



CROP INSURANCE HELD FARM NEED

Weather Hazards Would Be Reduced by Plan Under Federal Study.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Discounting most of the promises made by the rival candidates during the recent campaign, there yet appears to be considerable hope that the farmers will find help during the next four years from some form of crop insurance.

Although the plan has been seriously considered by the department of agriculture for some time, there has as yet been no practical and definite program worked out along that line. Many students of American agriculture feel, however, that crop insurance offers an economical and scientific solution to many of the problems which beset the farmer today.

Crop insurance would be the equivalent of underwriting a farmer's crops and relieving him, at least partially, of risks incurred from drought, flood, hail or other excesses of nature.

Premiums Would Be Pooled.

The plan, as proposed by most of the backers, would have the farmers pool their risks by making a modest contribution in the form of an insurance premium into a fund which would in turn guarantee those farmers against excessive losses. The whole scheme, if operated according to plan, would go forward on a business-like basis, allow the government to withdraw its paternalistic supervision of agriculture, and still provide the farmer with assistance in case of emergency.

Enactment of such a program would not be without difficulty, however. In the first place, it would be necessary to interest a large number of farmers over a fairly representative section of the United States in order to create a sufficiently large fund to meet any emergency losses such as those caused by the drought of 1936, and yet equalize costs so that farmers in the most damaged areas would not have to pay huge premiums.

It would also be necessary to determine a fair value for risks so that one section, seldom subjected to the ravages of nature common to another sector, would not have to support its neighbors. In other words, crop insurance would have to be based on an indemnity table corresponding somewhat to the mortality table of life insurance companies.

First Attempt Failed.

An attempt by insurance companies to put into effect a form of crop insurance back in 1917 met with failure. Several factors were responsible, one of them being that the companies tried to make larger payments for losses than the premiums justified. They also found that in some cases the farmer, when adverse weather partially ruined his crop, made no effort to salvage the rest but looked to the insurance company to compensate him for the whole.

In some of the northwestern states, notably North Dakota, where hail insurance is in effect, this latter difficulty has been met by putting a fixed face value on the policy, thus not exposing the farmer to the temptation of neglecting the crop.

Proponents of the crop insurance plan point to the success of the federal deposit insurance program, covering bank liabilities of \$25,000,000,000, as indication that farm insurance on a large scale is practical and advisable.

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incorporation of stubble and straw in the surface area is the first step toward keeping the water in the soil, instead of having it run off. Under the best of practices, however, there is some run-off, and practical methods have now been developed to keep this from being the menace it has been in the past.

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The Little Red Schoolhouse in Old Mexico



This picture was made in Mexico City during a convention of proletarian children and shows one of the speakers, who addressed the "Lenin Group" of the youth revolutionary vanguard. The picture in the background makes burlesque of religion. At the top is the hammer and sickle of Communism.

RECREATION PLAN INSTITUTE IS HELD

Conducted by Izola Jensen of Oregon State college, the recreational institute for Douglas county was held at Riversdale grange hall, November 2 to 4, inclusive. Mrs. Alice Goff, county president of recreation leaders, presided over the various meetings which were given over to study of new ideas for entertainment, games and party helps. Miss Jensen gave instruction in leading community singing, folk dances, quiet and active games, skits, stunts and party activities.

Officers chosen were Mrs. Elsie Irving, Wilbur, president; Mrs. J. F. Branson, Riversdale, vice-president; Mrs. Ruth Casbeer, Glendale, secretary-treasurer. It was decided to hold a monthly recreational meeting on the first Tuesday of each month in the various communities throughout the county. The first will be held at Riversdale, December 1, with Mrs. R. R. Harding in charge.

Miss Jensen was assisted by J. Roland Parker, county agent, and Miss Palmer, county home demonstration agent.

More than 60 persons were registered for the institute.

