

World Situation Puts Wheat Crop In Limbo State

By EUGENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

How does the rapid increase in world demand for food and a decrease in per capita production affect the United States grain industry?

Steve Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist, said in an Oregon Farm and Market Outlook article that government export assistance will continue to be an important factor in wheat markets.

Under the new food aid program, according to Marks, purchase authorizations are likely to be issued on a more selective basis than they have in recent years. This is because of the emphasis on self-help by aid recipient countries.

U. S. government officials, however, have said that the level of food assistance under Public Law 480 will be about the same as in recent years.

As for barley and other feed grains, increased barley production in Canada, Europe, Australia and the bumper corn crop in South Africa last year figure prominently in lower U. S. exports of these grains and the downturn in prices since the start of this year.

Japan, our best barley customer, has been buying much of her supply from Canada and Australia in recent months.

Corn growers plan 7% more acreage this year. This should show up the total supply for next year. Feed grains are being used up faster this year because of the increase in livestock and poultry population. Carryover into 1967-68 is expected to be down 40 per cent to about 25 million tons.

Copies of the Outlook article are available from the Carroll County Extension office.

Weed-Loving Insects Studied by USDA Scientists

Insects that have an appetite only for weeds are being tested by U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists to find effective biological controls for undesirable plants.

Dr. Lloyd A. Andres, entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, is leading intensive research and exhaustive explorations throughout the world to obtain weed-destroying insects that are adaptable to climates where weeds are a problem. State experiment stations are cooperating in the ARS program.

One promising insect is a small *Altica* beetle, native to Europe. It attacks Canada thistle, a weed which is widespread in the northern United States. Last summer, ARS and state scientists released this insect in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. If the beetle successfully establishes itself in these states, scientists will introduce it in other regions infested by the thistle.

Cinnabar moths and ragwort seed flies have been released in California and Oregon to fight tansy ragwort, or stinking willie, a toxic weed. Another western weed, puncturevine, may succumb to two weevils which attack the stems and seeds of the spiny-fruited plant.

These and other insects which mesh with the local environment may become economical, self-perpetuating weed-killers.

Columbia, North Pacific Water Land Study Started in Area

The states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, parts of Nevada, Wyoming and Montana, are involved in a large study of the water and related land resources in the Columbia drainage basin and the coastal drainage streams.

Russell Youmans, Oregon State University extension resource economist, said the state of Oregon is included with the exceptions of the Klamath and Goose Lake drainage systems.

This study is a portion of a nation-wide program of water resource studies covering 18 major drainage basins in the United States, he explained. The principal work is being done through an interagency committee consisting of representatives of the federal departments of Agriculture, Health, Education, and Welfare; Army, Interior; and the Federal Power Commission. The states included in the study area have representatives on all of the committees.

He said the study will not be developed to the extent of proposing specific projects for construction, but will include the following:

1. Economic base study and projections of economic development for the years 1960, 2000, and 2020.

2. Projection of water and related land needs for these years.

3. Inventory of the region's surface and ground water resources.

4. Inventory of the region's land resources and uses.

5. Formulation of framework plans to serve as guides for development and management of the region's water and related land resources.

Gets Frat Office

Lee Daggert of Heppner has been elected treasurer of his living group, Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, at Oregon State University, according to the OSU News Bureau. Daggert is a sophomore at Oregon State, majoring in the School of Business and Technology.

FARM



WHEAT GOODS play a prominent part in displays at the World Food Show, Tokyo, as this picture shows. Japanese housewives look at a spaghetti-macaroni display and to the left is a display of pancake mixes, all using U. S. wheats.

Wheat Associates Displays Products At World Show

By JOHN WELBES

Executive Vice President,
Oregon Wheat League

Western Wheat Associates, who represents the Oregon Wheat League in Japan, has just completed a very successful World Food Show in Tokyo. Products derived from U. S. and Pacific Northwest white wheat played a major role in the displays with the idea of selling more of our wheat.

This is the first of six World Food Shows and was held in the Keio Department Store in Tokyo, January 20th through the 25th. These shows are sponsored by the Food Agency and the National Food Life Improvement Association, and the purpose is nutrition education for the Japanese people.

Wheat Associates unveiled their new booth for these shows, which has four large back lighted color transparencies of U. S. wheat production, and a map of Japan with several back lighted color transparencies within this map showing the different wheat foods consumed in Japan.

The theme of this display is "From U. S. Wheat to Japanese Wheat Foods." Approximately 40 Japanese food industries participate in the show and they include some of our cooperators such as the Instant Ramen (Chinese Noodle) Association. Wheat foods predominated the show. Agricultural Attache Elmer Hollowell and Assistant WA Directors Tom Templeton and Paul Sone assisted in opening the show. Over 150,000 persons viewed the first show.

Timber Sales Up But Harvest Down In U. S. Forests

Timber sales in the Pacific Northwest Region of the U. S. Forest Service last year amounted to 4,738,055,000 board feet with a value of \$147,954,094, according to J. Herbert Stone, regional forester.

This is an increase of 263 million board feet over 1965 when sales in the 19 National Forests of Oregon and Washington totaled 4,475,085,000 board feet with value of \$122,011,511.

