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Weekly Review for MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
DOCUMENT

University Farm, St. Paul 8, July 13, 1945

COUNTY AGENTS HONORED. Jackson county's Roland Abraham and incidentally all county extension agents, were honored by a full page Star-Journal rotogravure feature in the Sunday edition of July 1. If you didn't see this feature, be sure to look it up. Publications office has a limited number of reprints which will be sent to agents first requesting copies.

FARM POPULATION ESTIMATES. In January, 1945, according to estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 25,190,000 persons were living on the farms of the U.S. This is the smallest number of farm residents in the entire 35-year period for which estimates of the farm population are available. However, the farm population decreased by only 331,000, or 1.3% during the year, the smallest annual net decrease since the U.S. entered the war in 1941. After marked decreases during 1941, 1942, and 1943, the net decrease during 1944 was reduced to approximately the same annual rate that prevailed during the pre-war period 1935-39. In four of the nine major geographic divisions, there were actually slight net gains in the number of persons living on farms during 1944.

BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION PAYMENT. Cattle feeders may receive recently-announced beef cattle production payments thru sight drafts which may be redeemed immediately at local banks. As under the dairy production payment program, the drafts will be issued by County Agricultural Adjustment Agency offices on the account of the Commodity Credit Corporation. \$40,000,000 has been authorized for this program.

The payment of 50 cents a live hundredweight will be made to feeders upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of the sale of eligible cattle. Feeders who sold eligible cattle on or since May 19 may apply to county AAA offices and receive payment, provided their cattle meet the program requirements.

This beef payment is the first subsidy on meat production paid directly to feeders. To collect the payment, a feeder is required to own the cattle at least 30 days immediately before their sale. He must also sell to a legally authorized slaughterer which is any slaughterer who operates under Federal inspection or under an OPA permit. The cattle must weigh at least 800 pounds at the time of sale and bring not less than the minimum price for Good or Choice grades in the zone of sale. The minimum price for the Good grade cattle at Chicago is \$14.25 per hundredweight.

A feeder other than a feeder-slaughterer in applying for payment is required to present sales receipts, invoices, scale tickets, or other written evidence from the buyer to verify (1) the date of sale, (2) the name of buyer, (3) the point of sale, (4) the number of head, (5) the total liveweight, (6) the price received and (7) the name of the legally authorized slaughterer to whom delivered.

In addition, the feeder, if he did not raise the cattle, must show the status of the cattle at the time he purchased them by furnishing the name of the person from whom purchased and the date of purchase. He may also be required to furnish evidence that payment had not been previously made on the same cattle.

ODT URGES AUTO CARE. In an appeal to passenger car owners to conserve their automobiles the Office of Defense Transportation has warned that it will be at least three years before many millions of private car owners and prospective car owners who want new automobiles will be able to get them.

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HOG PRODUCTION. This year's spring pig crop was 7% smaller than in 1944 but 12% larger than the average for 1933-42. Farmers intend to breed 12% more sows for fall farrow this year than last. If the intentions for fall farrowings are realized and an average number of pigs are saved per litter, farmers would save 35 million pigs this fall, compared with 31.3 million saved last fall. This would be the fourth largest fall crop of record, but would fall short of WFA's goal for fall pigs by 2 million. The number of hogs over 6 months old on farms June 1, constituting the largest part of the slaughter supply in June-September, was estimated at 25.6 million head, a decrease of 26% from a year earlier. With a reduced spring pig crop, hog slaughter will continue at a lower level than a year earlier thru next winter. However, hog slaughter probably will be larger in the late spring and summer of 1946 than during the same period of 1945.

CATTLE AND SHEEP SITUATION. Marketings of both grass-fat and grain-fed cattle in the last half of 1945 probably will be larger than a year earlier. Total cattle and calf slaughter in the first half of this year apparently was about 10% larger than a year earlier. Sheep and lamb slaughter under Federal inspection (comparable plants) in January-May was 5% larger than a year earlier; most of the increase was mature sheep. With a smaller number of ewes on farms and ranches this year, the total lamb crop probably will be smaller than the 29.2 million saved in 1944.

With a continuing large slaughter of cattle and calves, total meat output during the spring and summer of 1946 may be slightly greater than this year. Civilian supplies of meat are expected to remain below demand at ceiling prices during the remainder of 1945 and in the first half of 1946. Prices of meat animals probably will be maintained at or near present levels during most of this period.

LIVESTOCK RECEIPTS. Receipts of livestock at 12 public markets in June showed the following percentage changes from June, 1944: Cattle, -5; calves, -18; hogs, -62; and sheep and lambs, -9.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES. Prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities jumped to a new high since 1920 during the month ended June 15, the USDA reported. At 206% of the 5-year August 1909-July 1914 average, the general level of farm product prices was 6 points higher than a month earlier and 13 points above a year ago. Sharp increases in truck crop, poultry and egg, and fruit prices were primarily responsible for the advance which was the greatest rise recorded in any one month since March, 1943. The index of prices paid by farmers (including interest and taxes) was unchanged at 173 for the fourth consecutive month. In consequence, farm product prices averaged 119% of parity, a record which has not been equalled since June, 1943.

WOOL CONSUMPTION. Total U.S. stocks of apparel wool have been reduced during the past year. U.S. mill consumption of apparel wool in 1945 probably will total about 1 billion lbs., grease basis, for the fourth consecutive year. Consumption during the first quarter of the year was larger than in any previous quarter and was at an annual rate of 1.2 billion lbs.

FARM SLAUGHTERERS' DEADLINE EXTENDED. The deadline for farm slaughterers to register their slaughtering establishments with local War Price and Rationing Boards under the livestock slaughter control program has been changed from July 1, to October 14, the Office of Price Administration has announced. This will permit registration by farmers who do not begin slaughtering until the fall.