

FARM and GARDEN NEWS



Smaller Apple Crop Points To Price Boost; Pear Output At Record, Prunes Increased

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Agriculture department predicts "smaller production and higher prices" for the 1950 commercial apple crop.

It said in its October review of the fruit crop that unless government export assistance is continued exports of apples will be smaller.

"Because small crops usually follow large crops," the review said, "the 1950 apple crop, with average weather, probably will be smaller than the large 1949 crop of 132 million bushels."

"Moreover, acreage of bearing trees, which has decreased about 25 per cent since 1934, may be slightly smaller in 1950 than in 1949, continuing the downward trend."

The department's Bureau of Agriculture Economics said it expected consumer demand for apples to be nearly as strong in 1950 as in 1949 but that apples would continue to compete with other fruits for the consumer's dollar.

It said the civilian per capita consumption of fresh apples dropped from a level of about 30 pounds per year in the 1935-39 period to about 25 pounds in 1947 and 1948.

The bureau said domestic outlets for the entire 1949 crop are difficult to find and substantial quantities of summer varieties were left unharvested because of low prices.

It added however, that more apples from the current year's crop are expected to be processed than in last year.

"The bureau said the 1949 pear crop was estimated as of Oct. 1 to be 35,900,000 bushels, setting a new record 36 per cent larger than the small 1948 crop.

"Prices received by growers of pears, which dropped sharply in August under the weight of heavy supplies, declined a little more in September with heavy supplies," the bureau said.

"But prices are not expected to drop much further and even may rise a little. With supplies large and no improvement in commercial export outlets, prices will continue low this fall."

The bureau said the government purchased 835 cars of pears in California, 160 cars in Washington and 150 cars in Oregon for the school lunch program and institutional feeding.

Prune Crops Much Bigger

It reported the prune crop in the Pacific northwest (Oregon, Washington and Idaho) totaled 156,600 tons (fresh weight) which was 77 per cent larger than the 1948 crop.

It said prices on the New York City and Chicago markets were considerably lower this year compared to last year.

The bureau estimated production of apples for 1949 would be 131,800,000 bushels in Washington and 2,870,000 in Oregon. It said indicated plum production in Washington was 25,500 tons while in Oregon it amounted to 100,900 tons.

Pear production in Oregon was estimated at 6,070,000 bushels and that in Washington at 7,325,000 bushels.

Filbert production in Washington and Oregon was estimated at 11,630 tons, while in California and Oregon was set at 81,300 tons.

Holstein Cow Posts Record In Production

PULLMAN, Wash. — (AP) — The species of all dairy cows on records of the Washington State Dairy Herd Improvement association is a 6-year-old Holstein, known as number 387.

Owned by the state prison at Walla Walla, number 387 produced 908.2 pounds of butterfat from 22,437 pounds of milk in 293 days, Roger Morrison of the state college extension service said. She was on a milking schedule of three times a day for the lactation period ending in September.

High four-year-old of the month was a registered Holstein owned by James T. Guilford of Silverdale with a record of 673.3 pounds of butterfat from 17,938 pounds of milk in 35 days on twice daily milking.

OSC Preference Record Shows Many Religions

OREGON STATE COLLEGE. — Forty-one different denominations are listed as preferences of the 6,800 students enrolled this fall, although 19 of these have five or fewer adherents. "Protestant" was given without other designation by 326 while 1890 left the space blank. Past experience has shown that many of these have church preferences but decline to record them for various reasons.

Methodists lead in preference numbers with 1068, followed by Presbyterians, 916, and Catholic, 502. Churches with 50 or more are Episcopal, 398; Baptist, 362; Lutheran, 351; Christian, 282; Congregational, 174; Christian Science, 105; Mormon, 71 and Evangelical-United Brethren, 51.



SMOOTH-RIDING TRACTOR SEAT—How to take the jerks and bumps out of tractor driving has plagued engineers for years. This new tractor seat with a pair of rubber torsional springs mounted underneath was developed by U. S. Rubber to solve the problem. The springs are the cylindrical objects mounted below the arrow. As the tractor rides over rough ground, these springs—rather than the rider—twist and turn with each jolt, cushioning the shock for the operator.

Forage, Pasture Plants Display On Demonstration

Farmers and stockmen will have an opportunity to see two new forage and pasture plants growing under local conditions Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 9, at the Chas. S. Dyar farm on Roberts creek.

Burnet and a selected strain of broad-leaf Lotus are the new plants. Both show promise of being adapted to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions, according to J. Roland Parker, county agricultural agent. Interested individuals are requested to meet at the Dyar farm at 1:30 p. m.

