

# Farmers Cash in on Improved Prices; End of Nation's Problem Not Indicated

Washington—UPI—American farmers cashed in during 1958 on improved prices for many of the things they raise combined with near-ideal growing weather. But an estimated 20 per cent increase in net farm income did not signal the beginning of the end of the nation's farm problem.

The record-breaking harvests of 1958 and the prospect of another big production year in 1959 brought predictions of some relief for consumers who paid record-high retail food prices this year. They were expected to average a little lower in 1959.

But Agriculture Department economists were predicting that farm income would head down again next year. With that decline, administration farm officials will face new problems in handling crop surpluses which began to build up again in 1958.

the Benson program. Several GOP lawmakers from farm states interpreted them to mean that the Midwest and Great Plains farmer, once a solid Republican, now distrusts the party and its leading farm spokesman.

But Benson preferred to read farm opinion from the results of a Nov. 25 corn referendum in which corn growers were asked to decide whether they wanted continuation of acreage controls and present price support levels or were willing to abandon the controls and accept lower supports.

About 71 per cent of the

346,539 farmers who went to the polls in 26 states voted to shift to the no-control system. This will take effect for corn with the 1959 crop.

Critics of administration farm policy charged the referendum was "loaded" and said Benson had rigged the proposed level of 1959 allotments and price supports to produce a vote in favor of his own policy. But the Agriculture Secretary hailed the result as grass roots endorsement of his program.

**Most in Opposition**

But most farm commodity groups and general farm organizations were still lined

up in opposition to Benson's policies.

With the major exception of the American Farm Bureau Federation, they were ready to ask Congress to turn away from Benson's path and consider a variety of alternate plans, including direct support payments, two-price programs with high domestic prices balancing low export levels, food stamp aid to the needy and self-help programs in which farmers would tax themselves to prop up prices.

With some 25 million acres of cropland held out of production in the soil bank, and Federal production controls

in effect for many major crops, farmers still managed to produce the biggest crop harvest in history.

Per-acre yields averaged an amazing 43 per cent above 1947-49 while total crop output rose to 18 per cent above the average for those post-war years. There were new records for such crops as

wheat, corn, soybeans, and grain sorghums.

The government's multi-billion-dollar pile of surplus farm products, which had been dwindling with the aid of subsidized export programs, began growing again as the big crops poured into the price support program last summer and fall.

The Agriculture Department's price support investment rose from \$6,854,250,000 on Sept. 30, 1957, to \$7,498,532,000 last Sept. 30.

tailled in 1959, also helped push farm income up faster than the steadily-rising cost of operating farms. Net farm income for 1958 was estimated at 13 billion dollars, 20 per cent higher than last year.

Researchers reported development of an experimental dry whole milk which could be reconstituted into a product looking and tasting like fresh milk. In other government laboratories, scientists

developed a method for making boxboard from bagasse, a waste material left over in sugar extraction.

Another highlight was a report from plant breeders that they now have some experimental wheat varieties which yield crops for several years without replanting and others which produce both grain and animal forage in the same year.

## 1958 Could Hardly Be Called Year of Success in Hollywood

Hollywood—UPI—Movie-town made some of its best pictures—and some of its worst—in 1958, a year that could hardly be called a howling financial success.

But a handful of quality films established a trend which most cinema folks agree will continue next year, and for years to come.

Fewer flicks will be made in 1959 (a new low of 194 features were produced in 1958) but they will continue to improve in quality and cost.

**Most Expensive**

This year's goodies were the most expensive in history—"Auntie Mame," "Gigi," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Vertigo," "Teacher's Pet," "The Young Lions," "The Old Man and the Sea" were counted among the best pictures of 1958, too. But perhaps the best of the lot was "The Defiant Ones," which won critical praise from everyone.

These pictures overshadowed some of the bombs that embarrassed Hollywood.

Though they were money-makers among teen-agers, science-fiction and horror epics bounced to new lows, with the worst of the lot being crime sensationals, "Girls, Guns and Gangsters," "I Was a Teenage Werewolf," "Hot Rod Gang" and "The Curse of the Faceless Man" presented colossal cinematic trash.

**No Bright New Stars**

For the first time in many years Hollywood failed to come up with any bright, new talent, spelled new trouble forstars in 1958. The top roles

continued to fall to graying old stars, or to the crop of young Actors' Studio performers who invaded the town two years ago.

Top performances—already being rumored as Oscar material—were turned in by Elizabeth Taylor ("Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"), Spencer Tracy ("The Last Hurrah"), Tony Curtis ("The Defiant Ones") and Marlon Brando ("The Young Lions").

During 1958 many top-notchers were filmed, but will not be seen by the bulk of American movie-goers until next year—among them, "The Journey" with Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr, and "Inn of the Sixth Happiness," starring Ingrid Bergman and Curt Jurgens. Both were produced abroad.

**Two Captured After Attempted Robbery**

San Carlos, Calif.—UPI—Two men who failed in an attempt to rob a discount house of \$10,000 were captured Wednesday after a police chase.

The suspects were identified as William Fairchild, 31, and Henry M. Lang, 19, both of San Mateo.

Fairchild said he had been out of work and wanted the money to pay rent and buy Christmas presents for his four children.

Police said the two gunmen, wearing a disguise of lipstick, mascara and hair dye, burst into Dahnen's discount house, pistol whipped the manager and another employee and tied up a clerk.

**Pulling Out Stops**

Add to that list "The Diary of Anne Frank," Lana Turner in "Imitation of Life," "This Earth is Mine" starring Rock Hudson, and "Rally 'Round the Flag," and it becomes apparent Hollywood is pulling out all the stops.

The new year could be a "make or break" 12 months for movies, and the men who make the cameras turn, are determined to "make it"—big.

**Chinese Nationals Shelve Amendment**

Taipei, Formosa—UPI—The National assembly has formally shelved a constitutional amendment which would have made it possible for President Chiang Kai-shek to seek reelection in 1960.

Chiang announced Tuesday that he opposes any amendment of the Constitution for the purpose of extending his tenure in office.

When the proposed amendment came up at Thursday's assembly session, it was referred to the Assemblymen's association for "further study"—a standard procedure for shelving a measure in the Chinese parliament. It is not likely to come up again.

**APPROVE BUDGET**

Belgrade, Yugoslavia—UPI—The Yugoslav National Assembly approved Thursday a 1959 federal budget calling for a \$56,700,000 increase in defense spending.

### Simple Rites for Victim of Triangle

Berkeley, Calif.—UPI—A simple funeral service was held today for Wolfgang Ludwig Marx, 26, German physics student at University of California who was shot to death 10 days ago by a jealous husband.

The service was arranged by Marx's second cousin, Miss Anne Lamotte, a New York City nurse who came here early this week.

Marx will be buried in the Golden Gate National cemetery near San Francisco. He was buried in a military cemetery because he served for a while in the U.S. Army.

A research chemist, John Hampton, 31, shot and killed Marx on Dec. 16 in a physics laboratory. He said he did so because Marx and his pretty German-born wife, Madeleine, 29, had been having an affair.

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