Figures just compiled show the amount of timber actually harvested in the National Forests in 1966 was 4,728,456,000 board feet, down from 1965's 5,419,569,000 board feet. However, total value of the 1966 harvest was \$119,673,808, up more than \$10 million over the 1965 figure of \$109,475,722.

The lower timber cut was due in part to substantial cutbacks in many plants that use National Forest timber, said Stone, noting that a noticeable reduction in housing starts in 1966 had a depressing effect on the wood products industry.

Volume of timber sold varies from the amount cut in any given year because the period in which a sale of timber is harvested ranges from a few weeks to several years.

The Pacific Northwest Region's annual sustained-yield allowable cut is 4.325 billion board feet. Since harvest figures are averaged out over a period of years, a higher harvest figure for 1966 does not violate the sustained-yield principle.

One-fourth of National Forest receipts, including those from timber, are returned to the counties having National Forest lands.

Other highlights in timber management included development of a comprehensive system to produce most of the accounting records for timber sale business by automatic data process, and use of a new timber sale contract form developed by the Forest Service through negotiation with timber industry representatives. The automatic data processing system was developed for the Northern, Intermountain, and California Regions as well as this Region. The Rogue River and Willamette National Forests in Oregon are now operating under the system.

Nixon Appointed To Commission

Robert Nixon of Junction City, who farms in Lane and Benton counties, was recently appointed to the Oregon Wheat Commission by Governor Tom McCall. He replaces Walter Shelby of Albany, who resigned.

Nixon's farming operations consist of 3,200 acres, specializing in grass seed production and cereals. He also runs 50 head of beef cattle and 140 head of sheep.

Nixon has served as chairman of the Benton county A.S.C.S. committee and at present is serving as a member of the committee. He has served on the board of directors of the Grange Oil Company and the North Lane Water Control District. He has been active in the Oregon Seed Growers organization, having also served on their board. Other activities include his terms as president and serving on the board of the Oregon Rye Grass Growers Association.

In the early 60's he was a member of the Junction City school district budget committee. Nixon is married and has two daughters.



ROBERT NIXON

Wheat Program Sign-ups Due By March 17

Only those wheat growers who have signed up to participate in the 1967 wheat program will be eligible for price support loans and marketing certificates on their 1967 wheat crop. The sign-up deadline is March 17, 1967.

This further reminder was issued by David McLeod, office manager of the Morrow ASCS County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office, who said he is concerned for the following reasons:

(1) Signup so far would indicate that some farmers who said earlier they intended to participate have not yet signed up. ASCS county offices may not issue certificates under the program for accidental compliance. The farmer must declare his intention in advance by signing up in the program prior to the deadline date.

(2) Farmers who wait until the last minute may find the ASCS county office crowded. This will cause farmers personal inconvenience because delays are inevitable if everyone tries to file program applications at the same time. Farmers who are interested in the wheat program should check with the county ASCS office as to how the program applies on their farms.

Weekly Market Review

By STEPHEN C. MARKS
Agricultural Economist
OSU Cooperative
Extension Service

Steer Prices Edge Up

In Oregon commodity markets the past week, slaughter steers sold 50 to 75 cents higher as March began but the trend elsewhere continued downward. Even with the modest price increase, choice steers still sold \$5 lower than a year earlier when they reached a seven-year high.

Meantime, steer calves picked up \$1 to improve their relative price position among cattle. While this raises the financial morale of cow-calf operators it is not a welcome development so far as feedlot operators are concerned. The spread between feeder cattle and the same grade of slaughter cattle has widened considerably since fed cattle prices started their descent earlier this year.

Hogs sold as much as 75 cents higher in Portland the past week but the trend at major Corn Belt markets continued downward. Hog marketings and slaughter continue at a much higher level than last winter. So prices are kept under severe pressure.

Lamb Volume Hurts

Lamb prices also continued to be depressed by much larger marketings and slaughter than a year ago. Lamb and mutton output in recent weeks has been running a third greater than a year earlier. Lamb prices should improve this spring after the large supplies of heavy lambs are sold out of feedlots. The spring lamb crop is smaller than it was last year because there are fewer ewes on farms and ranches than ever before.

Meat Abundance a Blessing
While the supply of meat remains in excess of demand at current prices, the increase can only be moved by some price roll-back all along the marketing pipeline. This means, more specialties should be appearing at retail counters.

Meantime, the USDA continues to purchase canned chopped meat, mostly pork and the department announced bids for choice grade boneless beef roasts and ground beef last week. The meat is being purchased for distribution to schools and needy families.

Eggs, Poultry Expand

Egg and poultry producers are striving to chalk up another banner year. Egg producers, already have 5 per cent more layers than they did a year ago and egg production appears to be rolling toward a mark 10 per cent above last spring. January's egg output was 7 per cent greater than the same month in 1966.

Broiler growers are holding the line on production. But their output still exceeds the volume produced last winter. Meantime, turkey growers continue to expand at a rapid clip. For the fifth month in a row, turkey hatcheries produced more poults than a year earlier with about a 26 per cent increase in February.