The Dyar farm is located approximately nine miles south of Roseburg on the Roberts creek quarry loop road. Seed supplies of both plants are very limited and farmers might well grow a small acreage to produce their own seed requirements, suggests county agent Parker.

Burnet is primarily a pasture plant, showing promise on hill lands and soils that are quite dry during the summer months. It makes a quick start with the first fall rains and is liked by both sheep and cattle. Lotus is both a hay and pasture plant. It will grow on land too acid and wet for alfalfa, is long lived, stays green during the summer months and is very palatable both as hay and for pasture.

Nation's Farm Vote Sits On Fence Looking For Fertile Political Ground

By DOUGLAS LARSEN
NEA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—The real reason why both political parties have been wooing the farm vote with such ardor is now revealed. An official report of the Department of Agriculture proves that 1949 has been a major turning point in postwar farm prosperity.

No violent downswing is predicted. But all reliable indications point to a general downward trend. As a result it is believed that the farm vote is now sitting on the fence, shrewdly waiting to see which pasture looks most fertile for the future.

The following statements tell the story:

"The index (1935-39 equals 100) of prices received for farm products averaged 239 during the first nine months of 1949 compared with 273 for the same period a year earlier. In other words from 1948 to 1949 the index of prices for farm products declined 34 points, while the farm cost went down only seven points.

"Lower prices of farm products and comparatively high operating costs in 1949 are definitely lowering farmers' net returns.

"Farm wage rates are averaging less in 1949 than a year ago. This is the first decline in average wage rates since the big increases in the war and postwar years.

"Farm income in 1950 is expected to decline again."

Northwest Appraised

A study of areas and types of farms gives varying reasons for expected drops in farm incomes. The drought in the Northeast this summer will cause high feed costs for the dairy farmers there. The report estimates that this year will wind up with net cash returns "on commercial family-operated dairy farms in this area an average of \$700 less than in 1948."

Grain farmers, it predicts, will have lower net returns because "of lower crop yields and grain prices and continued high costs of operation, maintenance, and depreciation." Average net return on family-operated wheat farms is expected to be down around \$2,500 less for '49 than it was in '48.

By no means do any of these indicators point to hard times for the American farmer, the report stresses. It says that even with the drops in income "the farmers' net returns are expected to average around three times the prewar." In spite of this, and the fact that the average rate earned on farm real estate investments in 1949 are considerably higher than the interest rate on farm mortgages, the report offers a word of warning to U. S. farmers. It says, "while farm returns continue high, substantial payments on principal are advised in order to be in the best possible position if refinancing becomes necessary."

Some Good Signs Also

Many good signs for the farmer are also revealed in the report. It says that this year the supply of farm labor was generally adequate enough to do all farm jobs well and on time. With one exception this condition is expected to continue through the rest of the fall harvest and the remainder of the year. The exception is the western part of the cotton belt "where another bumper cotton crop is being gathered and farmers may encounter difficulty in obtaining all the experienced cotton pickers they

Dickson, University of Wisconsin, who visited the O.S.C. farm crops department recently.

Dr. Dickson, head of the malting barley laboratory at Wisconsin, warned, however, that improvements in other varieties make it necessary that these western varieties also be improved if they are to hold their favorable position.

By better production methods and by breeding improved strains, western barley growers can maintain their market position, believes Dr. D. D. Hill, head of the O. S. C. farm crops department. Unless they produce higher yield, more uniform two-row barley there is danger of losing a substantial advantage, he said.

The scientific name for lion is *elis leo* or *Panthera leo*.

H. M. S.

30?

Better Malting Barley OSC Discussion Aim

The western two-row barleys, Henchen and Hanna, command a premium for malting since they contain the highest extract among all barleys produced in the United States, according to Dr. James

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Le's Figger a Bit

Egg prices did a tailspin last week, all over the Coast. Pork hit the lowest prices since the good old days of O. P. A. (Remember O. P. A.?) Other farmer produced prices are also on the toboggan.

But just ordinary feed wheat, (not milling wheat, mind you), is not to be had in the Pacific Northwest, the nation's greatest producer of feed wheat, unless you wish to pay more than good milling wheat is selling for in Minneapolis.

Just compare the figures in today's market report. You find FEED WHEAT in Portland quoted at \$2.20 a bushel. The finest milling wheat is selling in Minneapolis for about \$2.17 to \$2.21. And it wouldn't be that high, even in Minneapolis, the world's greatest flour-milling center, except for the highest Government support prices in history.

