

MN 2000 WRM 1/17/47

BULLETIN ROOM  
UNIVERSITY FARM

# *Weekly Review* For MINNESOTA

## AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ST. PAUL CAMPUS BUILDING

University Farm, St. Paul 1 January 17 1947

FLAXSEED PRICE SUPPORT INCREASES ON 1947 CROP. Secretary of Agriculture announced that 1947-crop flaxseed will be supported at \$6.00 per bu., U. S. No. 1 flaxseed, Minneapolis basis, an increase of \$2.00 a bu. above the \$4.00 support price which was announced last September. The support price has been increased to encourage producers to plant 5,000,000 acres to flaxseed for the 1947 crop — the goal acreage which was announced by the Department of Agriculture on Nov. 8. This was an increase of 1,000,000 acres over the 4,000,000 acre goal which had originally been announced in September.

THE LIVESTOCK AND WOOL SITUATION. Although market supplies of meat animals were large, livestock and meat prices were at near-record levels in November and early December. Livestock and meat supplies for the next several months are fairly well determined. High prices in relation to feed costs are encouraging an expansion in meat-animal production, particularly in breeding of sows for spring farrow and grain feeding of cattle. Beef supplies promise to be large in 1947. However, beginning in the early spring when hogs from the relatively small 1946 fall pig crop reach market weights, pork supplies will be reduced more than seasonally. Marketings of fed lambs this winter and early spring will be somewhat smaller than in the past few years. Sheep numbers have been declining since 1942 and a further reduction in the 1947 lamb crop is in prospect. Total meat production in the first half of 1947 may about equal production in the first half of 1946. Domestic mill consumption of apparel wool in 1946 will exceed the previous record of 592 million lbs., scoured basis. Because of the large use of high-yield foreign wool however, consumption on a grease basis may fall below the previous record of 1,077 million lbs. reached in 1942.

THE DEMAND AND PRICE SITUATION. The high level of general business activity continues to support a strong demand for agricultural products. Income payments to individuals in October rose to a new peak annual rate of \$172 billion—primarily because of greater than usual seasonal advances in agricultural incomes. This rate is 6% above the average for the first nine months of 1946. Prices received by farmers during the next few months may average slightly below the mid-November levels. The general price level, however, as well as the level of prices paid by farmers is likely to continue upward during the first quarter of 1947.

FARMS ARE GETTING LARGER AND FEWER. The average farm for the country as a whole is now 50 acres larger than 25 years ago, 20 acres larger than 5 years ago. In the midwest, where the extremely large farms are less numerous than in some other parts of the country, the average farm has increased about 30 acres in 25 years. Today, over half of the farm land in the country is in farms of over 500 acres, compared to only a third in 1920. Farms over 1,000 acres now account for 40 per cent of the farm land compared with less than a fourth 25 years ago. In numbers they have increased 45,000 or two thirds since 1920, 12,000 in the last five years. In the Midwest a fifth of the farm land is in farms of over 1,000 acres. The number of these farms is now a third more than in 1920.

The present total of all farms in the country is 5,860,000 units, which is 600,000 units less than in 1920, despite an increase of 186,000,000 acres of land in farms.

(over)

USDA LIVESTOCK QUARANTINE BARS IMPORTATIONS FROM MEXICO. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, recently announced a quarantine order which adds Mexico to the list of countries where foot-and-mouth disease has been determined to exist. This formal action supports previous instructions which the Department issued a few days ago to its inspectors at the Mexican border following the appearance of foot-and-mouth disease in the vicinity of Vera Cruz and other localities in Mexico.

Designated as Amendment 6 to Bureau of Animal Industry Order 373 the quarantine order has the effect of excluding, from the United States, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, fresh meat and other specified products originating in Mexico. The order is for the protection of the livestock interests of the United States and becomes effective through its publication in the Federal Register.

Although the list of countries where foot-and-mouth disease is present includes most of those in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America, the appearance of the disease in Mexico carries unusual significance. This, Department officials state, is because of the large importations which the United States normally receives from Mexico and because of the long common boundary of the two countries.

FEDERAL MEN AID MEXICANS IN FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK. Bureau of Animal Industry has sent four trained men to begin cooperative work in Mexico with the Mexican livestock sanitary authorities in the present foot-and-mouth disease emergency. M.S. Shahan of the Washington, D. C. staff is in charge, assisted by Dr. A.E. Wardlow of the field staff, H.T. Kern, Laredo, Tex., and Cesar Clavell, Puerto Rico. They will work with Mexican veterinarians in the examination of suspected herds and to map out a comprehensive program of action to stop the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

THE FEED SITUATION. Prices of feed grains and byproduct feeds are expected to continue generally higher through the winter and spring than a year ago. Corn prices are now low relative to prices of most other feeds. Because of large supplies corn prices probably will continue low at least through the spring, although some seasonal rise is likely.

Feed concentrate supplies for 1946-47 on the basis of the December official estimates of crop production, are 3% greater than in 1945-46 and the largest on record in relation to livestock on farms. Feed grain supplies (production plus carry-over) for the 1946-47 season are 6% greater than a year earlier. Total supplies of byproduct feeds probably will exceed those of 1945-46 by 6%. Supplies of oilseed cake and meal probably will be nearly as large as in 1945-46. Supplies of animal and marine byproduct feed are expected to be about the same as last season, but larger supplies of other high-protein feeds and wheat millfeeds are expected.

Analysis of prospective livestock production-feed supply relationships indicates that if the feed grain and hay acreage goals for 1947 are attained, and normal yields are secured, the resulting feed production would support about 10% more grain-consuming livestock in 1947-48 than the average for 1937-41 and about the same as in 1945-46.

FOOD SHORTAGE ABROAD MAY BE CRITICAL BEFORE HARVEST. While the world's food reserves at the beginning of 1947 are slightly larger than a year ago and fewer countries are critically short of food, there are still a considerable number of countries with insufficient food supplies in sight to last them until the next harvest, the Department of Agriculture reported.

The Department's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations said that food imports into most deficit producing countries during the last half of 1946 were somewhat less than had been expected so that even if existing supplies of food products are carefully utilized, imports during the first half of 1947 will have to be considerably larger than in the previous 6 months if the present low rations are to be maintained.

With supplies of rice, sugar and fats and oils available for world trade sharply less than prewar levels, wheat and other cereals continue to be the key products for relieving the food shortage in deficit areas.