

Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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BULLETIN REPORT. Bulletin 247, Water Systems and Sewage Disposal, is now on its way to you, as is also No. 249, Kitchen Cupboards. The second bulletin is being used in the current home project; hence quantity orders are discouraged in counties not now carrying the home work. All bulletins are somewhat behind schedule because of paper shortages. In press now are Farm Business Agreements, What Can I Pay For a Dairy Barn, and Landscaping the Farmstead. Please go easy on distribution of Station Bulletin 389 since supplies are low.

COUNTIES GET NEW AGENTS. Four veterans put away their uniforms to take county agent jobs this month. Ed Sletton started January 14 in Rice county, taking over the duties of Don Marti, whose death occurred in December while he was conducting a program planning meeting. George Golla is the new agent in Rock county, Herbert Feldman goes into Wabasha January 22, and Everell Smith is assistant in Goodhue. Beginning January 1, Morrison county has had a new agent in Eino Neittamo, and C. L. Blakeslee has moved to Freeborn after a long and distinguished service in Todd.

ECONOMICS CHARTS COMING. Two new economics charts are being reproduced to add to the set you used last year, the ones on small-size stiff cardboard. Instructions on how to bring the old ones up to date are also forthcoming.

USE OF PROTEIN MEAL RESTRICTED. Restrictions on the use of protein meal in the manufacture of mixed feed for livestock and poultry were issued January 15 by the Department of Agriculture in an effort to prevent shortages in livestock feeding. Some feeding areas have been running short at the same time that other areas are over-supplied. The order budgets the use of protein meals among all users in line with production goals for 1946. It should promote an equitable distribution of available supplies by areas and within the feed industry, by regulating the amount of protein meal that may be used by months and by classes of livestock.

Necessity for the order arises from the heavy drain on supplies of protein feed because of the large number of poultry on farms, a near record volume of cattle feeding this winter, and the feeding of hogs to unusually heavy weights. The supply of protein feed is smaller this winter than last largely because of the 24% reduction in the 1945 crop of cottonseed. Last year, the supply of high protein feeds was supplemented by imports from South America, but this year supplies from this source are not available.

Heavy production of livestock products of all kinds in 1945 used up the reserve inventories of protein meals that normally would have been built up last summer and fall. The restrictions are a reinstatement and expansion of manufacturing and distribution controls originally issued in December 1943 which were subsequently changed from time to time as improvement was effected in the production and distribution of mixed feeds and finally terminated during 1945.

Beginning immediately no feed manufacturer may use more high protein meal in making mixed feed for feeding livestock other than poultry feeding than the quantity used for that purpose in the corresponding calendar quarter of 1945.

No person may use in the manufacture of poultry feed a larger quantity of protein meal than the following percentages of the quantity so used in the corresponding month of 1945: January and February 1946--100%; March 1946--95%; April 1946--90%; other months--85%. This limitation is in line with the 1946 goals calling for a 15% reduction in the production of eggs and a 17% decrease in the number of chickens raised on farms.

(Over)

THE HOG SITUATION. The total 1945 pig crop, estimated at 87 million head on the basis of the December Pig Crop Survey, was slightly larger than the 1944 crop, and was 10% greater than the 1934-43 average. The 1945 crop was the fourth largest in at least 22 years, exceeded only by the large crops of 1939, 1942 and 1943. The 1945 spring pig crop, totaling 52 million head, was 7% less than in 1944. The fall crop, estimated at 35 million head, was 12% greater than in the fall season of 1944.

Farmers' reported intentions on sows to be bred for farrow in the spring season of 1946 indicate a possible 4% increase over the 8.2 million sows farrowed in the spring of 1945. If these intentions are borne out and an average number of pigs is saved per litter, the 1946 spring pig crop would be about 2% larger than the 1945 spring crop and 9% greater than the average for 1934-43.

CATTLE AND SHEEP. A record or near-record number of cattle will be fed this winter. A larger-than-usual proportion of the cattle to be fed probably will be marketed before midyear, because of the relatively scarce supply of corn that will be available for feeding next summer and the prospect of lower returns from cattle after subsidies to cattle feeders and to slaughterers are withdrawn.

Unit returns from sales of sheep and lambs in 1945, including Government subsidies, were higher than in 1944, but were low relative to those from beef cattle, as they had been since 1937. With a reduced supply of sheep and lambs available for slaughter, following 4 years of reduction in breeding stock, unit returns from sales of sheep and lambs are likely to be somewhat higher in 1946 than in 1945.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION. Output of chicks during December was below a year ago for the first month since March. Commercial hatcheries produced 35,499,000 chicks during December, compared with 37,156,000 in December last year -- a decrease of 4 percent. The preliminary estimate of chicks produced during 1945 is 1,597,421,000, compared with 1,288,491,000 in 1944--an increase of 24 percent. The output of chicks during 1945 was the largest on record in 23 states. Most of the States which had these record hatches produced large numbers of commercial broiler chicks during the last half of the year. All of the Atlantic Coast States with the exception of Florida and South Carolina reported a record hatch during the year.

Many hatcheries reported more orders on hand for general farm flock replacement than a year ago. For the country as a whole, the number of chicks booked on Jan. 1 for later delivery was 26 percent larger than the number booked a year ago. Crop goals for 1946, compared with the production in 1945 call for a 15 percent reduction in egg production, a 17 percent reduction in chickens raised on farms, and 10 percent fewer turkeys.

THE WHEAT SITUATION. Heavy exports in recent months and in prospect for the rest of the season promise to sharply reduce the carry-over on July 1, 1946 as compared with a year earlier and other recent years. If grain moves freely from farm to mills and to ports for export in the next half year, the carry-over might drop to below 200 million bu. for the first time since 1938. Considerable difficulty, however, is currently being experienced in obtaining wheat, because of the tight market and transportation situation. Much of the remaining surplus is located at interior points, particularly in the area from Kansas to North Dakota, and in the Pacific Northwest. Of the total stocks on Jan. 1, tentatively estimated at about 750 million bu., about one-half is still on farms.

World needs are very great and considerably exceed the available supply in the principal exporting countries. The indicated 1946 winter wheat production is 751 million bu., based on the estimated acreage and the relationship of such factors as Dec. 1 reported condition and weather through November with seeded yields in past years.