Wheat has always been the basis of poultry and livestock feeding in Oregon. Now the poultryman who had to feed wheat as his main ingredient and sell eggs at present prices would be forced out of business. And yet, poultry and turkey production is becoming one of the major businesses of our state. Pork fed on wheat wouldn't pay for the feed, let alone the balance of its cost. And Oregon should produce most of its own pork. But it can't be done with Government guaranteed prices for feed grains.

We had hoped there would be some relief for Oregon farmers next year. But Congress knuckled down to the high spenders, and renewed high support prices for at least another year. In order to get away from one of the worst sessions in our memory, the Senate and House conferees surrendered, and today the experts predict that the average support price on wheat for the 1950 crop, which could easily be the greatest crop in history, will be approximately the same as this year.

We don't know how our own boys in Congress stood on this high support price deal. But we do know that only Congress can make any change. And the boys will have to go back in January and finish out the 80-worst session. (We believe 80-worst was coined by our boy, Guy Cordon.)

Uncle Hank Says:

THIS COUNTRY'S GOT JEST AS MUCH MONEY AS IT'S EVER HAD—TH'ONLY TROUBLE WE'RE JEST SHORT O' COLLATERAL

produced 1 lb. of fryer on 2.89 lbs. of feed. And that is better than 90% of the laboratory tests turn out.

And what fryers they are! We ate one last week, and it was that tender we could have eaten it without our store teeth. Mom pot-roasted it. Ever eat a pot-roasted fryer? If not, you have a treat coming.

Salt Pork

According to a test the other day, a nickle's worth of salt will save 15 pounds of hog feed. And if you're feeding wheat, that's a lot of dough. The thing of it is, a hog needs salt, even as you and I. Without it, he can't make the best use of his feed.

Now, we have taken care of that for you in UMPQUA PIG RATION. We have the right amount of salt, and the right amount of minerals and everything else in the right proportions. And that explains why it is possible to keep in the hog business, in spite of Government wheat buying.

UMPQUA PIG RATION costs you \$3.90 a hundred. And if fed properly and you keep your pigs free of parasites and disease, we guarantee it is possible to get a pound of pig on less than four pounds of ration. At that figure, you can stay in business a little longer. At least until the "free" corn is used up.

Heard of Bluecomb?

We have run into a number of cases of "Bluecomb," a new chicken disease in our parts. Cuts down on laying to beat the bands. Not much mortality, though. We have been recommending some sort of milk product to increase appetite, and provide extra vitamins. Come now the experts, and tell everybody to do the same. (Any popping sound you may hear, is us, patting ourselves on the back.) Skim milk of your own, buttermilk from the creamery, if you can get it, or PEBBLES CONDENSED WHEY from the Flour Mill will do the trick.

Umpqua Scratch Feed

You can see how clean it is. It is a good mixture, good proportions for this time of year. Birds love it. It is cheap, considering the price of support-priced wheat it contains. But many folks are getting low egg production, or slumps, simply because they are not feeding quite enough grain. We recommend at least 12 lbs. per hundred birds per day; more might help.

On That Bum Feed

Weighed some birds at Bill Weaver's the other day. Lacked six days of six months. Turns up to 30 lbs. and hens weighed 20 lbs. And we let the big one get away. Boy! If we could have caught him. But we've slowed down.

And Clarence Wescott, the fryer man out towards the golf course, run a test on HILLO BROILER RATION. We are glad, and so is Clarence. HILLO

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Farm Income Of Nation Slumps

WASHINGTON, — (AP) — Midwesterners, who generally get the biggest hunk of the nation's farm income, have found dollars harder to make this year, the Agriculture department says.

Farm income for January through September this year was lower in every mid-western state than for the corresponding 1948 period.

The national trend was downward, too. Total 1949 income for nine months was \$19,035,962,000 compared with \$20,763,775,000 for the similar period in 1948.

Iowa led the 12-state midwest section, as well as the entire nation with cash receipts of \$1,426,928,000 from farm marketings. This was a drop of 72-million-plus from the first nine months of last year.

Only nine states, one of them Washington state, had larger incomes than in January-September 1948.

Iowa and three other states reported farm income for the period above the billion dollar mark. California was runner-up with \$1,357,800,000. Texas came third with \$1,277,763,000 with Illinois fourth with \$1,172,868,000.

Washington state was in 18th place with an income of \$378,578,000. The figure was an increase from last year's \$363,653,000.

The nine-month Oregon figure was \$236,487,000.

The hog's snare of the United States is absolutely harmless but pretends to be fierce and dangerous.

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