Farm Products Parity Prices Show Increase

Parity prices for farm products were higher at mid-March than a month before, according to the weekly review of farm market, price and outlook information prepared by the OSC extension service. The government index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes but not labor, advanced one point to 179 per cent of 1910-1914

Thus, the national parity price of wheat stood at $1.58, compared with $1.57 in February and $1.53 in March, 1945. Actual prices received by producers for wheat also averaged $1.58 a bushel on March 15, nationally, although the average for Oregon was somewhat less.

More Winter Wheat

The review also said that in the Pacific northwest more winter wheat probably will be produced but less spring wheat this year, according to present prospects. The increase in winter wheat is expected to more than offset a decrease in spring wheat if weather conditions continue favorable.

The decrease in spring wheat is accounted for in Washington as wheat growers in Oregon and Idaho reported intentions to increase. A decrease in the Pacific northwest potato acreage was also indicated.

Potato plantings intended in the three Pacific northwest states were 14 per cent under last year with most of the decrease in Idaho. The indicated decrease in Oregon was only 2 per cent whereas the suggested goal acreage was 16 per cent decrease.

Wheat Champion

Luther F. Givans of Sterling, Colo., is pictured in Chicago, holding a sheaf of his hard, red winter wheat which was judged the best wheat in the U. S. in the annual Philip W. Pillsbury contest. It was the fourth consecutive time that the Colorado product had won the award over wheat from 15 other states.

May 1 Final Day To File Plan With AAA

CORVALLIS, April 11 (AP)—Oregon farmers were reminded by the state AAA today that May 1 is the final date to file a plan for participation in the 1946 agricultural conservation program.

Plans must be filed with county AAA committees. More than 15,000 were filed before April 1.

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Cafe Diners Will Find Meals Cut

Oregon restaurant diners are going to find that meals a la carte will include less bread, pies, pastries and fried foods, according to a report from the Oregon food for famine relief committee.

Cooperation of public eating establishments in the emergency program to conserve wheat and fats for shipment to famine-stricken countries has been pledged by state leaders of their trade associations. Letters urging full compliance with the saving measures recommended by the famine emergency committee have been sent to all members by the Oregon Hotel association and the Oregon Restaurant association.

Adoption of the measures will mean no more toast garnishes flanking bacon and eggs, lamb chops and similar dishes; one slice of bread or one roll served with meals; corn and buckwheat cakes instead of wheat cakes; fruit, ice cream and puddings for dessert instead of pie and cake, and boiled or broiled fish instead of fried fish.

Restaurant operators have been advised that OPA requirements will be met by attaching a notice to each menu that the restaurant is cooperating with the famine emergency program by conserving wheats and fats, and that any patron who objects will be given a regular serving.

Doris McCord Takes Position With AAA

Doris McCord, recently discharged from the Wac after three years of service, has taken a position with the AAA office.

Before her enlistment, Miss McCord was employed with the Waggoner Drug company. She is a former resident of Malin where she attended grade and high schools and is one of the first two women to join the Wac from Klamath county.

Miss McCord spent 27 months in England and was separated from service last October 4.

Capt. Bill McCurdy, 1937 Stanford track team captain, is stationed at Camp Lee, Va.

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Young man in early 30's, married, reliable, veteran, wishes job with opportunity to learn business. Write Box 2400, The Herald and News.

National Potato Letter—

Disappearance of potatoes has continued fast enough to give even greater assurance of a satisfactory late crop cleanup. Also new crop data appears unchanged since the March planting intentions were reported but a new report, due about April 9, will give a better indication as to both early acreage and production prospects. Fairly reliable sources indicate that the California acreage probably is substantially above present official estimates. Figures vary from 61 to 63 thousand acres for Kern county, with 79 to 81 thousand acres for the whole area. This is almost unbelievable, if true, because fertilizer was reported too short for the 30 thousand acre Kern county goal. We hear now that some acreage, not fertilized when planted, is getting fertilizer with the water. Much of the bad weather backset in California is now made up, and the harvest in the earliest districts will not be much delayed from the usual digging dates. Other early sections reported in good to excellent condition generally on time, with good yields anticipated. Some blight is present in spots, but not bad enough to cause concern, unless wet weather prevents control measures.

