

Secretary Brannan's Planned Trial Run On Pigs Promises To Give Consumer Big Break

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The new Brannan farm plan may get a trial run on pigs. Sen. Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma and Congressman Harold Cooley of North Carolina, chairman of Senate and House Agriculture Committees, have introduced a bill to make this experiment.

The legal lingo of the bill isn't much help in understanding how things would work under today's plan and the Brannan plan. But experts say the situations would spell out about like this:

Live hogs today are selling at around \$17.50 a hundredweight. A year ago the price was \$31.00. With today's big pig supply and favorable corn prices, no great gift of prophecy is required to see that the price of hogs may drop further.

When the fall pig rush to market begins, trouble may be expected. Under the present law, the government will have to go into the market and buy pigs to keep the price from falling below \$16.50 a hundredweight, which is 90 percent of parity. Huge cost involved.

The government could buy live hogs, but that isn't practical. If it buys hogs, it would have to buy them on the farms, then buy feed and pay the farmers to feed them.

So the government would have to buy dressed pork and find cold storage space to keep it. It can be kept for only about two years. The government can't sell it below market price and it can hardly give it away. To do so would only drive hog prices down further and make the government's problem worse. Eventually the pork would have to be destroyed, converted into protein tankage feed for hogs, or made into fertilizer or soap.

How much this would cost can't be predicted accurately. But for the sake of a guess, assume total U. S. hog marketings of 20,000,000,000 pounds this year, live weight. Then assume that the government would have to buy 1,000,000,000 pounds to support the market. At \$16.50 a hundredweight, the government would buy \$165,000,000 worth of live hogs. If the government bought dressed pork, the cost would be \$230,000,000, according to Secretary Brannan.

This is the prospect which faces the government under the present law. Now take a look

at how it might work under the Brannan plan. In the first place there would be no government buying to keep up the market price. The government would allow the market to find its natural supply and demand level.

Suppose the price dropped to \$15.50 a hundredweight, or \$1 a hundred below the present 90 percent of parity support level. Boom To Consumer.

Under the Brannan plan, the government would have to pay the farmers the difference between the market level of \$15.50 and the "income support standard price." This is the calculated price based on the average price over the past 10 years, stated in terms of today's devaluated dollar. This figure is out to about \$17.50.

In other words, the government would have to pay the farmers the difference between \$17.50 and \$15.50, or \$2 a hundred for whatever pigs they sold at the \$15.50 price.

On 2,000,000,000 pounds live weight, or 10 percent of the year's pig crop, the cost to the government would be \$40,000,000. On 10,000,000,000 pounds, or half the crop, the cost would be \$200,000,000. Both these figures are less than the cost for 1,000,000,000 pounds under the present law.

The consumer would be ahead too. Under the present law, the government creates an artificial scarcity by withdrawing some of the supply from the market. This keeps prices high for the consumer. The consumer also pays for the government buying in higher taxes. So the consumer pays twice.

Under the Brannan plan, the consumer would get the benefit because the market price of dressed pork would be allowed to seek its natural level. And the consumer would have to pay less in taxes.

The weight of the human brain increases 200 to 300 per cent during the first year of life.



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

Boys And Girls To Scramble For Calves, Lambs At Rodeo At Fairgrounds This Month

Boys and girls will "scramble" for calves and lambs, in a feature at the Douglas County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo to be sponsored by the 4-H clubs. Those who catch animals must enroll them in a 4-H livestock club and show them at next year's Rodeo or at the Douglas County Fair in August.

Boys' calf scramble will take place at the rodeo Sunday, June 19, as a special event that day. Boys enrolled this year in a 4-H club will be eligible to participate. Age limits will be determined after all entries are in.

Ten Hereford heifer calves are being obtained for the event and 20 boys will be selected by a drawing from applications sent in. In addition 15 alternates are to be drawn.

Girls whose names are drawn will be notified and further information given them. Girls' lamb scramble will take place at the Rodeo Friday, June 17 as a special event for that day. Girls eligible will be those enrolled.

In the 4-H this year, age limits will be determined after entries are in.

Ten ewe lambs are being obtained for this event and 20 girls will be selected by a drawing from the applications sent in. In addition 15 alternates are to be drawn.

Girls whose names are drawn will be notified and further information given them. Girls who catch lambs will assume full ownership and must enroll in a 4-H sheep project and show these lambs at the Douglas County Fair.

All applications from boys and girls must be in the 4-H office in the Roseburg Post Office building, on or before 5 p. m., Saturday, June 4.

