguing that pollution is good for people, but rather that it is a relatively minor nuisance compared with other causes of death and unhappiness, such as war, cigarette smoking and alcoholism," he said.

"Without question, most air, water, land and noise pollution springs from our use of internal combustion vehicles," he said.

As for suburban living, he says, compared to an average family in a Manhattan apartment, a neighboring suburban family on Long Island "generates more than three times as much air pollution, about 15 per cent more solid waste, considerably more insecticide and pesticide runoff, at least 10 per cent more thermal waste from home heating... greater waste of wood and other natural resources."

As for depletion of oxygen, Adler says the earth's oxygen level has remained constant for at least the last 60 years.

Data and experience also have led him to conclude that other concerns — DDT, mercury levels in fish, phosphates in detergents, thermal pollution from power plants, oil spills as threats to oceans, etc. — may be overrated.

More health-care services needed, HEW witnesses say

Associated Press
ARLINGTON, Tex. — There is an acute need for more health care services at homes for the elderly, federal Health, Education and Welfare officials were told Tuesday.

The testimony came from most of the 23 witnesses who appeared before a special committee of HEW led by Stuart H. Clarke, regional director for Dallas.

The hearing is part of a new HEW policy aimed at gathering public reaction and information before new regulations on medicare-medicaid help are instituted.

HEW is currently considering changes in medicare-medicaid regulations that would allow some patients to receive health care at home instead of at hospitals or nursing homes.

Roy L. Swift, representing the Texas Senior Citizens Association, told the committee that "the day is approaching when senior citizens must decide between remaining in

their homes without health or being kept in nursing homes or hospitals which are really warehouses to wait in until the hearse comes."

HEW officials said that currently home care costs about \$500 million annually and includes treatment and care of patients.

Swift said the total is only "one per cent of the \$100 billion expenditure for all health services and is drastically low."

He said that some of the problems faced by elderly seeking home care services under federal programs are the "ignorance, indifference or outright hostility" of physicians.

A spokesman for HEW in Dallas said the idea behind the proposed regulations is to "provide health care in a home setting which sometimes can be better than a hospital or a nursing home."

He said this can be done sometimes even cheaper than it is now done through an institution.

The hearing resumed today.

had dealings with Mrs. Hicks and Bolts.

Bandy said he made at least \$40,000 in 1974 and 1975 smuggling drugs into the United States.

Seven other defendants have pleaded guilty in the case and are awaiting sentencing. Four others are still at large.

Testimony will continue today.

Hicks, his wife Janet and Charles Lidge Bolts are on trial on charges of conspiring to import and distribute drugs in the United States.

Bandy, who is from Argyle, Tex., said he was paid \$2,500 per trip to deliver narcotics to Hicks' Plano, Tex., home. He also testified that he

Ringleader testifies dope smuggled to U.S.

Associated Press
DALLAS — A former co-defendant of accused drug smuggling ringleader Joe Dee Hicks has testified that he made 40 overseas trips and smuggled cocaine and heroin back into the states 20 to 35 times.

Coleman Ray Bandy, 35, testified in Dallas federal court yesterday that drug-buying trips were made to Bangkok, Thailand; Saigon, Bogota, Colombia; Peru and Ecuador in 1973. Bandy pleaded guilty to two counts of cocaine smuggling last month in return for his government testimony.



12-year-old cupcake strong

Associated Press
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Carefully protected from the maraudings of ants and mice, a 12-year-old cupcake nestles in a special box at the home of Sara Ogg in Columbus, awaiting its next appearance.

The cupcake, with caramel icing slowing losing its color and pecan bits on top held in place by wax, has become a family keepsake, emerging from its box on birthdays, anniversaries and special events.

Its next appearance is scheduled for October, when Mrs. Ogg's second child is due.

"Some people are mortified that I have kept it," she said. "Others

have no idea why I'm keeping it. That cupcake and I had a milestone this summer. It was 12 and I turned 30."

"I intend to pass the cupcake down to my children."

The cupcake first came into Mrs. Ogg's life in 1964 as an 18th birthday present from her father's secretary.

"I just stuck it in a drawer," she said. "When I came home at Christmas, I discovered it. I kept it and next year brought it out for my birthday."

Mrs. Ogg says she's tried to have the cupcake bronzed, but local outlets have refused.

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