

Increase In Wool Production Seen For 1958

Mill Use Of Fibers Increases Overseas

The United States Department of Agriculture's marketing service has just released their 1958 outlook report on the wool situation. A summary of this report is as follows:

World supplies of wool in 1957-58 are likely to be slightly larger than those for 1956-57. A small increase in world production has been forecast, the tenth in a row. But the increase is expected to be considerably smaller than the gain of about five per cent last season.

In the United States, an increase in sheep numbers may be beginning and shorn wool production in 1958 may be up a little. Range conditions in most areas of the West this year have been the best of several years. Reports from the range areas indicate a strong demand for ewe lambs and breeding ewes. Slaughter of sheep and lambs in recent weeks, after allowing for the smaller inventories this year, has been low relative to a year earlier. But it is too early to tell definitely whether sheep numbers will trend higher over the next few years.

Mill use of wool during the first half of this year in the 11 countries which report to the Commonwealth Economic Committee was six per cent above early 1956. The increase this year, the third in a row, was about two-thirds that of 1956. Use of other materials, including other animal fiber, reused and reprocessed wool, and manmade fiber, by the wool textile industries of these countries also was up six per cent.

In contrast, use of all fiber by the woolen and worsted industries in the United States this year has been running below last year. During the first eight months of 1957, the average weekly rate of fiber consumption in woolen spinning of yarn other than carpet and in worsted combing was down 10 per cent from last year. Trade reports suggest one factor in the decline was a reduction of inventories of woolen and worsted products in manufacturing and distribution channels as a result of the higher wool prices and high interest rates. Higher prices of wool early this year also may have added impetus to the trend to lighter-weight fabric. Another contributing factor, although relatively minor from the standpoint of the amount of fiber involved, was an increase in imports of woolen and worsted manufactures during the early part of this year.

The decline for apparel wool was 14 per cent, somewhat greater than the decline in total fiber use by domestic woolen and worsted mills. The rate of use of other animal fiber and reused and reprocessed wool was down 11 per cent, slightly less than raw wool. Use of manmade fiber by woolen and worsted manufacturers increased 15 per cent. The much higher prices of wool relative to prices of manmade staple fiber probably were a major factor in the rise.

The decline in domestic mill use of apparel wool in 1957 follows increases in each of the two previous years. The drop this year has been large enough to reduce the average weekly rate for the first eight months of the year four per cent below that of the corresponding months of 1954, when mill use of apparel wool was at a postwar low. Some improvement appears likely, however, as inventories of woolen and worsted products in manufacturing and distribution channels approach minimum working levels.

Consumption of fiber by woolen mills in the United States in the spinning of carpet and rug yarns this year also is running below last year. The decline in the rate for the first eight months of this year was four per cent, with use of raw wool down seven per cent,

the same as last year, and use of other materials, mostly reused and reprocessed wool, up 10 per cent. Use of raw wool probably declined largely because of higher prices of carpet wool this year than last year.

Imports of dutiable wool for consumption during the first eight months of this year were almost one-third lower than last year. The decline in quantity was about in line with the reduction in mill use of apparel wool.

A substantial quantity of domestic wool acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under the 1952-54 price support programs moved into trade channels the last two years. With CCC holdings now very small and commercial stocks apparently about in line with mill use, larger imports would be needed to maintain mill use of apparel wool even at the present low rate.

Wool prices in world markets have generally declined except for temporary interruptions since last May, when they were at the peak of an advance that had lasted about a year and a half. Factors accounting for the decline include: (1) curtailed Japanese buying associated with an accumulation of wool textiles, particularly yarn, in manufacturing and distribution channels; and a reduction in wool import allocations; (2) uncertainty as to prospective demand for wool in the United Kingdom and France, which due to foreign exchange difficulties, has taken measures to curtail imports; and (3) apparently an easing of demand for the raw fiber in the United States.

Changes in prices in domestic markets frequently tend to lag behind changes abroad. During the early part of the 1956 domestic marketing season, prices in domestic markets were lower than usual relative to prices abroad. In recent months, however, declines in domestic markets have lagged behind those abroad and have been much smaller. Consequently, the relationship between prices in domestic and foreign markets has been somewhat higher than the average of recent years.

During the first seven months of the 1957 domestic marketing season, the monthly averages of prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool have ranged between 5.3 and 12.1 cents above the average of 44.3 cents per pound, grease basis, for the entire 1956 marketing season. Present indications are that the average for the season is likely to be above that of last season and that the rates of payment under the incentive program are likely to be down. But a lower average price and higher rates of payment than for this season may be in prospect for the 1958 season.

