

Race On Between Farm Costs And Price Increases

A see-saw race between advancing farm costs and advancing prices for agricultural products has been going on in the past few months, according to a review of USDA data by the O.S.C. agricultural economics extension section. Cost increases have averaged a bit faster, but with some commodities such as grain the price increases have been the winner.

A further rise in the parity index of farm costs was registered during the period mid-May to mid-June. Prices paid by farmers jumped 3 points to 187 percent of 1910-1914.

an increase in the past year of 14 points over June 1945.

Partly offsetting the increase in costs, the general level of prices received by farmers rose 12 points during the year which ended at mid-June. Thus, the exchange value of farm products declined from 119 percent of parity to 117 percent, calculated without including farm labor in the formula.

As parity is calculated, the United States average beef cattle prices stood at 140 percent, down 3 points from June 1945 lambs 130, down 1 point milk at wholesale 127, up 3 points chickens 125, down 12; wool 123, down 11; corn 118, up 18; veal 117, down 1; butterfat 116, down 4; oats 108, up 10; potatoes 107, down 36; wheat 105, up 7; hogs 105, down 7; eggs 96, down 16; and hay 66, down 12 points.

The general trend, however, is similar to the situation following the first world war. From about the present parity level, the general farm price level dropped to 75 percent of parity in four years following World War I. It rose to average about 80 percent of parity for several years before plunging down to 50 in 1933. For a year or two just before World War II, farm prices averaged about 75 percent of parity.

Two New Instructors In Forestry Added

Oregon State College—Appointment of two new instructors in forestry and the return of an associate professor from leave are announced by Paul M. Dunn, dean of the school of forestry.

Appointment of William L. West, graduate of University of Washington, and Ralph G. DeMolsy, graduate of Utah State with a master's degree from O.S.C., as instructors has been approved by the state board of higher education. Harry I. Nettleton, on the staff here from 1936 to 1942, is returning to the staff after spending the war years with the O. and C. Lands administration.

Three other staff additions are necessary to fill vacancies and provide for added enrollment this fall, Dean Dunn has announced.

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Farm Forestry May Bring Dollars to Ore.

Farm forestry is primarily a farming job with an annual "crop yield" in rate of growth amounting to as much as 1000 board feet per acre each year in parts of Oregon.

Such is the conclusion reached by Walter M. Ferguson, USDA project farm forester, in reporting on the farm forestry project carried on for several years in Clackamas county. This project was established in 1940 by the soil conservation service in cooperation with O.S.C. school of forestry, the State Board of Forestry and the O.S.C. Extension service.

A full report of five years operation has now been published by these cooperating agencies as a 28-page illustrated extension bulletin No. 662. It tells about the development of this project as an experimental demonstration of the possibilities of farm forestry in the timbered areas of the state, especially in western Oregon.

Most farm timber holdings could be the source of an immediate profitable income, the project revealed. During wartime, prices for products were such that there was an adequate return for wages, management and investment. For saw lumber this amounted to \$35 an acre a year in some instances.

The study also revealed that markets need to be developed for some forest products, particularly for small round material from early thinnings. The need for continued demonstration in farm forest management and for continued study to develop needed information was early apparent, Ferguson states.

While the original project revealed the possibilities of profitable farm

forestry in this region, Ferguson says additional facts are needed on comparative productivity of various classes of land from forest, pasture or crop use, labor required in farm forest management, use of preservatives on soft wood fence posts, marketing methods for farm forest products, and possible use of portable mills on farms to convert farm-grown logs into lumber for home use.

You may think you have a soap that does everything, but if you want to keep your fire record clean it is better to depend on common sense. Give serious thought to your fire. KEEP OREGON GREEN.

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