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# Weekly Review For MINNESOTA

## A. G. R. I. C. U. L. T. U. R. A. L   E. X. T. E. N. S. I. O. N   S. E. R. V. I. C. E.

University Farm, St. Paul 8, January 31, 1946

FARM FREEZER LOCKERS. According to estimates by K. F. Warner, extension meat specialist, Bureau of Animal Industry, there are two and a half million locker boxes in use serving two million families, of which at least 75 percent are farm families. The average annual rental rate is \$12 to \$15. Approximately 7,000 locker storage plants are in operation throughout the country. An increase of 2,000 such plants occurred during 1944-45. Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Washington are the top States with locker plants for freezing foods for patrons. Mr. Warner estimates that one billion pounds of food a year are preserved in these locker storages, 80 percent of it being meat and poultry.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED. The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market on Jan. 1, 1946 is estimated at 6,724,000 head, a reduction of 134,000 head or 2% from the number on feed a year earlier. The number on feed on Jan. 1 was 255,000 head smaller than the record number of Jan. 1, 1943, but was about equal to the average of the years 1941 to 1945.

For the 11 Corn Belt States the number this year--4,234,000 head--was down about 80 thousand head or 2% from last year...The estimated number on feed in the States outside the Corn Belt is 2,490,000 head, compared with 2,544,000 a year earlier, a decrease of about 2%...The situation with regard to wheat pasture lambs about Jan. 1 was much different this year from that of a year earlier. A year ago there was still an abundance of wheat pasture, and marketings of lambs from these areas were distributed over the following 5 months with a heavy movement in April. By Jan. 1 this year, the wheat pastures were largely eaten out, as the area of good pasture was limited and the absence of rainfall during the last 3 months of 1945 checked any further growth. By early January many of the lambs were being moved, some directly to markets and others to commercial feed yards. These yards were reported as filled to capacity.

ARGENTINA HARVEST SMALL FLAXSEED CROP. Argentina's 1945-46 flaxseed production; as forecast in the second official estimate, is the smallest since 1921-22, with exception of last year, according to the USDA's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

The estimate places the crop at 39,486,000 bushels, compared with 55,154,000 bushels forecast in December. The 1930-39 average was 66,958,000 bushels. Abandonment of planted acreage was heavy, and was attributed to crop deterioration from high temperatures, heavy winds, hail and insects.

Argentina normally is the world's leading producer and exporter of flaxseed. During the 1930-39 period it accounted for four-fifths of world exports, with an average of 60 million bushels.

WILL THE LAND BOOM CONTINUE? By late 1945, farm real estate values continuing their upward movement had reached an average on November 1 less than one-fourth below the 1920 inflation peak, according to reports to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The market is active, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, with preliminary figures for transfers in the last quarter running higher than for the same period in 1944, but not so high as for the fall and winter of 1943.

The BAE index of the average value per acre for farm real estate is based on the 1912-14 values as 100. For Nov. 1, 1945 the index stood at 133, a rise of 11

(Over)

percent in the previous year, and a rise of 2 percent in the previous four months. In March 1919, soon after the end of World War I, the index stood at 140. The peak came in 1920.

JANUARY 1 MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS. (Released at 11:15, a.m., 1/22) Stocks of merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers in or near areas of production on January 1, 1946 are estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture at 119,000,000 bushels. The revised estimate of stocks held January 1, 1945 is 103,880,000 bushels and the 10-year (1932-41) January 1 average is 105,686,000 bushels. Even though January 1, 1946 stocks are 13 percent larger than average, they are 11 percent smaller than the record stocks of 134,020,000 bushels held on January 1, 1944.

EXTENSION OF 1945 WOOL PURCHASE PROGRAM. The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that the limit on the time during which the Commodity Credit Corporation will buy wool under the 1945 wool purchase program has been extended from July 1, 1946 to November 1, 1946.

The action was taken primarily to assure growers of a market for their 1946 clip at prices in line with those of recent years, and to encourage orderly marketing of the 1946 clip.

Extension of the program will make it possible for domestic growers to market their entire 1946 clip at the support price under the program, which is substantially the same as the prices paid in 1945. During 1945, the average farm price of wool was maintained at approximately 42.4 cents per pound. Extension of the program will also encourage more orderly marketing of the 1946 wool clip and avoid the congestion of handlers' facilities which would result if the program were terminated July 1, 1946--the peak of the wool marketing season.

The wool purchase program has been in effect since 1943. As in former years, the Commodity Credit Corporation will make purchases under appropriate agreements. Normal trade channels will be used in purchasing, selling, and handling the wool. Quality, shrinkage, and value of each lot will be determined in accordance with the schedule of purchase values, by appraisers employed by the Production and Marketing Administration.

FOOD SUBSIDIES PROGRAM. Judge John C. Collet, Stabilization Administrator, recently announced an alteration in the Government's program for removing wartime food subsidies in the following statement:

"The Government is altering the program for ending wartime food subsidies which it announced November 9 and will retain the major portion of the subsidy program at least until June 30. This decision is made necessary by the fact that price declines in non-subsidized elements of the cost of living are not materializing. At the time of the November announcement such declines were anticipated and were counted upon to offset price rises consequent upon subsidy removal. The change is thus an adaptation of the original program to different conditions than those anticipated and not a change in its basic principles."