

'American Farmers Produce, Prices Sag in 1952

By OVID A. MARTIN
AP Newsfeatures

WASHINGTON — American agriculture turned in its biggest production job in 1952.

The combined output of food and fiber crops and livestock and livestock products was the largest in



JOHN HEYDEN

Heyden Gets 15-Year Pin

John F. Heyden, who is Klamath County School clerk, has been awarded a 15-year-pin for services rendered as a leader in Klamath County's 4-H program.

The presentation was made following a recognition banquet at the Willard Hotel, sponsored by the Klamath Falls Rotary Club, and also marked 16 years of service for another local 4-H leader, Rex High, Poe Valley.

Others receiving pins at the banquet, or recognition for their long services, Edgar D. Hoffman, 10 years; Mrs. Earl Mack, 11 years; Dave Patterson, Molalla, an IFFE student who recently returned from Finland, spoke to the gathering.

WSC Hog Has Extra Ribs

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State College said Friday its farm scientists have developed a hog with two extra ribs that will mean more pork chops and longer bacon.

It took seven years of breeding to develop the pair of "spare ribs" in the animal, known in the laboratory as WSC No. 1.

No. 1 is the result of cross breeding with three Landrace boars shipped in from Denmark and 18 Chester White sows. Since 1945, 240 litters have been raised in the experiment.

Dr. R. E. Christian of the WSC animal husbandry department said he hopes No. 1 will be officially recognized as a "new breed" in 1953.

history. It topped the previous year's production by three per cent. Biggest gains were in meat animals and food grains.

Reflecting a heavy consumer demand for more beef and favorable prices, farmers expanded cattle numbers to a record level. Those numbers now stand at more than 90 million head. This is an increase of more than 13 million head in four years.

A further expansion in cattle is expected in 1953, a year that may see consumer supplies of meat become the largest in any peacetime year.

Farmers harvested the second largest wheat crop and the second largest corn crop in history. These crops served to assure ample supplies and reserves for possible emergencies for at least another 15 months.

Produced also were larger than average crops of oats, flaxseed, rice, hay, soybeans, tobacco, fruits and vegetables.

But farm returns did not match farm production. The agriculture department reported farmers received a total net income—income left after paying production costs—of 14,200 million. This is about 15 per cent less than the record received in 1947, and virtually the same as the amount received in 1951.

Farmers actually received about 3 per cent more dollars for their products in 1952 than in 1951. But their production costs were higher. Had farm prices kept pace with increases in prices farmers paid for production materials, their income would, of course, have topped 1951.

Farm receipts from livestock products were down about three per cent as lower average prices more than offset a three per cent increase in volume. Returns from crops increased about 12 per cent, mostly because of a nine per cent increase in the volume of sales.

This year's decline in livestock receipts was largely in meat animals, eggs and wool. Dairy receipts were up nearly five per cent, mainly because of higher average prices.

Farm economists say farmers are not likely to receive more from markets in 1953 than they received in 1952. The domestic demand for farm products will probably be well maintained during the coming year, but some reduction in demand for export seems likely. As a result, prices received by farmers in 1953 may average a little lower.

The level of economic well-being was not uniform for the various farming regions. Many producers

in Eastern, Southeastern, South Central and Southwestern areas suffered heavy crop losses from a severe early summer drought. Those losses were reflected in the production of cotton, livestock feed grains, hay and pastures.

As a consequence, many farmers were forced to sell off some of their livestock because of inadequate feed supplies. Others were enabled to keep stock through gov-

ernment help in obtaining feed supplies from more plentiful areas.

The spectre of a severe drought in 1953 hung over many of the same areas adversely affected in 1952. Prospects were darkest in the winter wheat producing area of the southern great plains. Little hope was held for a bumper food grain crop in the new year. But ample reserves will prevent a shortage.

A major development on the national farm front in 1952 was a congressional investigation of shortages of government-owned grain and other products stored under price support programs. In a number of cases, private storage concerns converted these commodities to their own use and were unable to make good to the government.

Critics of the Truman administration blamed these losses—estimated all the way from about one million to 10 million dollars—on lax administration. Several storage concerns were prosecuted. The government tightened up its storage regulations in a move to prevent future losses.

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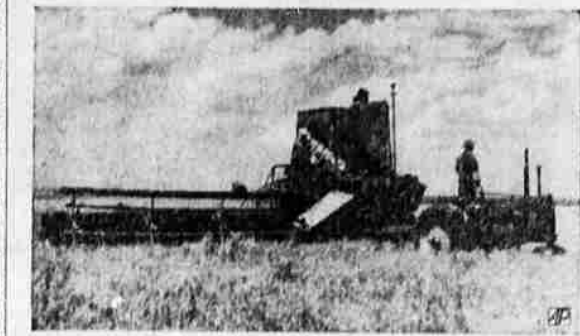
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