

HOOVER NOT TO FIX PRICES FOR MEAT SUPPLIES

Government to Leave Livestock to Laws of Supply and Demand—Problem is Production, Not Price—Cheap Meat Gone, Never to Return—Annual Supply Decreases.

BY HARRY B. HUNT, Staff Specialist.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—What is Uncle Sam going to do about meat? He has fixed the wheat price, licensed the miller and is regulating the baker to reduce bread 20 to 25 percent.

He has taken over the buying of all sugar for ourselves and allies, establishing a price and limiting profits.

He has fixed the mine prices of coal and intends with strict supervision to reduce the cost of fuel.

No Meat Price Fixing.

Is he going to follow the same course with meats, at unprecedented and prohibitive prices? If not, why not?

The answer to the first question is short. He is not.

There will be no arbitrary price limit to the American farmer of stock raises for his hogs, steers or sheep. There will be no licensing of packers, and supervision of middlemen's profits, but the price of livestock is to be left absolutely to supply and demand.

Which means, in the opinion of government experts, that 20-cent ham and 25-cent porterhouse steaks have gone, probably never to return.

For the world's big meat problem today is not the price, but production. For the remainder of the war, and probably for years thereafter, the big fight will be the production of sufficient meat at any price.

Figures gathered here show that the world's supply of meat-producing livestock has decreased 115,005,000 from pre-war numbers.

Fewer Livestock.

There are 28,850,000 fewer cattle, 32,425,000 fewer hogs, and 54,400,000 fewer sheep. Hogs and cattle have increased slightly in the United States, but the unprecedented exports have more than offset this.

Our average meat shipments for three years preceding the war totalled 492,348,000 pounds annually. In the year ending June 30, 1916, our meat exports reached 1,512,375,000 pounds—more than treble our normal exports—and the year ending June 30, 1917, far exceeded this, exports of pork alone totalling 1,441,105,000 pounds.

The two things that can relieve the meat situation are:

Use Fish and Fowl.

The reduction of domestic consumption, by substitution of fish and poultry and vegetable dishes.

Increased production of livestock for meat purposes.

The former has been undertaken by the food administration; the latter is being urged by it and the department of agriculture.

The official opinion here, however, is that any attempt to fix livestock prices at the farm would kill all chances of increased herds. The farmer and stockman must feel that he has a free market.

So far as possible, the consumer will be protected by the elimination of speculative profits, of excessive middlemen's charges, and by better distribution. But that's all.

While urging increasing our meat supply, the government at the same time must check the sale of mature animals fit for breeding. Because of high prices many farms have been stripped of breeding hogs and cattle.

Meat to Remain High.

As a result our volume of dairy produce has fallen off sharply while at the same time we must ship increasing amounts of butterfat, cheese and condensed milk to our allies, forced to sacrifice their dairy herds. As a good dairy cow is more valuable in producing milk and butter, and increasing dairy herds, than as beef, the prices of milk and butter must be maintained high enough to induce the farmer to keep her, rather than realize a large price for her as beef.

As an indication of the hog problem, a government census on 8000 Kentucky farms shows only about 11,000 brood sows, obviously far too low a ratio.

Even in the hog-raising sections of the middle west it has been found impossible to get sufficient hogs to consume the garbage of the various army cantonments.

The public's hope, then, of any appreciable or early reduction in the prices of meats, is vain. Meats are high and will continue high.

PRIZE WINNERS CULINARY EXHIBITS AT COUNTY FAIR

Additional prize winners in the manufacturing and culinary classes of the county fair have been announced. Needlework exhibits were particularly noteworthy and the board of award had no little difficulty in deciding just what were the best among a display seldom equaled. Awards have been made as follows:

Ladies' Manufacturing Department.

Fancy Apron—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge, first; Mrs. R. W. Waters, second.

Embroidered apron cover—Hazel Wiley.

Night gowns—Patricia Miksche, first; Ermina Wilson, second.

Embroidered pair pillow slips—Miss Bernice Cameron, first and second.

Embroidered, combination suit—Hazel Wiley.

Embroidered guest towels—Mrs. L. B. Booth.

Solid embroidered centerpiece—Mrs. W. R. Newman.

Eyebled embroidered centerpiece—Mrs. L. B. Booth, first; St. Mary's academy, second.

Drawnwork centerpiece—Mrs. H. W. Oliver, first and second.

Embroidered luncheon set (13 pieces)—Mrs. H. W. Oliver, first; Mrs. R. W. Newman, second.

Embroidered luncheon napkins—Mrs. C. E. Ferguson.

Embroidered lunch cloth—Mrs. C. E. Ferguson, first; Mrs. Sadie Nichols, second.

Embroidered sofa pillow—Ermina Wilson.

Most artistic sofa pillow—Ermina Wilson, first; Mrs. Sarah Andrus, second.

Display Swedish darning—Elizabeth B. McKay.

Embroidered bed sheet and pillow slips—Mrs. C. E. Ferguson.

Embroidered bedspread and pillow cover—Mrs. J. B. Fisher.

Embroidered gent's initial handkerchief—Elizabeth B. McKay.

Log cabin quilt—Miss Alice Hopkins, first and second.

Most practical kitchen apron—Mrs. R. W. Elden.

Pair hand-made pillow slips and sheet—Mrs. Thomas Riley.

Pair hemstitched pillow slips—Mrs. D. A. McCurdy.

Doll outfit—Edith Campbell.

Patchwork quilt—Mrs. Hattie Butterfield, first; Mrs. F. W. Gray, second.

Patchwork quilt, quilting considered—Mrs. W. H. Meeker.

