

mN 2000 w r m 3/1/46

Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul 8, March 1, 1946

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY INVENTORY. The number of livestock on farms continued to decline during 1945 but at a less rapid rate than during 1944. Numbers of horses, mules, cattle and sheep declined but hogs and poultry increased.

In terms of animal units which allow for differences in size and feed requirements of the several species, livestock numbers on Jan. 1, 1946 were 3% smaller than on Jan. 1, 1945 and about 8½% below the record high numbers of Jan. 1, 1944. In terms of feed grain consuming units, numbers were only a little lower than a year earlier, the increase in hog numbers about offsetting the decreases in other species; but including chickens the total was a little larger than a year ago. In terms of hay and pasture units, the total was 4% below a year earlier.

The total value of livestock on farms Jan. 1, 1946 of 8,923 million dollars was 9% higher than a year earlier and only slightly below the all time record high value of Jan. 1, 1943.

Compared with a year earlier, the supply of feed grains on Jan. 1 per animal unit of livestock, including chickens, was about 5% smaller than a year earlier, but much larger than two years ago. The supply of hay per unit was much larger than a year earlier with hay stocks up 7% and hay consuming units down 4%.

FREEZER REPRINTS COMING. A 7,500 reprint of the Hustrulid-Winter article on home built freezers, appearing in the latest issue of Farm and Home Science, will be run and distributed to counties as soon as ready. Modest supplies will be sent immediately to counties. They should be used sparingly since the plan is not to promote home built freezers but to give aid to those who are planning to build such appliances. Material on choosing a commercial freezer can easily be mimeographed to avoid waste of reprints.

NEW U. S. FLOUR EXTRACTION RATE STILL LOWER THAN IN MOST OF WORLD. When U. S. flour mills, under new wheat-conservation measures, begin milling flour containing 80% of the wheat on March 1, this country still will have a lower milling percentage than most of the rest of the world, the USDA reports.

In practically all of Europe and Russia, wheat flour extraction rates for bread are 85 to 90%, according to reports received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. In a few countries, the extraction rate is even higher. South Africa, has had a wheat flour extraction rate of 96% for the past four years, and the extraction rate for corn is 100%. In addition to the higher extraction rate, in many countries there are considerable quantities of rye and coarse grains such as corn and barley added to the flour.

Because of the critical world grain situation, the tendency is for food authorities to raise flour milling extraction rates, and new reports may change current extraction rates. The present rate is as follows for these countries: Austria, 90%; France, 90-95%; Germany, U.S. Zone, 90%; Greece, 90%; Hungary, 90%; Italy, 91%; Netherlands, 85%; North Africa, 85%; Norway, 85%; Poland, 85%; Portugal, 90%; Russia, 80-90%; Switzerland, 88%; United Kingdom, 85% and Yugoslavia, 90%.

SMALLER TURKEY CROP EXPECTED THIS YEAR. Turkey growers plan to raise 42,445,000 turkeys this year. This production would be about 5% less than the record crop of last year and the first time a decrease has been planned since 1941. Turkey producers in the West, who produced 30% of the turkeys raised in 1945, plan a decrease

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of 18% this year. In the West N. Central States, which produced 29% of last year's crop, a decrease of 3% is expected. In the South Central States and South Atlantic States, however, growers plan an increase of 5%, while in the North Atlantic and East-North Central States growers intend to produce about the same number as in 1945.

Some difference between Jan. 1 intentions and actual performance is to be expected, the difference depending on the availability and prices of feed, and on prices of hatching eggs and poults...Favorable weather brought hens into an early lay in 1945 and started last season off with an early hatch. Although there were 8% more breeder hens on hand in 1945 than in 1944, hatcheries were unable to supply fully last year's heavy early demand for poults...During the last month, since the receipt of the data upon which this report is based, there have been reports of heavy cancellation of orders for poults in several important areas due to uncertainty of feed supplies.

FARM LABOR REPORT. In February, 1946, all persons employed on farms numbered 7,799,000, compared with 8,051,000 a year ago. Hired workers alone amounted to 1,424,000 persons, 5 percent less than last year. Extension Service gives the 1945 veteran placements on farms at 34,368 as hired hands or tenants. Annual 1945 national farm wage rates averaged 350 percent of the 1910-14 base, compared with 154 percent of it in 1941. Per month with board, the 1945 average wage was \$82.30, hitting a high of \$142 in Washington, and a low of \$32 in So. Carolina.