

Weekly Review for MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul 1, April 23, 1947

TWO 4-H CLUB MEMBERS APPRECIATED. In a letter to Director M. L. Wilson, dated April 14 John H. Ohly, Executive Secretary, The President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training writes as follows: "On behalf of the President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training I wish to record our appreciation of the work which Miss Gertrude Warren and Edward L. Aiton did for us in arranging the appearance of 4-H Club witnesses before the Commission last Friday, April 11.

Mr. Bernard Stanton and Miss Melba Larson, the two representatives who were chosen, did a splendid job of expressing the informed and thoughtful points of view of the 4-H Club members whom they represented. It was a real treat to hear these fine young people and we appreciate the cooperation of your organization in making it possible for us to hear from these people. You may well be proud of these young people who represent the leaders of tomorrow."

USDA ANNOUNCES REVISED HOG SUPPORT PRICE. The Department of Agriculture April 16 announced that the revised hog support price for the final six months of the 1946-47 marketing year—the April-September 1947 period—will average \$1.35 per hundred pounds higher than the schedule announced last October. Weekly prices, which will continue seasonal variations—are based on an annual average support price of \$15.60 per hundred pounds, Chicago basis, as compared with the average of \$14.25 in effect from October, 1946 through March, 1947.

The revision results from the recent sharp increase in parity. It is also in accordance with the recently approved policy that the hog support price be established at 90% of parity—as required by law—at the beginning of the two marketing seasons, spring and fall, during the marketing year. Under this policy, the support price for the first six months of the marketing year, the October-March marketing season, is based on the September parity price of hogs. The support price for the April-September season is based on the March parity price...Chicago weekly average support prices for the marketing season beginning April 1, 1947 are tabulated in the release.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION. Commercial hatcheries reported 4% fewer chicks hatched during March than during March last year, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Production during March totaled 255,270,000 chicks compared with 264,737,000 in March a year ago and 252,159,000 the March 1941-45 average.

Demand continues good for sexed pullet chicks, fair for straight-run and poor for sexed cockerels. The increase in the cost of feed during March has been accompanied by a further slackening of demand for chicks for meat production purposes. Unseasonable weather also reduced the demand for chicks.

The demand for turkey poults continues slow. Reports from 246 hatcheries during March showed a production of 1,690,000 poults compared with 2,254,000 during March last year — a decrease of 25 per cent. These same hatcheries reported 27 per cent fewer turkey eggs in incubators on April 1 than a year ago.

THE WHEAT SITUATION. Another big U.S. wheat crop may be harvested in 1947. On March 1, farmers reported that they intend to seed 19.28 million acres of spring wheat. If this acreage is actually planted and yields equal the 1937-46 average production of all spring wheat would be about 265 million bushels. This, combined with the April estimate of about 973 million bushels of winter wheat, indicates a 1947 wheat crop of approximately 1,240 million bushels. If the crop is this size and domestic

disappearance is again about 790 million bushels, about 450 million bushels will be available either for export in 1947-48 or addition to carry-over July 1, 1948. Exports probably will again be large in 1947-48 but some increase in the carry-over on July 1, 1948 is likely to occur. Wheat prices rose rapidly from late January to March 18 and then dropped sharply, but have stayed substantially above January levels.

FARM LABOR. Farm wage rates, continuing to set new seasonal records, on April 1 averaged 10% higher in the country as a whole than a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported. By regions, increases ranged from 7 to 11%, except in the Pacific Coast States, where the average increase was 5%. In Minnesota farm wage rates on April 1, 1947 are reported as \$97.75 per month with board, as compared with \$94.00 one year earlier. Without board the rates are reported as \$124.00 per month, April 1, 1947 and \$120.00 on April 1, 1946. About 9,242,000 people were at work on farms of the Nation in the week ended April 1. This total included 7,571,000 family workers and 1,671,000 hired workers. Both groups were slightly larger than a year earlier.

April 1 wage rates were 389% of the 1910-14 average, compared with 383% last Jan. 1. The rise in wage rates during the first three months of the year, however, was smaller than usual for the season. Although wage rates were higher than a year ago, they were below the seasonal peak of last July.

MAKING SILAGE FROM THE HAY CROP CUTS PROTEIN LOSSES IN HALF. An enormous amount of the protein available in hays and other harvested forages is lost through conventional methods of harvesting and storing the crops. One way to reduce the protein losses, and thereby actually put more of the home-grown protein in the cows' mangers next winter is to make silage from the forage crops instead of curing them in the field for hay. This conclusion is based on the results of experiments by the Bureau of Dairy Industry and the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, which have been under way at Beltsville for several years.

Losses from the first and second cuttings of alfalfa for hay at Beltsville in 1945 amounted to 264 pounds per acre, or the equivalent of 750 pounds of linseed oil meal which, at 4 cents a pound, is worth \$30. On the other hand when the two cuttings were made into silage, by the wilting method developed by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, the loss of protein was only 127 pounds. Thus, making silage saved 137 pounds of protein per acre, which in terms of linseed oil meal was a saving of \$15.60. Feeding tests with dairy cows at Beltsville showed also that the alfalfa silage was slightly better for milk production than the hay that was made from the same crop at the same time.

FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME FROM MILK 1945-1946. In 1946, a lower level of farm milk production than in 1945 was accompanied by further increases in delivery of whole milk to plants, the smallest farm-skimmed cream sales for many years, and record high prices to producers for milk, cream, and butter. Cash receipts to farmers from marketings of milk products totaled 3.7 billion dollars, 21% more than in 1945, and 2½ times the average receipts in the 1935-39 period. Gross farm income in 1946 from dairy products, including the value of milk, cream, and homemade butter consumed on farms where produced, amounted to 4.4 billion dollars. In addition, farmers received Government dairy production payments totaling 280 million dollars in the first half of 1946 when the program was in operation. Returns to farmers for milk utilized in products sold averaged \$3.77 per 100 pounds, or 95 cents per pound butterfat, a new high record.