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Weekly Market Trend

(Editor's Note: The following market information is supplied from material obtained over the government leased wire in the office of the extension economist at Oregon State college. The material, in the form of a weekly summary of trends in the livestock market, is not intended to replace day by day market reports.)

PORTLAND LIVESTOCK

Salable receipts of livestock at North Portland, Monday, February 12, were somewhat larger than a week previous. Cattle totaled 2100 head, an increase of 300 head, hogs at 1000 were 150 more than a week earlier, while sheep and lambs at 1000 were double those of a week previous. Trading was active in all divisions and some price gains were recorded on cattle. Good to choice fed steers were quoted up to \$16.50. Hogs continued at the ceiling of \$15.75 and good to choice lambs at \$13.00 to \$13.25.

CATTLE CEILING

The new cattle price stabilization program that went into effect January 28 has had little apparent effect on the market. The level of the stabilization price range for the two grades at Portland has been raised a little but other grades remain the same as under the old program. The maximum prices of the range of grades for cattle at Portland are as follows: choice \$17.00, good \$16.45, commercial \$13.75, utility \$11.65, canner and cutters \$8.80, and boned and boxed \$10.15.

The minimum prices of the range of prices for each grade is \$1.50 below its maximum.

In addition to these maximum prices to which the slaughterers monthly drove must conform, if he is to collect the subsidy, there is now an over-all ceiling, above which no animal is to sell. For the Portland market this over-all ceiling is \$15.60.

MEAT SUPPLIES

Although the federally inspected slaughter of livestock in the United States in 1944 established an all-time record, the WFA has found it necessary to reduce the allotment of meat going to civilians during the first quarter of 1945.

Of an estimated 5,092,000,000 pounds of meat available for the January-March quarter, civilians have been allocated nearly 4,001,000,000 pounds, approximately 2 out of every three pounds. The civilian allocation is 113,000,000 pounds below that originally allocated for the quarter. The January-March allocation is 18 per cent less than the amount civilians received during the last quarter of 1944.

Of military and war services have been allocated 1,427,000,000 pounds, or 23 1/2 per cent of the total, while lend-lease and other export programs have been allocated 665,000,000 pounds of 10 per cent of the estimated total.

The reduced allocation to civilians has been made because of the continued heavy military demand and the smaller numbers of hogs for slaughter as compared with last year. Hog slaughter was at a record high during the early part of 1944 and for the entire 12 months of 1944 was 9 per cent above that of 1943 and 35 per cent above average. Slaughter in January this year fell below January 1944.

In view of this situation, the WFA has taken steps to encourage larger hog production. Farmers are asked to save additional sows for farrowing in 1945 if feed supplies and other conditions permit. To encourage the increase in production, the WFA has extended the date for hog price supports on weights 200 to 270 pounds to March 31, 1946. The support level at various points is to be \$2.25 under the ceiling price at the respective points. Thus the support price is to be \$12.50 at Portland through March 31, 1946, according to the latest announcement.

Cattle slaughter in 1944 was also high—being 19 per cent above 1943 and 20 per cent above average. Calf slaughter showed even a greater increase with a gain of 40 per cent over 1943 and 44 per cent above average. Slaughter of sheep and lambs in 1944 was 6 per cent less than in 1943 but still 12 per cent above average.

The inspected slaughter of cattle, calves, hogs and sheep in 1944 totaled, in excess of 12,000,000 head and was an all-time record, or 9 million head larger than 1943.

WOOL

With the exception of the taking up of options on original bag and half-blood and graded half-blood territory wools, domestic wools were very slow in the Boston wool market this week.

Buyers, throughout the season, had been closely following appraisals and purchasing those lots on which they felt the appraisal price was in their favor, and had left in the market only those lots which in their opinion were over-appraised. Their need for domestic wools has resulted in their purchasing, in many instances, 10 per cent of these lots, and placing options on the balance.

