



FARM NEWS



Wheat Queen Sees Better Prices

FORECASTS FAIR PRICE IN 90 DAYS

Kansas Woman With One Of Largest Crops Optimistic

By NEA Service

SUBLETTE, Kan., Aug. 1.—The "wheat queen" of the world, Mrs. Ida Watkins, who cultivates 5,000 acres of the grain near here, fears no farm depression for wheat growers in Kansas. Despite the general pessimism prevalent in the southwest due to low prices of wheat, Mrs. Watkins believes prices will go up soon, due to the holding up of wheat crops by farmers in this territory.

Out here where wheat is grown on a large scale and living expenses are comparatively low, farmers can afford to hold up their wheat crop until prices rise, Mrs. Watkins believes. But this is not applicable back east, where land values are high and wheat is but a small portion of the crops grown.

Pausing in the job of harvesting her 5,000 acres, Mrs. Watkins says:

"Leave Wheat to West"

"Farmers in the hard wheat belt are holding most of their crop. They have made up their minds to hold the wheat until they get a fair price, and have arranged things so as to be able to wait. This southwest country is the big wheat producer of the world. If it decides to hold for a higher price, the higher price will come."

"Let them grow other crops back east," she continues, "where land is high and combines impractical and where other crops will pay as high or higher returns. Wheat is our crop out here. It's the only crop we can grow on much of this land. And we can raise it cheaper than anywhere else on earth."

Mrs. Watkins, who formerly was owner of a ranch inherited from her husband, started her huge wheat holdings with a small parcel of land bought in Kansas about 1916. She increased this yearly until her holdings have yielded 50,000 bushels of wheat so far this year.

She has a 25,000-bushel capacity in the granaries on her 5,000 acres, which include some land worked by tenants in addition to that which is farmed under her personal supervision. She plans to store almost as much wheat on the ground, where in this climate it suffers only a small loss, in order to hold her crop for a higher price.

"I haven't decided what price I'm holding for," she says. "But I know the present price is too low and can't continue. I look for a return to a fair price within 90 days."

The basis of Mrs. Watkins' conviction that the market is lower than the situation warrants, and can be forced up by farmers holding their wheat in this section, is the low yields this year over the southwest, the "breadbasket of the world."

"I estimate that this section as a whole will average only about a third normal crop," she says. "My wheat is averaging only 15 bushels to the acre or slightly better, and it is rated among the best grown anywhere in this territory this year. Last year, on the other hand, when we averaged 20 bushels to an acre, it was hardly up to average."

Mrs. Watkins points out that crop forecasts have been unduly boosted by the big rush of early harvest grain, caused by the fact that wheat cutting this year was one to two weeks ahead of its usual dates, and by the hot dry weather and freedom from weeds, which allowed harvest to go ahead without delay.

The flow of wheat to market, she believes, is about over. For this reason she thinks the acreage reduction scheme of the federal farm board and the U. S. department of agriculture is unnecessary to raise prices of wheat.

WHEAT SHIPMENTS

From July 1, 1935, to June 30, 1936, 21,199-178 bushels of wheat were shipped from the Columbia river and 4,151,126 bushels from Puget Sound. In the same period 1,256,634 barrels of flour were shipped from the Columbia river and 2,162,534 barrels from Puget Sound. Of the wheat shipped from the Columbia river, 94,158 bushels went to coast points; 14,984,973 bushels went to Europe; 158,498 bushels to China, and 5,931,219 bushels to Japan. Of the flour from the Columbia river, 27,356 barrels went to coast points; 46,048 barrels to Europe; 886,789 barrels to China, and 189,226 barrels to Manila.

OLD HORSESHOE SURVIVES

Toronto Globe: Refreshing news comes to hand that the horseshoers are to hold a convention in Toronto. Since a forge has died out since "the smith, a mighty man," was somewhat of a public character, but it is good to know that there are enough horseshoers left to form an association and convene just the same as more modern organizations.



"World's 'wheat queen,' Mrs. Ida Watkins, shown in inset and her car on one of her half sections of wheat in Kansas

HOW TO RAISE POULTRY

By Dr. L. D. LeGear, V. S., St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. LeGear is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, 1892. Thirty-six years of veterinary practice on diseases of live stock and poultry. Eminent authority on poultry and stock raising. Nationally known poultry breeder. Noted author and lecturer.

ARTICLE XLV A Good Start Is Half the Race

Much Depends on the Way
Chicks Are Handled During
the First Few Days of Their
Existence — Correct Feeding
Practices Should Be Put Into
Effect From the Start.

Editor's Note: This is another story in a series of 52 stories on poultry raising written by the well-known national poultry authority Dr. L. D. LeGear, V. S., of St. Louis. The entire series will appear in this paper. Our readers are urged to read them carefully and clip them out for future reference.

"As the twig is bent so will the tree be inclined," was not spoken of chicks, but the proverb fits splendidly. Chicks must get a good start if they are to develop into good layers. In the first place, strong chicks are necessary. Good environment, sanitary quarters, freedom from dampness and plenty of warmth for comfort are all important factors, but nothing is quite so important as proper feeding.

