

Slowdown In Feeding Operations Predicted; Supply Level Is High

By CHUCK GAVIN
Union County Agent

The feed year 1959-60 in the United States is expected to be another period of expanded feeding operations. But the rate of expansion will slow down.

Feed supplies are more than sufficient to take care of this relatively high level of meat, milk and egg production.

The calculated livestock to feed balance shows about a 40 per cent excess of grains and an eight per cent excess of high protein feeds.

The rate of expansion in feeding operations is slowed down by less favorable prices received by farmers for some major livestock and poultry products.

At the rates of feeding expected to prevail during 1959-60, livestock and poultry will consume approximately 137 million tons of feed, of which 121 million tons are grains and mill feeds and 15.5 million tons are high protein feeds.

Evaluation Urged

What can be done about it? In view of the present hog outlook, the following suggestions should be critically evaluated as soon as possible:

- Producers with below average sanitation, management and feeding programs will find it difficult to show a profit with prices at \$12 to \$13 cwt. Next year (1960) may be even worse than 1959.
- Efficient producers may not cut down much, especially if they have large investments in swine buildings and equipment.
- Analyze thoroughly your feed, labor, operating capital and management skills before shifting a part or all of your swine operation to another livestock enterprise.

Oregon Wheat Estimate Up For This Year

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department has estimated Oregon's 1959 wheat production at 28,464,000 bushels, compared to 28 million bushels in 1958.

The 10-year average for the state is 27,312,000 bushels.

Washington's production was estimated at 73,323,000 bushels for 1959 and Idaho's at 42,748,000.

The Department's final production report of the year to date estimated the 1959 corn crop at a record 4,361,170,000 bushels and the wheat crop at 1,128,151,000 bushels.

The final wheat estimate, made up of 923,419,000 bushels of winter wheat and 204,732,000 bushels of spring wheat, compares with November estimates of 1,117,430,000 bushel crop—909,333,000 bushels of winter wheat and 208,097,000 bushels of spring wheat.

Last year, according to revised figures released today, the total wheat harvest was 1,461,714,000 bushels. It was made up of 1,179,269,000 bushels of winter wheat and 282,445,000 bushels of spring wheat.

Wool Growers Urged To Keep Sale Records

Wool growers who marketed lambs this fall should keep adequate records of their sales, Union Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee Chairman Ben L. Robinson urged today.

The records are necessary if growers are to make proper applications for payment next spring under the wool incentive program, he said.

The sale record for lambs sold must include the name of the buyer, his signature, and the number of liveweight lambs sold. The records should also give a description of the lamb "unshorn."

Lamb payments are made only on lambs that have never been shorn to encourage the customary practice of selling lambs with the wool on.

"I strongly urged that growers get these sale records together now and either keep them in a safe place at home or file them at the county ASC office," Robinson stated.

The final date to apply for payments on 1959-60 marketings is April 30, but an application may be submitted anytime prior to that date.

The chairman warned that lamb feeders should keep accurate records of the length of time they have owned a specific lot of lambs. Lamb payments are made only to producers who have owned lambs 30 days or more. The amount of payment is based on weight gain of the lambs during the seller's ownership.



MOUNTAINS OF STORED WHEAT
Lloyd German, manager of the Union County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office in La Grande, now under the Soil Bank program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The third in the farm program day's Observer farm page made it necessary to shift the

Oregon's Farm Prices Stay Above Average Despite National Dip

Oregon farm prices averaged slightly lower during November than national farm prices dropped more sharply.

Prices received by the state's farmers for their products slipped one half of one per cent last month as small rises in prices of farm crops failed to offset sharp drops in prices for livestock and livestock products.

Farm prices in the state are still three per cent higher than the same month last year despite the November decline.

Reports from the U. S. Department of Agriculture showed that beef cattle, calves, hogs, lambs and wool all brought lower prices to Oregon farmers last month.

Sheep Prices Up

Sheep was the only item in the meat-animal class to show an upturn. As a result, meat-animal prices fell as much as seven per cent during the month and now stand 12 per cent under meat-animal prices in the state a year ago.

Analyzed by Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agriculture economist at Oregon State College, the reports showed that prices paid for farm crops in the state last month continued upward for the second straight month. Increases were reported on all crops except feed grains.

Prices on feed grains dipped as lower barley prices more than offset higher prices paid for corn and oats.

Nationally, farm prices dropped two per cent during November with meat-animals, cotton, and oranges carrying most of the responsibility for the drop. Biggest upturns came in milk, potatoes, wheat, turkeys, and soybeans, Mrs. Horrell said, but these were not enough to stem the lower price trend.

As a result, national farm prices now stand seven per cent below a year ago and the lowest since March 1947.

While prices received by the nation's farmers tumbled, prices paid by the farmers crept up another notch—one third of one per cent. But this was enough to push the government's yardstick for measuring farm costs one per cent above a year ago and within one per cent of the all-time high.

With prices farmers receive down, and prices they pay up, farm-product purchasing power last month was Mrs. Horrell pointed out. The parity ratio—the government's yardstick for measuring the relationship between prices received and prices paid by farmers to 77 in November, two points below a month earlier and five points below a year ago.

This is the lowest parity since August 1940, Mrs. Horrell pointed out.

When all accounts are added up this year, USDA economists say national farm income may fall below last year by as much as 15 per cent.

Biggest reasons for the drop, the economists say are lowered cash receipts, caused by heavier supplies and lower prices; elimination of the acreage reserve; and a higher farm operating bill, pushed up by higher prices on industrial goods and higher overhead costs.

The USDA experts expect an even further drop in farm income in 1960, Mrs. Horrell said, although this should be only about half as sharp as this year's drop.