The incentive level for shorn wool for the 1958 marketing year, the fourth and last under the National Wool Act of 1954, has been set at 62 cents per pound, grease basis, to the producer. The level for 1958 is the same as for the first three years of the incentive program. It is equivalent to 95 per cent of parity, compared with 101 per cent for the current season and 106 per cent for the first two years of the program.

NON-VOTER

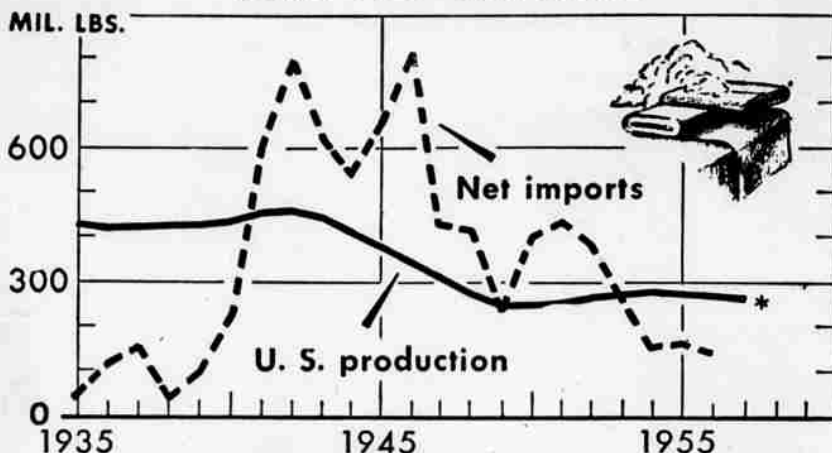
The Territory of Hawaii is represented in Congress by a delegate who may speak in the House of Representatives on matters concerning his territory. This delegate, however, cannot vote.

YOUNGEST PRIME MINISTER

William Pitt, the younger, who became prime minister in 1783, at the age of 24, was the youngest man ever to hold that office in England.



APPAREL WOOL PRODUCTION AND NET IMPORTS



NET IMPORTS IN ACTUAL WEIGHTS, PRODUCTION ON GREASE BASIS.

* INDICATED AS OF OCTOBER 1

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1049A-57 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF WOOL is down again this year but it is likely to show an increase in 1958, the USDA reports. Nationally the shorn wool clip has been estimated at three per cent below last year. With sheep and lamb slaughter running well below last year, it is highly likely that the pulled wool production also is down. Imports of dutiable wool for consumption this year have been considerably below last year. The decline this year, the second in a row, is largely a reflection of lower mill consumption of apparel wool this year.

Entertainment Tips Published

When the family entertains, it's just as important to enjoy serving an attractive meal with a few social graces as it is a tasty one.

Pleasing conversation, consideration for children, knowledge of table service, tips on setting the table and arrangement of place settings are all guides for a pleasant meal as described in "The Family Entertains," a new extension bulletin from Oregon State College.

Mrs. Ruth Klippstein, OSC, extension nutritionist and author of the bulletin, says methods of service and customs that fit the individual family are the best. They

should be used every day until they become a part of the family living pattern.

Hints on how to introduce guests and seat them, serve the meal and remove dishes afterwards are also included in the publication.

Copies are available on request to Oregon residents from county extension offices or the OSC bulletin clerk.

GARRISON FINISH

In horse racing, a Garrison finish is a race in which the jockey lets rivals burn themselves out, then comes through with a burst of speed in the stretch.

THE COVER

The cover picture for this week's Herald and News Magazine Section of Klamath Basin Living was taken by staff photographer Don Kettler. Two Fairview schoolgirls are the subjects. On the left is Connie Wheeler of 1316 Shelley Street and Joanna Stokes of 1426 Crescent Avenue is on the right. The picture was taken with a 4 x 5 Crown Graphic set at f 22 and 100th of a second.



RECORD PRICE. Paul Beus (center), chef at the St. Francis Hotel, looks over the 1,043 pound grand champion steer auctioned off in San Francisco's Cow Palace during the Grand National Livestock Exposition, San Francisco's St. Francis and Mark Hopkins hotels bid together, paying an all time record \$7 a pound. Holding the animal is Bill McDonald of the Double M Hereford Ranch at Adams, Oregon.

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