

Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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University Farm, St. Paul 1, May 8, 1947

SAFETY PROGRAM AWARD TO MRS. OBERG. At the April 18th meeting of the Ramsey County - St. Paul Safety Council Mrs. Clara M. Oberg, Ramsey County 4-H Club leader was given an electric clock as a special recognition "for her untiring efforts in the cause of safety." Congratulations Mrs. Oberg!

1947 Ceresan Use Survey. During the month of March, every year since 1944 the F. H. Peavey Elevator managers in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota have been asked the following question: "What per cent of the small grain seeded will be treated with Ceresan?" The results for the three states, and Minnesota, by areas, are tabulated below.

State Averages*	1944	1945	1946	1947
North Dakota	53%	59%	58%	69%
Minnesota	46%	51%	47%	73%
South Dakota	27%	26%	19%	47%
Three-State Average*	41%	51%	47%	66%
<u>Minnesota</u>				
Northern Red River Valley	76%	74%	71%	78%
Southern Red River Valley	60%	53%	51%	74%
West Central	26%	37%	38%	70%
Southwestern	23%	39%	36%	70%

*Weighted

12 YEARS OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION. May 11 is the birthday of the national rural electrification program, giving the REA folks an annual opportunity for checking up on progress to date and for assaying the job ahead. When the Rural Electrification Administration came into existence in 1935, slightly more than 10 per cent of U.S. farms were electrified; now, as the 12th birthday comes along, the figure stands at approximately 57 per cent. About half of the expansion is a result of farmers organizing their own electric co-ops, with REA lending them the funds, and the other half is a result of commercial utility expansion. There's still a lot left to do, says Administrator Claude R. Wickard, pointing out that 2½ million U.S. farmers still go to bed by the light of kerosene lamps.

USDA TO SUPPORT TURKEY PRICES IN FALL. The Department of Agriculture announced a price-support program for 1947-crop turkeys marketed during the period Oct. 1, 1947 through Jan. 31, 1948. This action has been taken to assure producers of price support on a nation-wide scale this year throughout the normal season of turkey marketing. For the designated period, the Department will be prepared to buy dressed turkeys from processors who certify that they have paid all producers not less than the liveweight support prices which will be announced about Oct. 1, and which will reflect a national average price of 90% of the Sept. 15 parity price for turkeys...The price support program for breeder stock ends June 30, 1947. No support program will be set up for breeder hens or toms in 1948.

Price differentials will be established under the fall and winter program for three different liveweight classifications of 1947 crop turkeys: 18 lbs. and under; 18-22 lbs.; and 22 lbs. and over. Lightweight birds will be priced 4¢ a lb. above medium
(over)

weight birds, and heavy birds at 6¢ a lb. below medium weights. Thus the maximum spread between light and heavy birds will be 10¢ a lb., liveweight. In addition to the live and dressed weight price differentials covering sizes and grades of turkeys, the support prices also will reflect differentials in shipping costs by zones. With Zone I as a base, Zone II prices will be 1/2-cent higher, Zone III prices 1-cent higher, and Zone IV prices 1-1/2 cents higher than Zone I.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION. For the second half of 1947, poultry men face both good and bad prospects. Supplies of all poultry products compared with the last half of 1946 will be significantly smaller, but demand may also be lessened. If business activity declines and there is a decrease in demand for all foods between now and the end of the year, egg prices will increase less than seasonally while chicken prices will decline moderately. Turkey prices may not change greatly because of sharply lower supplies. Another factor tending to depress prices of poultry products during the latter part of 1947 is the likelihood of larger supplies and lower prices of red meats. A seasonal increase in egg prices would be about 35%, chicken prices normally decrease slightly, and turkey prices increase somewhat.

Egg production for the second half of 1947 probably will be 4 to 8 per cent below the corresponding period of 1946. But supplies will show greater disparity because the into-storage movement this year is substantially below last year. Chicken supplies will be about 10% less, and turkeys at least 15% below.

THE FEED SITUATION. Less grain was fed to livestock from October through March than during the same months of recent years, but domestic nonfood uses and exports were much larger than usual. From April through September this year, less wheat, oats, and barley is expected to be fed to livestock than in the same period of 1946, but about the same amount of corn. Carry-over of corn in all positions next Oct. 1 is expected to be around 350 to 400 million bu. more than twice the 173 million last year. Carry-over of oats next July 1 may be a little smaller than the 292 million bu. in 1946, and the barley carry-over about the same as the small carry-over last year.

The combined stocks of corn, oats, and barley in all positions on April 1 were 16% larger than a year earlier, and about the same as average. Farm stocks per grain-consuming animal unit were about one-fourth larger than a year earlier and the second largest on record. Prices of most feeds were moderately lower in mid-April than in late March, but prices of practically all feeds still were much higher than a year earlier, when feed prices were controlled. Marketings of corn since Oct. 1, 1946 have been the largest on record and are expected to continue large during the remainder of the marketing year.

STOCKS OF EVAPORATED AND CONDENSED MILK HELD BY WHOLESALE GROCERS. Stocks of both canned evaporated and condensed milk in the hands of wholesale grocers on March 31, 1947 were sharply higher than a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. Stocks of canned evaporated milk held by 591 wholesale grocers on March 31 totaled 29,556,000 lbs., compared with 17,632,000 lbs. held by 620 firms on the same date in 1946. Holdings of canned condensed milk by the same 591 firms on the same date totaled 402,000 lbs., compared with 167,000 lbs. a year earlier.