Valley Farm-Ranch-Home

Bill Bebout, Editor

WALLOWA COUNTY VIEWPOINTS

Coordination Of Activity For Youth Causes Concern

By JOHN KIESOW
And
ELGIN CORNETT
Wallowa County Agents

Wallowa County Builders conducted a very fine achievement program for the Wallowa-Lostine 4-H club members, Saturday, at the Union hall in Wallowa.

The program, which included a potluck dinner, was emceed by Bryan Wolfe. The pledges were led by Pat Lyman, 4-H creed given by Lynn Mahanna; dohr prize, Larry Mahanna; songs led by Ruth and Rose Mary Trump; and entertainment, Treva Cowan. Co-chairman for the entire program were Frances Murphy and Pat Huber.

Bob McCurdy of the First National Bank, presented members annual achievement awards. Slidings of the year's 4-H activities were shown by the 4-H agent.

Bait for starting control will be set up next week at problem spots in Wallowa county.

Fred Sankey from Baker, and Ralph Burcham, Wallowa, County hunter, both U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents, will handle the program.

Feedlot operators and others with a serious starting problem are invited to notify Elgin Cornett, county agent, if they want help.

Sankey has been active in new methods of starting control around Ontario where these unwanted birds have become a serious problem.

Starlings look like black birds according to Cornett, but on the ground they walk like a chicken rather than hop like a bird.

Christmas customs whip store business into a fast trot which makes us ponder the question "where does our money come from?"

Wallowa county cash is carted up the canyon past Minam in exchange for county products that are carted down the same canyon to market. Conditions in the county are determined by shipping lumber, livestock and grains.

Everybody buys goods and gadgets made some place besides Wallowa county and the dollar sooner or later goes back down Wallowa county in exchange for goods carted in.

One thing is sure, Wallowa county can only spend as much as it produces. That goes for each individual person, whether his mother loved him or not.

Young people have fun every day but older people vary. Fun is like life insurance—the older you are the more it costs.

Ideas and programs for boys and girls are usually popular with everyone. Probably that's one age all adults went through (if they passed it) and one thing everyone has in common. Most other

Poundage Fee Reduction Due

State Department of Agriculture has announced that the poundage fee which supports the grade A milk audit program will be reduced Jan. 1 to seven tenths of a cent per hundredweight.

This is a drop of about seven per cent from the three fourths of a cent per hundred pounds in effect since the audit work was authorized by the 1957 legislature.

The lower figure is the result of economies in operation, according to Frank McKennon, director of agriculture. Total annual collections have averaged approximately \$45,000, he said.

Travel and lodging costs of the audit have been reduced through the use of a microfilm camera and reader-printer machine which cuts down time which auditors originally needed to spend in processing plants. The audit staff was also reduced by one member.

PARLIAMENT RECESSES

LONDON (UPI)—Parliament recessed Thursday for the Christmas holidays. It will meet again Jan. 26.

Angus Heifer Due 4-H Club Member

WALLOWA (Special)—Ed Soderburg, local purebred Angus breeder, has made arrangements through the 4-H office to present an Angus heifer to a 4-H club member.

The heifer will be given outright and will not be a chain award. The recipient will be required to keep animal in his ownership for three years and must exhibit the first two years.

The owner may breed the heifer to his choice of sires. Soderburg will make available free service to the recipient.

Applicants must be active 4-H members and a freshman or below in school. In addition, the applicant must submit all his 4-H records and a letter indicating his interest in the calf, signed by the applicant and his parents.

All applications must be submitted to his 4-H office by Jan. 15.

Ideas or programs are not understood by at least part of the citizens.

Government Will Send Reminders To 59,300,000

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The government is getting set to send up 59,300,000 reminders that the best things in life are not free.

Starting Dec. 26, postmen throughout the country will begin delivering federal income tax forms to people who filed returns for 1958. The deadline for reporting 1959 income is next April 15.

This year the Internal Revenue Service is mailing out about 700,000 fewer than in 1958. Officials explained that the number of people filing declined last year, probably because of the 1958 business recession.

About 17,499,000 taxpayers will find that their envelope from the IRS contains the new buff colored Form 1040W, in use for the first time.

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Commodity Commission Bulletin Is Available

Questions that Union County producers and handlers might raise about commodity commissions are answered in a new bulletin issued by Oregon State College.

Various aspects of the Oregon Commodity Commission Act as revised by the 1959 legislature are reported in the bulletin prepared by the OSC Extension Service and the State Department of Agriculture.

The bulletin is now available at the Union County Extension office in the La Grande Post Office.

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Social Security Payments Due For Disabled Farmers

Disabled farmers in the La Grande area who meet requirements will receive their first payments in April of next year.

Farmers who have a severe, long-term disability and who cannot do any substantial work, may qualify for monthly social security benefits for himself and his dependents if he is 50 years of age or over.

For many farmers who have not been covered by social security only since the beginning of 1955, Oct. 1 was the earliest date on which they could meet the work requirements in the social security disability provisions.

To be eligible for payments or to have his social security record frozen, a disabled worker must have worked at five out of the 10 years before his disability began.

Vernon A. Welto, district manager of the La Grande Social Security office said that disabled

ANNOUNCING NEW NAME.. NEW YEAR..

Effective January 1, 1960, all National Farm Loan Associations will be known as FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATIONS. The new name better identifies the associations with the purpose for which they were chartered and for which they have operated through the years, namely, the making and servicing of long-term, low-cost FEDERAL LAND BANK LOANS.

As in the past, the associations will continue to operate with just one aim in mind — to provide the very finest in long-term farm financing.

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