Farm • Garden

Dairy Prices Steady In June While Still Among Lowest Farm Product Prices

In Oregon, the average farm price of butterfat and whole milk has leveled off for the two months' period ending at mid-June, according to the weekly dairy market review prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA reports and other data. Up till this time, these commodities have dropped in price from the high point for the year in January.

Both of these commodities, however, are below a year ago in value. Whole milk at the wholesale level averaged for Oregon around $4.05 a hundredweight at mid-June. This is 45 cents below the high point this year in January. It is also 35 cents below a year ago in June.

Oregon farmers at mid-June received five cents a pound less for butterfat than they did during the early winter months this past year. The mid-June price is also two cents under a year ago for the corresponding time.

Compared to the ten-year average price in Oregon, dairy commodities are exceeded only in price declines by eggs, chickens and turkeys. The latter commodities at mid-June were all below the previous ten-year price in Oregon. Dairy commodities, on the other hand, are still slightly above the past ten-year average. At mid-June, Oregon farmers were receiving 8 per cent more for butterfat than the past average. Whole milk at the farm had a value of nine per cent above the past average.

This is in contrast to meat animal prices, which are holding well above the previous ten-year average to Oregon farmers. The average farm prices of lambs, for example, is 74 per cent above the past average. Veal calves are up 68 per cent. Beef cattle are up 58 per cent. Dairy cows, however, are likewise holding fairly well compared to the previous average. Oregon farmers at mid-June received 48 per cent higher prices for dairy cows than the previous ten-year average for Oregon.

Dairy Products Being Held In Nation; More Cheese In Reserve Than Year Ago

The United States' cold storage holdings of dairy products continues an upward trend, according to the weekly dairy markets review prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA reports and other data. This applies to all commodities as butter, cheese, cream, condensed milk, and evaporated milk.

On July 1, the total stocks of butter for Nation in cold storage amounted to 182.5 million pounds. This is approximately 70 per cent above a year ago at the same date. When compared with the five-year average, it is 133 per cent higher.

The government, however, owns a considerable share of the present cold storage stocks of butter. On July 1, government holdings were established at 136.2 million pounds. This leaves a little over 56 million pounds that would be considered as commercial stocks.

The Nation's reserve supply of American cheese is running well above a year ago. The total supply on July 1 amounted to 228.6 million pounds. This compares with around 140 million pounds a year earlier and also for the five-year average.

Government - owned cheese which has been purchased for price-support purposes is not overly large. The total amount at July 1 was considered about 45 million pounds.

On the Pacific Coast, American cheddar cheese in storage July 1 amounted to 5.8 million pounds. This is approximately one million pounds more than was in storage at the same time a year ago. The largest supply on the Coast of cheese in cold storage is in California. A little over 3.5 million pounds were stored in that state. Oregon ranks second on the Coast with approximately two million pounds in storage.

Other dairy commodities in cold storage for the Nation as a whole have continued to increase for the past two months. However, the reserve supplies of cream and bulk condensed milk are running under a year earlier. Condensed and evaporated milk in cases, however, have been running larger than a year ago in cold storage.

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Oregon's Farm Price Level Up

The general farm price level turned upward in April and May, checking the downtrend that began in January 1948. At mid-June this year the Oregon general farm price level stood at 127 per cent of the 1940-1949 average. This information is contained in a report on the general agricultural situation at mid-1950 just issued by the extension service at Oregon State college.

The report points to record consumer buying power coupled with government price supporting measures and somewhat less favorable crop production prospects as factors in the farm price situation. Farm cost prices also tended to strengthen.

Crop production prospects are now somewhat more favorable than in May, while on the other hand the demand outlook has strengthened.

The general average exchange value of farm products stood at 97 per cent of parity at mid-June. That is only two points lower than a year ago although 25 points below the peak of October 1946. A few important farm products are above parity in purchasing power but most are below.

The report contains considerable detailed commodity farm price data and also a section on the outlook ahead, especially consumer buying power. Copies are available from county extension agents or direct from the college.

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Wool Support Price Continues

The Government's wool price support program remains in effect, E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon State PMA committee, said today in explaining the recent suspension of selling price schedules for 1950 shorn and pulled wool.

"The schedules are being suspended indefinitely because of a previously announced policy to maintain 1950 wool selling prices as high as market prices," Miller states. "Market prices for wool have been rising rapidly for several weeks and are now far above prices in the selling schedules."