The whiskers of cats are special organs of touch. The base of each whisker is surrounded by many nerves, and the cat can feel the slightest pressure on the ends of the whiskers.



WORLD BANKER—Eugene R. Black, above, of Atlanta, Ga., former vice president of New York's Chase National Bank, succeeds John J. McCloy as president of the World Bank. Black served under McCloy, who was named U. S. high commissioner for Germany, an executive director of the UN fiscal institution.

Ramp Used In Milking Cow Bans Backache

CONWAY, Ark.—(AP)—If milking bossy gives you a backache, Farmer H. O. Proctor figures he can save you a lot of stoops. It's just a matter of putting the cow on a higher level than the milker, says Proctor, who operates a farm near here.

Proctor used to wear himself out stooping over to milk his 20 cows each day. He thought up the idea of building a ramp around his barn high enough so that when he has to milk all he does is reach out and attach electrical squeezers. Everything is set—with no back bending.

The old method required one bend to wash off each cow's set of faucets; another to attach the electrical milking machine and a third to remove the mechanical apparatus. That's six squats per cow per day. Since Proctor milks an average of 20 cows twice a day for 10 months, that represents 36,000 stoops he now saves each year—or so he figures.

Heavier Cherry Crop To Up Pickers' Earnings

SALEM.—(AP)—Cherry pickers throughout Oregon will get 2 and one-half cents a pound, which is about a half cent less than last year.

But State Labor Commissioner W. E. Kimsey said the pickers actually would net more money this year because the trees are so loaded.

He said the crop is 25 per cent above average, and 40 per cent more than last year. The wage was fixed at a meeting of growers.

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Wheat Output Control Plan To Go To Congress

SPOKANE.—(AP)—A plan to control wheat production on the basis of the number of bushels sold rather than the acreage grown will be sent to Congress by the Pacific Northwest Farm Council.

The recommendation came out of the semi-annual meeting of the Council's six Washington and Oregon groups here.

The Council declared that the variations in weather and changes in farming methods will have to be brought into consideration when figuring total production. The recommendation is intended as a basis for an amendment to the 1948 agricultural act which provides for acreage control.

Other resolutions asked government loans to provide wheat storage space, immediate development of the Columbia River Basin and a "more practical" soil conservation program.

The group also voted in favor of a two-price program for wheat: A federally supported price on wheat used for domestic consumption and a competitive price on wheat sold for feed, industrial uses and export.

Oranges, Citrus Pulp Proves O. K. To Fatten Cattle

ONA, Fla.—(AP)—Tests on feeding oranges, citrus pulp and citrus molasses to steers have proved very successful, the State Experiment Station here reported.

"Quality of the meat is excellent," Dr. W. C. Kirk, vice director of the station, said. "We feel that the 120-day experiment is highly successful."

The 12 steers fattened in the experiment gained an average of 306 pounds.

Best results were noted in a steer fed dried citrus pulp and citrus molasses. The steer gained 385 pounds.

A diet of grated oranges, with almost all the peel removed, added 350 pounds to another steer.

Two steers fed ungrated oranges gained only 205 and 215 pounds.

All animals received hay and cottonseed meal as supplements to the citrus.

Previous experiments had showed the value of a grapefruit diet for range steers.

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Umpqua Valley Roses Asked For Corvallis Show

Corvallis is inviting rose growers from throughout the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys to compete in its free rose show June 11 and 12.

Fourteen trophies are being offered in the 1949 edition of this annual event sponsored by the Corvallis Men's Garden Club. There are separate classes for experienced amateurs and for beginners. Classes for flower arrangements are included in addition to the numerous rose classes. Detailed show schedules can be obtained on request from the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce.

In general, the rose classes call for single blooms, 3 blooms, 5 blooms or 12 blooms. The 3-bloom or 5-bloom entries must be of one variety; the 12-bloom entries may be mixed.

Entries must be brought to the

Franklin School building in Corvallis on N. 18th St. between 7:30 a. m. and noon June 11. The show will be open to the public without charge from 2:30 p. m. to 10 p. m. on June 11, and from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m. on June 12.

Last year's show attracted over 500 entries from throughout Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington. C. L. Smith, show manager, is anticipating an even larger number of exhibits this year.



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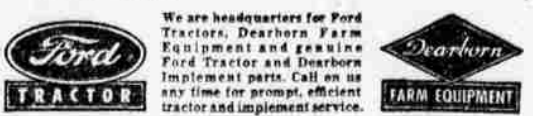


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