

Weekly Market Review

By STEPHEN C. MARKS
Agricultural Economist
OSU Cooperative Extension
Service

FEEDLOT CATTLE BULGE CRIMPS PRICE HOPES

With more cattle in United States feedlots this winter than ever before, cattlemen hold little hope of seeing much price improvement before early summer.

A survey of feedlot operators in 39 states shows there were

more than 11.2 million head on feed at the start of this month, a 7 per cent increase from a year earlier. Western states show a 4 per cent boost, although cattle going into western feedlots in recent months was down 1 per cent.

The big feedlot hike came in the Corn Belt where 6 per cent more cattle went into feedlots during the fourth quarter of 1966 than in 1965.

Individually, all states show increases except Oregon, Montana, Utah and Wyoming which have less cattle on feed this winter. California, Colorado and Arizona, the top three western feeders, show a moderate 3 per cent increase.

Overweight Cows Pose Problem
The real problem is in heavy cattle. Those weighing less than 900 pounds number only 4 per cent more than a year ago, but there are 14 per cent more cattle that weigh over 900 pounds. This means that feedlot operators have been holding cattle in anticipation of price improvement.

Cattle Backlog Seen

With feedlot operators indicating plans to sell only 4 per cent

Oregon Farmers Lead Nation in Some Crops

A total of 5.6 million tons of farm commodities, valued at \$303 million, were produced in Oregon during 1966. While the total output was a shade below the record 1965 production, there was a nine per cent increase in total crop value.

Oregon farmers again led the nation in production of snap beans for processing, filberts, several kinds of canberries, and several seeds.

The state also topped the nation in value of strawberries for processing, but placed second to California in total strawberry crop value, according to Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State University.

The top 10 crops in the state, in terms of value, were hay, wheat, potatoes, barley, strawberries, snap beans, cherries, pears, onions, and ryegrass, ranked in that order. Onions gained new glamour by replac-

ing green peas in the top 10 this season. Otherwise, the top 10 ranking crops were the same as last year.

These 10 crops accounted for nearly 75 per cent total commodity value in the state.

Field crops, which account for nearly four out of every five tons produced and slightly more than half of total value, were down a little in production, but value jumped seven per cent over last year. Oregon produced more than a third of the nation's grass and legume seeds in the 1966 season. Total tonnage was up a little, but value dropped four per cent.

Oregon farmers harvested more tree fruits and nuts during the year. Production increases were chalked up for apples, cherries, peaches, pears, walnuts, and filberts. Only prune production slipped. Value was up for all tree fruits and nuts except pears and prunes.

Production of most berries was up for the year including the important strawberry crop. The only dark spot in the berry picture was low prices for tame blackberries—more than a tenth of the crop was abandoned.

Vegetable output rose again during the year with most of the increase accounted for by processing vegetables.

Oregon ranks fourth in the nation in value of processed vegetables. The major items are snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, and beets. Oregon leads the nation in value of snap beans, ranks third in beets, and fourth in sweet corn and green peas.

For the nation as a whole, according to Mrs. Horrell, 1966 crop output tied 1963 as the second largest crop on record.

Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Chapin are in Mesa, Ariz., for a visit and, according to word received here, they are enjoying the warm weather with daytime temperatures around 75 degrees. They left January 12 and expected to be away about a month.

Lexington Oil Co-op

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Beginning at 10:30 A.M.

LEXINGTON GRANGE HALL

- Election of Officers
- Proposed Merger With Morrow County Grain Growers (MCGG)
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