Movement

Total shipments for last week compared with the week before dropped nearly a thousand cars—from 7128 cars to 6176 cars, a daily average of 1029 cars. This drop is not surprising however, because a quick tapering off from the March peak to lower levels in April is characteristic. Total disappearance in terms of cars shipped in March, was tremendous—over 30,000 cars. This is not a new record in terms of cars, but considering heavy loading of cars, probably no month has shown a heavier rail movement. Every important area was down, with the greatest drop in the Red River Valley, which was off 263 cars. Maine was next with a drop of 235 cars. Idaho 117 cars less. New crop shipments are due for greater attention from now on, as they normally reach the same volume as the late movement by mid-May. Total 1946 crop movement to date is only 2800 cars, but Florida is now moving 300 to 400 cars or more weekly, and Texas has shipped a total of 67 cars of which 48 cars moved last week. Arizona has showed up with 8 cars and Southern California has moved 201 cars.

Demand and Markets

Most important recent market development has been the weakening of the strong Idaho and Maine markets. Maine demand is reported slow to very slow, market weaker in 3 reports out of 6, prices 20 to 25 cents lower than a week ago and 15 to 25 cents under the April ex-ceiling. Idaho demand is slow to almost zero with the market dull and slightly weaker during week at 20 to 25 cents below week ago and 20 cents under ex-ceiling for very few sales. North Dakota demand is practically nil, market dull to slightly weaker, prices nominally at support for very few sales. Colorado filed its last report on the 1945 crop as of March 28, showing demand very slow, market dull to about steady, prices same as last week's report. Wisconsin demand has been very slow, market weak to weaker, prices nominally 5 cents under support for practically no sales. Wisconsin will not be a strong factor much longer. Michigan reports practically no demand, market dull, prices not quoted the past 6 days, account too few sales. Upstate New York, barely held level of last week's report, with slow demand, dull market and prices now only 5 cents above the higher April ex-ceiling.

Dade county, Florida reported the demand moderate, market about steady, prices 5 cents lower at $1.95 to $2.00 for 50 lb. sacks of washed stock. Hastings, Florida in the season's first report shows demand good market firm, price $4.15. Weslaco, Texas, first reported March 25, currently reports a demand better at $1.95 for washed 50's after a slow start at $2.20 to $2.25.

In the terminals, New York reports a dull market on old stock, about steady for new. Chicago demand has been slow with old western offerings steady and old northern about steady but weaker for poor quality with new stock making a fair demand on a steady market. Atlanta shows all stock steady; Boston, all stock dull; Detroit, old dull, new firm; Minneapolis, old dull, new steady. Philadelphia reports all stock about steady. At San Francisco, old stock held about steady, with Klamath Russets, 1c1 wholesale bringing $3.75 to $4.25 for 1f S. No. 1, size A and new offerings, about steady.

Price Support, Etc.

Canadian demand fell off rather sharply during part of last week, probably because of over-buying and internal difficulties but recovered considerably and now is running about 45 to 60 cars daily. Rate of 100 cars or more was too high, apparently, and is not likely to be reestablished. Muscatine deliveries are reported increasing and Omaha is likely to open on glucose production shortly. Also, USDA is making contracts for 7 to 8 million pounds of dehydrated potatoes with processors in production areas. This amounts to the diversion of one million bushels or a little more. This week's reports confirm that an Idaho contractor is making flour for alcohol production whereas starch plants are unable to obtain low grades at support because of the higher prices set for alcohol.

It now appears that not many potatoes will be delivered to USDA on loans, except possibly in North Dakota, where quality and condition are reported as none too good, although borrowers are in no rush to handle loan potatoes while seed and non-loan stock still is on hand. We hear rumblings of an unsatisfactory situation in North Dakota but we don't like rumors and will not report them until verified.

USDA support prices on basis bulk, ungraded, at farmer's gate, first announced December 7, are now subject to some variation, which may be announced soon. FOB prices, announced March 16 for sacked and grade, and for bulk ungraded, are firm prices, however, and subject to variation, but State Potato Committees, now being organized, will have authority to recommend lower marketing service allowances than represented by the announced differences between one-farm and FOB prices. If they do, and smaller allowances are approved by USDA, the on-farm prices automatically gain the difference. This makes no real difference in support operations, but has an important effect in that net prices thus established would be those certified dealers would have to pay in order to qualify for support. This could mean much to areas where most sales are grower-to-dealer.

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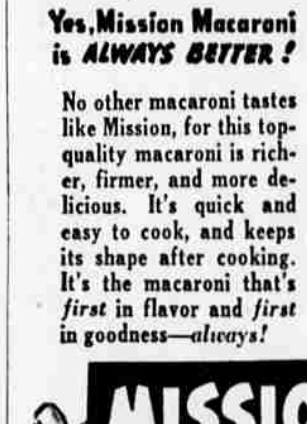

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