OFFICERS CHOSEN BY RIVERSDALE GRANGE

The annual election of officers of Riversdale grange was held at the regular meeting Friday night, the officers chosen being as follows: Harold Moore, master; Darlie Ware, overseer; Mrs. Irving, lecturer; Bert Kruse, steward; Lou Potvin, assistant steward; Pearl Jones, chaplain; Alvin Cloake, treasurer; Eva Marks, secretary; Alvin Cloake, treasurer; Harry Marks, gatekeeper; Vera Demianco, Ceres; Vivian Demianco, Pomona; Elizabeth Ogilvie, Flora.

RAISERS OF LAMBS LEARN MART NEEDS

The flat-price basis of buying lambs is unsatisfactory for farmers who raise choice lambs, and each year greater efforts are made to get the business on a grade basis. This year, the bureau of agricultural economics reports, state graders are working at more country shipping points than ever before. Thousands of lambs are being graded and marked with red, blue or yellow chalk or paint marks. The mark shows the grade of the lamb, and the animal will be sold by that grade whether at the shipping point or at the central market. Buyers are paying better prices for the high-grade lambs than when they were buying all lambs at a flat rate.

Federal graders are cooperating in lamb-grading demonstrations at some of the points in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. As the grading is done the graders explain to the watching farmers just why each lamb goes into a specific grade. Thus, a farmer not only stands to get a better price for his lambs, but he learns what kind to raise for best returns. Similar demonstrations have been held in other states in other years.

Grade specifications developed by the bureau are used in this work, so the grading is alike at all points where state or federal graders are working and will be the same next year wherever similar work is done.

For the first time since 1930 every region in the country showed a net migration away from the farms except the Pacific coast, where one movement balanced the other. Thus it appears that the farms last year furnished the towns and cities with a gain in population of 256,000, and at the same time added 8,000 persons to the farm population.

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FARM POPULATION INCREASE SMALL

The farm population of the United States remained virtually stationary last year, the bureau of agricultural economics says in a report. The number of persons living on farms January 1, 1936, was estimated at 31,593,000, as compared with 31,861,000 one year earlier.

The number of persons on farms at the beginning of this year was only slightly greater than in 1935 and was somewhat less than in 1930. Births on farms last year were estimated at 727,000, while deaths were placed at 533,000.

The fact that the total farm population did not increase materially despite the excess of births over deaths is explained by the migration of persons away from the farms. During the year it is estimated that 1,211,000 persons moved away from farms to towns and cities, and 825,000 moved from town to farm.

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MILK PRODUCTION COST CAN BE CUT

Top Pasture, Home-Grown Roughages Cheapest of Dairy Stock Foods.

"Good pasture and other roughages," observes O. E. Reed, chief of the bureau of dairy industry, "are the basis for a low feed cost in producing milk and butterfat." There are two reasons why pasture and other home-grown roughages help cut the cost of producing milk. They are usually the cheapest crops in which the farmer can grow feed nutrients, and the cow can eat enough good roughage to obtain more than half the nutrients she needs for her highest milk yield.

In a series of long-time feeding experiments, dairy farmers are feeding cows on different kinds of roughage exclusively, and also on the roughages with grain in addition. The bureau now has 139 records, one half showing the production when the cows were fed on roughage alone, and the other half when the same cows were fed a full ration of grain in addition to roughage. The group on the roughage ration produced an annual average of 11,417 pounds of milk and 467 pounds of butterfat per cow, compared to 18,675 pounds of milk and 655 pounds of butterfat per cow when fed the full ration of grain and roughage.

These cows produced 61 and 62 per cent as much milk and butterfat, respectively, on roughage alone as they produced when fed grain in addition to roughage, which serves to show the important part the cheaper nutrients play in the production of milk or butterfat.

In citing these figures, the dairy chief points out that the cows in these feeding tests received only the best quality roughage, a point which some dairymen fail to value properly. To make the most of roughage, it must be of good quality and the cows must be accustomed to eating large quantities.