Freeze Nip New Potatoes

Russet potatoes are somewhat scarcer than they were last winter but prices are not a great deal higher than they

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Ag Department Eyes East Oregon

"Where do we go from here?" The State Board of Agriculture asked itself this question during its recent meeting in Salem after a look at the functions of the board and of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

For the immediate future the board discussed arranging for Director Walter Leth to meet with groups in the board members' areas and the members helping create an image for Oregon agriculture by explaining department programs to people in their areas and showing how the programs tie in with consumer activities.

In a review of the law establishing the department Director Leth noted there were 55 statutes pertaining to department functions and some 80 programs coming under these laws.

Other suggestions for future activities were:

A continuation of contacts made in California by the Legislative Interim Committee on Agriculture and department personnel, with the idea that Oregon could serve as a market basket for California.

Establishment of a relationship between the West Coast States.

Investigation of further foreign markets.

A joint session of the boards of Agriculture of Oregon, Washington and California.

A look at the land problems of Eastern Oregon and the tremendous potential there for more agricultural land, which in some areas could produce 10 times more than it is now producing, while at the same time encouraging multiple use of this vast reservoir of land.

Director Leth urged the board to stand ready to aid the new Agri-Business Council if asked for assistance and commented that agriculture could be proud of what it was doing for other people.

In the discussion on land uses, Joe Saito, Ontario, reported some 9,000 acres of bench land in his area, previously thought to be unsuitable for agriculture now were to be used for potato production.

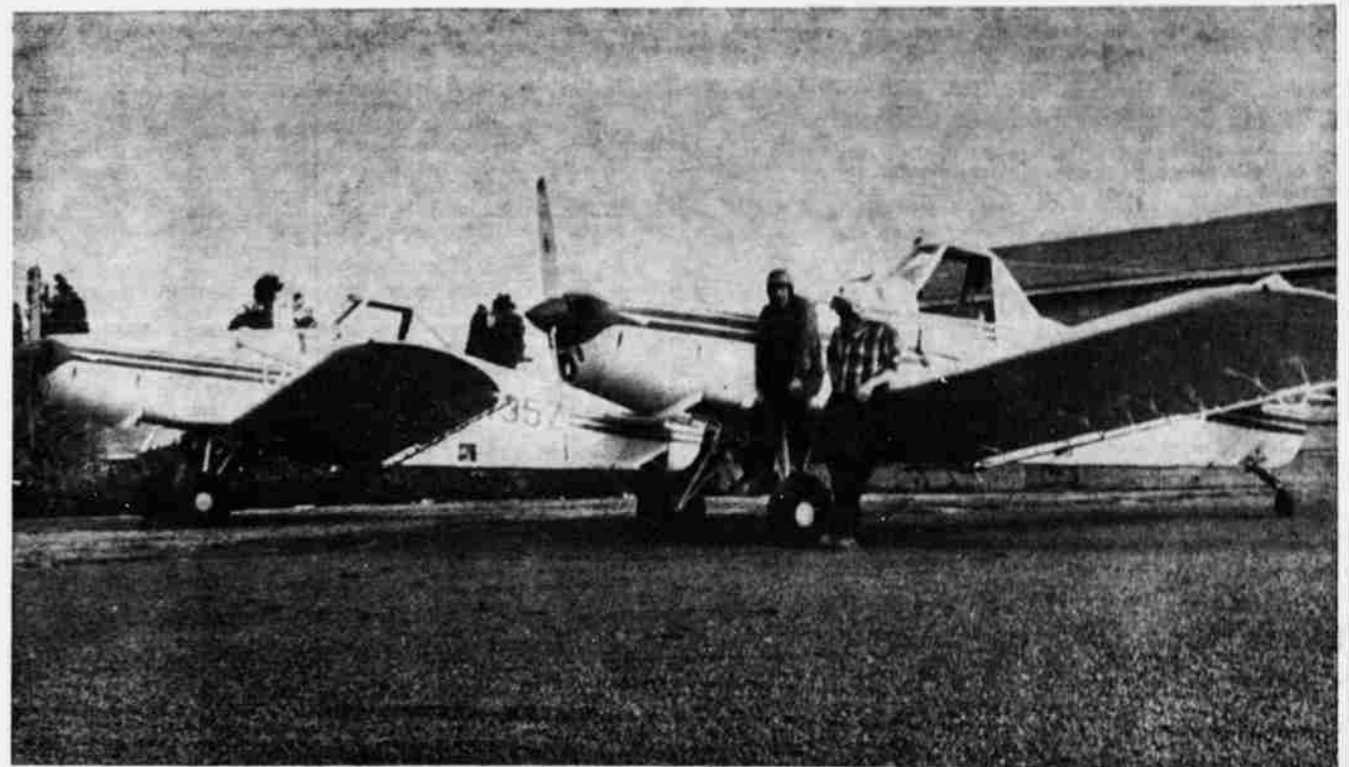
Reporting on activity in his area, Hubert Wiloughby, Harrisburg, commented that the yearly value of all products from Linn County was set at \$25,986,000, noting that ryegrass fields were also used to fatten feeder lambs and some years as many as 70,000 feeders fed on this land.

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