The ideal feeding method is one which keeps the chicks growing every minute. If your present methods are accomplishing that result, do not change but unless your chicks are developing regularly from day to day so that you can literally and actually see them grow, you will probably profit by changing to another plan. That does not mean a more difficult or complicated one. On the contrary, it often means simpler and easier methods—most certainly more effective ones.

The time to start proper feeding is the very moment your chicks arrive from the hatchery or when taken from the nest or from your own incubator. Thousands of chicks are killed every year by premature feeding or by being given the wrong kinds of food materials during their first few hours of freedom.

Nature provides all the nourishment needed by a chick during the first two or three days of its life. Just before it emerges from the shell, what is left of the yolk which nourished the chick before hatching is absorbed into its abdominal cavity. This supplies all the nourishment needed for the first 48 to 60 hours. To feed anything else during this time may lead to serious digestive disorders, causing death later on if not at once. A considerable percentage of so-called white diarrhea cases are caused by premature or improper feeding at this time.

While chicks should receive no grain, mash or other solid food 48 to 60 hours, they can have water, fresh buttermilk or sour milk from the start. If the milk is available water is not necessary, otherwise see that they constantly have before them clean water into which is dissolved chick tablets. Water or milk should be given in clean shallow dishes or drinking fountains so arranged that the chicks cannot get into them with their feet.

After about 48 to 60 hours, give them their first feed, placing the food on clean paper or in shallow trays so they can see it and learn to eat easily. Do not overfeed as it is extremely dangerous. Baby chicks should be fed about every three hours for the first two weeks and never at any time should they be given more than they can clean up in about 15 minutes. It is much better to keep them hungry than to stuff them during this period.

Scatter a little grain and fine grit in the litter the first day or two after you start feeding them and teach the little fellows to scratch. If they find some of the grain in the litter they will learn to scratch readily, all their grain feed should be fed in the litter, as exercise is very important for baby chicks. It causes growth and wards off disease. I can usually teach my chicks to scratch the second or third day,

and then I scatter all grain in the litter.

Litter is very essential for baby chicks that are brooded inside. It is the means of providing the exercise necessary for the chicks' growth and continuous appetite. It should be dry and clean and free from mold or mud.

Chaff that is found in all straw makes excellent litter for chicks. In fact, I prefer it to any other. Shake the chaff from the straw and use it for the chicks. Alfalfa is good, but it should not be as fine as dust, as that will get into the nostrils of the chicks and cause inflammation. Bright straw, hay or alfalfa cut into short pieces makes excellent litter for baby chicks.

I have carried on hundreds of experiments during the past 15 years and as a result of the knowledge thus gained, I have developed a very successful method of feeding baby chicks. Unfortunately, lack of space prevents me from incorporating my method in this article, although I hope to give it in the next one. Should you miss the next article or desire any further information about the handling and feeding of baby chicks, I shall be glad to answer any questions addressed to me in care of the editor of this paper. (Copyright, 1929, by Dr. L. D. LeGear, V. S.)

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LATEST NEWS OF MARKETS

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 1. (A. P.)—Flour prices followed the downward wheat market today. Reductions averaging 20c a barrel were announced by the Sperry Flour company. This brought family patent to \$6.20 and pastry flour to \$5.70.

The butter market was firm at Thursday's advances. Receipts were comparatively light. The egg market as a whole was fairly steady with supplies reasonable. Pullet eggs have begun to come in from Oregon farms. They bring 14c to 15c a dozen sold to retailers.

Huckleberries are on the local market at 20c a pound. Tomato receipts are liberal, with prices ranging from 9c to \$1 for the best stock from The Dalles.

California cantaloupe prices are being cut to clean up the supply in anticipation of the arrival of the Yakima product. The ruling price is \$3.25 to \$3.50 a crate.

CATTLE: Receipts 150, calves 10. Quotably steady.

HOGS: Receipts 250, including 200 on contract. Opening steady.

SHEEP: Receipts 200. Quotably steady.

WHEAT (city delivery prices): Family patents, 49c, \$6.20; whole wheat, 49c, \$5.30; Graham, 49c, \$5.10; bakers' hard wheat, 58c, \$6.00; bakers' Blue-stem patents, 58c, \$6.40; pastry flour, 49c, \$5.20.

SUGAR (sacked basis): Steady. Cane, fruit or berry, \$4.90 per cwt.; beet sugar, \$4.70 cwt.

BUTTER: Firm, unchanged.

EGGS: Fairly steady, unchanged.

Milk, poultry, country meats, onions, potatoes, wool, mohair, nuts, hay, caviars, bark, hops, steady, unchanged.

STABILIZED VALUES SEEN

Expect Farm Problem To
Be Solved By Such
Action

By NEA Service

MADISON, Wis., Aug. 1.—In 10 years farm lands have changed from good to unprofitable investments and now "the so-called farm problem is nothing more or less than to give stability to agricultural prices and values."

That is the belief of H. L. Russell, director, and K. L. Hatch, assistant director of the college of agriculture, University of Wisconsin.

"When the investor in farm lands can feel that his investment is secure, and that the returns from it will be reasonably certain, then and not until then, will agriculture regain its former stability," the men say.

But while farm land values and farm prices have been down

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