Handkerchief tatting edge—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge, first; Mrs. P. F. Close, second.

Handkerchief crochet edge—Mrs. Sadie Nichols, first and second.

Handkerchief, lace-trimmed edge—Mrs. Maggie Grant.

Pair mittens—Mrs. Sarah Andrus.

Two yards knitted lace—Mrs. L. B. Booth, first; Mrs. J. A. Rose, second.

Crochet centerpiece—Helen King.

Macrame lunch set—Elizabeth B. McKay.

Crochet lace, any kind—Mrs. Carl Bowman, first and second.

Two yards insertion, any kind—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge.

Irish crochet boudoir cap—Earl Smith.

Lace lunch cloth—Mrs. Rudolph Wehrli, first; Mrs. Carl Bowman, second.

Lace-trimmed pillow slips—Mrs. Regina Bohm, first; Mrs. R. W. Waters, second.

Fillet centerpiece—Mrs. E. E. Wilson, first; Mrs. E. W. Liljegrav, second.

Two yards tatting edge—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge.

Tatting yoke—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge, first; Mrs. H. W. Oliver, second.

Half-dozen tatting medallions—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge.

Collar and cuff tatting—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge, first; Mrs. H. W. Oliver, second.

Tatting bag—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge, first; Mrs. Sarah Andrus, second.

Tatting display—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge.

Embroidered jacket—Mrs. B. T. DeLoach.

Embroidered dress—Mrs. B. T. DeLoach, first; Mrs. J. S. VanDorfy, second.

Crochet booties—Mrs. Carl Bowman, first and second.

Crochet carriage robe—Miss Maggie Grant.

Handsome baby outfit—Mrs. S. S. Smith.

Infant's bonnet—Mrs. H. W. Oliver.

Best knitted navy league set—Medford Red Cross.

Table runner, brown linen lace—Anna Neidermeier.

Centerpiece, colored embroidery—Mrs. E. H. Neidermeier, first; Patricia Miksche, second.

Centerpiece, brown lace trimmed—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge, first; Elizabeth McKay, second.

Culinary.

Salt rising bread—Mrs. D. A. McCurdy.

Graham bread—Mrs. L. Neidermeier, first; Mrs. R. W. Elden, second.

Nut bread—Mrs. W. D. Holdridge, first; Julia Wiley, second.

White bread—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, first; Mrs. R. Nelson, second.

Steam brown bread—Hazel Wiley.

Half-dozen cookies—Miss Edith Holdridge, first; Mrs. L. Neidermeier, second.

Sunshine cake—Mrs. R. W. Elden.

Devil's food cake—Lucille Morse.

Angel food cake—Mrs. W. C. Cartwright.

Strawberries—Mrs. E. J. Cameron, first; Mrs. Edward Soutter, second.

Loganberries—Mrs. D. M. Lowe, first; Mrs. A. T. Lathrop, second.

Blackberries—Mrs. D. M. Lowe, first; Mrs. R. W. Elden, second.

Raspberries—Mrs. D. M. Lowe, first; Mrs. R. W. Elden, second.

Best display pickles—Mrs. Carl Bowman, first; Mrs. A. T. Lathrop, second.

Best collection canned fruit—Mrs. D. M. Lowe, first; Mrs. A. T. Lathrop, second.

Fine Arts and Floriculture.

Largest collection china painted—St. Mary's academy, first; Mrs. W. C. Cartwright, second.

Best specimen hand-painted—Mrs. C. A. Meeker, first; Mrs. W. C. Cartwright, second.

Painted tankard—St. Mary's Academy.

Painted jardiniere—Mrs. C. A. Meeker.

Painted lemonade jug—Isabel Phipps, first; Mrs. C. A. Meeker, second.

Painted dresser set, 4 pieces—Mrs. C. E. Ferguson.

Painted vase—Ermina Wilson, first; Mrs. C. A. Meeker, second.

Hammered brass collection—James Vestal.

Hammered brass specimen—Mrs. Earl Gaddis.

Portrait from life—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, first and second.

Flowers from nature—Mrs. H. D. Howard.

Still life, oil—Vera Hutchins, first and second.

Landscape, oil—Mrs. H. D. Howard, first; Alice Hopkins, second.

Marine scene—Mrs. L. B. Booth, first; Vera Hutchins, second.

Landscape, water color—Mrs. W. C. Cartwright, first; Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, second.

Original landscape, water color—Mrs. W. C. Cartwright.

Marine scene, water color—Isabel Phipps, first and second.

Flowers, water color—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, first and second.

Fancy head, water color—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, first and second.

Original landscape, water color—Mrs. W. C. Cartwright.

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Marine scene, water color—Isabel Phipps, first and second.

Flowers, water color—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, first and second.

Fancy head, water color—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, first and second.

Original landscape, water color—Mrs. W. C. Cartwright.

Sepia, water color—Mrs. W. C. Cartwright, first; Isabel Phipps, second.

Pastel, water color—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, first and second.

Crayon specimen—Alice Hopkins, first; Vera Hutchins, second.

Pencil drawing—Elizabeth B. McKay.

Pen drawing—Elizabeth B. McKay.

Best collection asters—Mrs. John F. White.

General exhibit cactus dahlias—Mrs. R. W. Elden.

General exhibit paeony dahlias—Mrs. R. W. Elden.

Best basket of Dahlias—R. H. Paxson, first; Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth, second.

Best bowl dahlias—Mrs. R. H. Ellsworth.

Best general exhibit of all dahlias grown—Mrs. R. W. Elden.

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