Under the 1950 wool price support program, the support is at a national average of 45.2 cents per pound, grease basis, or 90 per cent of parity. Current legislation makes wool support mandatory at levels between 60 and 90 per cent of parity with the further provision that support shall be at a level needed to encourage an annual production of approximately 360 million pounds of shorn wool.

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Farm Feed Prices Irregular

FEEDS SHOW IRREGULAR TRENDS IN VALUES

The Nation's feed markets during the past week have followed an irregular course, according to the weekly commercial feedstuffs and hay review, prepared by the O.S.C. extension service from U.S.D.A. reports and other data. Price fluctuations were wide. The most sensational gains in price for feedstuffs were in the animal proteins. These commodities at Midwest markets advanced as much as $15 during the past seven days. Vegetable proteins showed mixed trends this past week. Soybean meal was lower, with other oil seed meals higher. Alfalfa meals, particularly for dehydrated meals, are up as much as $4 to $5 a ton at some markets. Feed grains show irregular trends. Oats are down as much as $8 a ton at Portland.

Wheat Mill Feeds Dip—Except Portland

Wheat millfeeds were mostly unchanged to lower compared to a week ago. Midwest markets are around $1 to $2 lower. West Coast markets have dipped about the same. Portland, however, is holding unchanged. Standard millrun is still $54 a ton, with standard middlings $59.

Portland Feed Grains Irregular

At Portland, feed grains have a mixed trend in price. Oats dropped sharply, around $8 a ton. Portland-delivery oats from the Willamette Valley are now $56 a ton. Coast-delievery oats are $61. Barley gained around $1.50 a ton. It is now $53 a ton. Corn is also sligthly higher, with the prevailing price $66.75 a ton.

Soybean Meal Lower—Other Oil Meals Mostly Up

Soybean meal at Portland dropped $2 a ton this past week. This compares with $3.50 to $4.50 drops at some other markets. The price at Portland is now $112.51 a ton. Cottonseed meal is higher at Portland. Present quotations are $81.83 a ton. This is a $6 advance since the first of July. Linseed meal also continues its upward price trend. Linseed meal from Texas is now $90 a ton. Copra meal held unchanged at $73.10 a ton.

Meat And Fish Meals Sharply Up

Meat meals advanced strongly this past week. At Portland, meat and bone meal is now $120 a ton. This is up $7.50 from last week and is a $20 advance during July. Midwest markets have shown the strongest advances, with prices up $15 compared to seven days ago.

Alaska herring, 70 per cent protein, at Portland is now $159. This compares with $124 the fore part of July.

Alfalfa Meals Trend Higher

Alfalfa meals trend upward at most markets. At Portland, suncured, 15 per cent alfalfa meal is now $43 a ton. Dehydrated alfalfa meal is still $53. Advances for alfalfa meals range from $1 to $5 a ton at various Western and Midwestern markets compared to a week ago.

Portland Alfalfa Hay Market Lower—Farm Price Steady

In the Pacific Northwest, alfalfa hay markets are slightly weaker. California markets are stronger compared to a week ago. At Portland, U. S. No. 2 green or better alfalfa is now $31 a ton in carlots. This is unchanged to $1 lower than last week.

California markets are mostly unchanged to $1 than a week ago.

Prices to producers in the Pacific Northwest continue unchanged, however, from a week ago. Prices received at the farm range from $23 to $25 a ton for baled top-quality alfalfa hay. Alfalfa hay at the farm in the San Joaquin Valley of California ranges from $18 to $20 a ton baled.

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COOS COUNTY JERSEY MAKES HIGH RECORD

Observer Signal Susette, a registered Jersey car owned by John R. Milton and John D. Hobin of Coos Bay, Oregon, has completed a production record of 10,138 pounds of milk and 609 pounds of butterfat which has qualified her for the Silver Medal award of The American Jersey Cattle club, with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. Observer Signal Susette's record was made in 305 day actual production at the age of one year and 11 months. All her tests were verified by both Oregon State college and The American Jersey Cattle club.

In compiling this record she produced more than three times as much buterfat as the average dairy cow in the United States.

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Look for jellied cranberry sauce in seven-ounce cans as well as in the familiar one-pound can. This will be just the right size for small families. Good for taking on picnics too when there'll be cold fried chicken on the menu.