A few sales of territory wools were made last week. Colorado graded fine brought 40.5 to 40.2 cents, half-blood was 40.5 to 32.4, and three-eighths blood 40.4 to 31.8 cents, grease basis.

MILK PRODUCERS

Enter With Bill

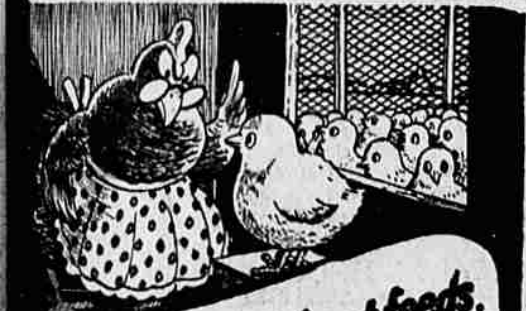
Feb. 15 (AP)—Small producers, charging that big producers are trying to get out of business by pasteurization laws, put their bill in today to get the big producers.

A measure, introduced by Thomas R. Mahoney, Portland, would compel all producers to certify milk to stamp the pasteurization on the cap.

Many large producers put milk in storage for several days after pasteurizing it, the producers feel this would be an advantage.

House food and dairy will hold a hearing tonight on the milk pasteurization bill.

Filed Ads Bring Results.



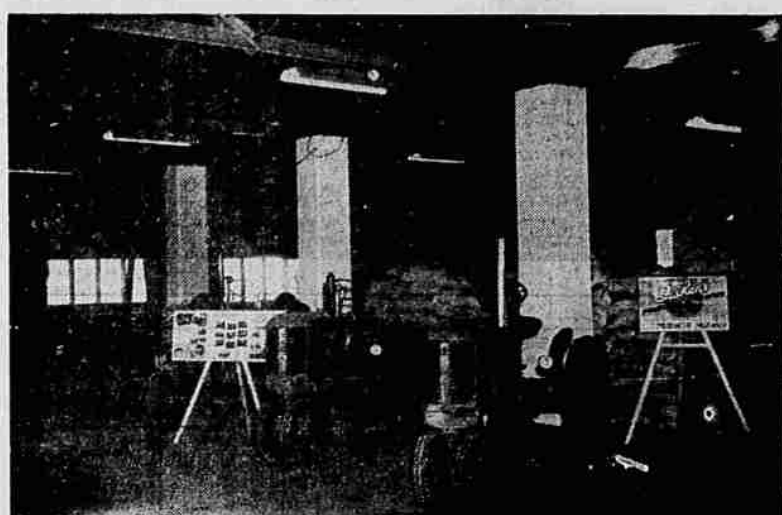
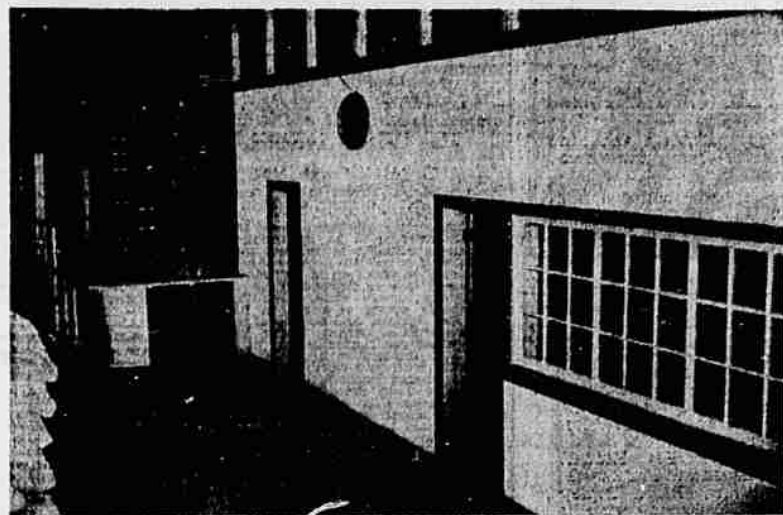
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Many other farm needs and merchandise will be added later