MILK STILL TOPS FARM CASH INCOME

NEW YORK, Nov. 9.—Farmers' cash income from sales of milk during the first nine months of 1936 reached a new billion dollar, five-year high with a total of \$1,674,000,000, according to the milk industry foundation.

The 1936 nine months' total milk income for farmers represents an increase of \$50,000,000 over the 1935 nine months' period which totaled \$394,000,000. With September's milk income at \$129,000,000, the nine months' total for 1936 was \$298,000,000 greater than the 1932 total of \$776,000,000 for the same period.

Milk continues as the best single source of farm cash income, the foundation says, with 1936 improvement aided by rising consumer buying power in the cities.

Fall pastures have shown notable improvement since last summer's drought and milk production

ELECTRIFICATION OF FARMS INCREASING

Top Pasture, Home-Grown Roughages Cheapest of Dairy Stock Foods.

The prospects are that in a few months there will be one million high-line-electrified farms in the United States. According to the Edison Electrical Institute 71,243 farms were given electric service from January to June this year, bringing the total electrically-connected farms up to 560,000. Up to September 1 of this year, the rural electrification administration at Washington had made loans totaling \$23,172,028.50.

There's loans, numbering 127, went to many forms of organizations, including electric cooperative associations, power companies, municipal systems, power districts and one state rural electrification authority. Estimates prepared by rural electrification administration engineers indicate that the cost of electrifying an average general farm on a fairly complete basis is about \$1000.

For a rather large dairy farm the specialized equipment which is needed or desirable will increase this cost to about \$2000. It is suggested by the engineers that any farmer of modest means can make a good start toward electrifying his place for \$500 or even less. The large items in the electrification of a dairy farm are the wiring of the house and barn, \$500; milk cooler, \$800; refrigerator, \$200; live horse power motor, \$200; and milking machine, \$200.

EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM STARTED

A practical extension program in soil erosion control throughout Oregon will be launched immediately under the joint auspices of the federal soil conservation service and the Oregon State college extension service, announces F. L. Ballard, vice-director of extension. Through an adjustment just approved by both agencies, Art King, for many years extension specialist in soils, will now be employed jointly by the two services and will devote half time to the soil erosion control work.

King has given major attention in recent years to the development of supplementary irrigation in the Willamette valley, which has grown from a meager beginning to one of the most important "reclamation projects" in Oregon. In his new work, King will give attention to erosion problems in all parts of the state, but will particularly emphasize the work which has been demonstrated in the Columbia basin wheat belt.

The soil conservation demonstration projects at Athena and other parts of eastern Oregon have given striking proof in recent years that control of the most serious erosion problems in the wheat belt is a practical proposition within the

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GOOD GRASS NEEDS NUTRITIOUS SOIL

If you want good grass, give it food. That is the timely suggestion of the soil conservation service. Even the best of grass seed will not give good results if the soil is lacking in the necessary plant nutrients, the service says, and this goes for lawn grass or for pasture grass on eroded hillides in the country.

Grass can be—and is—starved, just as an animal can be starved. Furthermore, neither a dirt farmer nor a scientist is likely to produce a choice grass that will thrive on a subsoil or other infertile soil unless certain plant-food elements are present.

A 10-acre field on the H. A. Sturdivant farm in Ohio was in poverty grass for many years. The soil was Muskingum silt loam, lying on an average slope of about 20 per cent, and was eroded until only a thin layer of topsoil remained. Fertilizing, seeding to sweet clover, timothy and oats, controlled grazing, and then seeding to alfalfa, built up this field within 5 years to where it yielded well over 4 tons of alfalfa per acre.

The remarkable results on this field led to the investment of approximately \$10 per acre for material to improve a similar 50-acre tract. Within 2 years a heavy stand of sweetclover was obtained on this impoverished, eroded, poverty.

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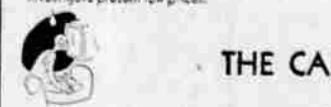
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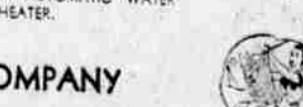


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