Brokers Examine Farm Land Values

Farm real estate values and sales should remain stable or rise slightly in most sections of the country in 1958, according to R. A. Capshaw, president-elect of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the nation's largest realty organization.

Capshaw, Ponca City, Oklahoma real estate executive, based his opinion on spot-check reports from NIFB officers in various sections of the country.

Though forecasts offered by these farm real estate experts differed somewhat, dependent upon the problems and conditions peculiar to the area, the overall outlook for 1958 was generally optimistic, the NIFB president said.

Predictions ranged from rises of up to 20 per cent in land values and sales, to modest increases or stable prices and sales, and several forecasts of downturns in both categories, he explained.

Capshaw offered as examples, excerpts from the following reports by Institute officers:

California—R. D. Seden, Vista: "The only slow sales that I know of (in 1957) were the over-priced properties. 1958 will call upon us for increased effort. I predict that land values in my area will increase about 8 per cent and sales approximately 15 per cent."

Colorado — Wayne D. Phipps, Boulder: "There will be problems for the farmers and ranchers in 1958 in the mountain and plains areas. . . . Despite the problems . . . 1958 will be the best we've had in years. The one big problem that has depressed the market here for the past several years is gone. We no longer have a drought."

Florida — Alice W. Lockmiller, Clermont: "The outlook is my area, as I see it for 1958, will bring a 10 per cent increase in land values and a 10 per cent increase in sales."

Illinois — John C. Pigott, Aurora: "The land sales outlook . . . appears to be one of stability, rather than one of a further boom. This land price stabliizing will be brought about because of a curtailment in the buying of farm land properties for housing developments and industrial uses, which in turn will have a great tendency to slow up our replacement farm sales."

Iowa — H. K. Holden, Des Moines: "We are still in an inflationary spiral. The clamps which have been put on to halt this spiral will be loosened. In my opinion this will happen during the first quarter of 1958, and by the middle of the year we should begin to experience normal business again."

Kansas — R. E. Ray, Wichita: "I expect business in 1958 to be as good as, or better than, in 1957. Although the price of farm land and rural properties will remain about the same, there will be an increase in the sales volume. High city taxes are causing people to move out to the rural properties."

Massachusetts — James T. Trefrey, Wayland: "Land values will increase five to 10 per cent, and sales will decrease five to 10 per cent. The contributing factor for this prediction is the general movement to the outlying suburbs."

Minnesota — Robert M. Hartelt, Glencoe: "The price of farm land will continue to retain a high value and might increase slightly. The secret to more sales in 1958 will be to obtain listings at the right price and where the seller will personally finance the sale, allowing for reasonable terms, as money for purchasing will continue to be in short supply."

Michigan — George L. Domm, Flint: "We have had a good farm business in 1957 — and the outlook is very promising for the year of 1958."

New Mexico — Wayne Adams, Roswell: "Land values are remaining steady in this part of the country with a slight tendency toward a rise."

Ohio — Irvin Vandemark, Ada: "The outlook for Ohio farm brokers is good, or even better than for the past five years, provided the broker keeps alert to the changes going on in farm prices and talks the farmer's language."

Oklahoma — R. A. Capshaw, Ponca City: "Barring a drought or flood, next year should be a good year for the farmer, which will also help the sale of farms. There is also some increased interest in the ranch and stock farms . . . so this region should be very active . . . with values holding their own. In some instances there will be an increase in the price of land for industrial development and housing projects."

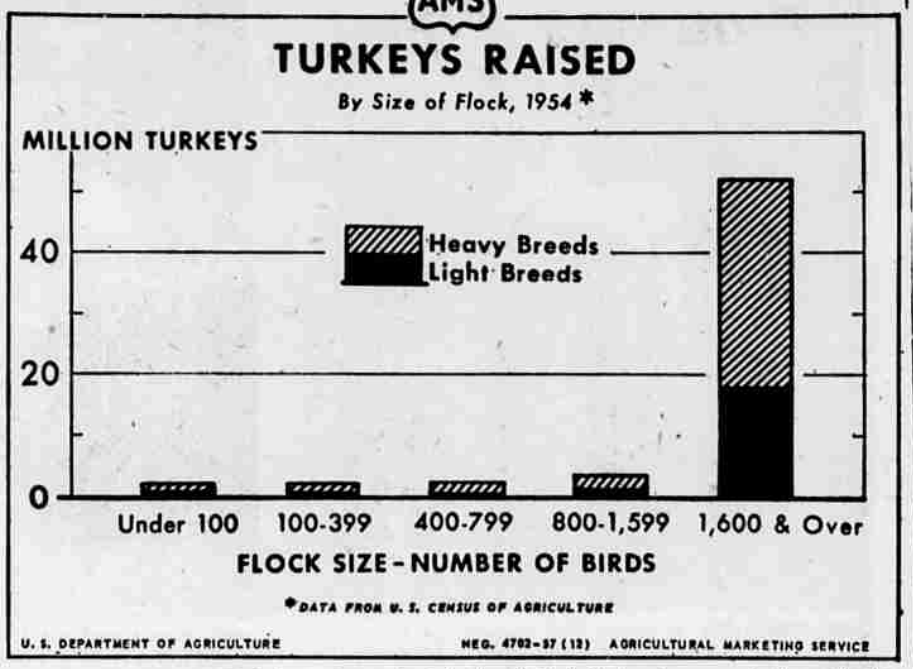
Pennsylvania—Charles J. Happ, Doylestown: "Generally sales will be a bit more difficult to make . . . the buyer doing most of the talking with cash. . . . One of our most difficult problems will be getting listings realistically priced. . . . Farm land prices will reach their top early in the year and remain stable throughout the year. Sizable tracts for industrial and residential development will remain in demand and increase as much as 10 per cent to 20 per cent during the year, if located close to good roads, markets and transportation."

Virginia — Joel M. Cochran, Charlottesville: "I think the outlook for farm business for 1958 is very bright."

Washington — Harold C. Starkey, Tacoma: "In the Pacific Northwest, our economy is expanding as rapidly as anywhere in the United States. Much of our agricultural land close to metropolitan centers is being converted to industrial uses, and, as more and more industry moves to this area, the realtor will be called upon to represent the owners and purchasers of this property."

LARGEST BELL

World's largest bell is at Moscow, Russia. The "Tsar Kolokol," great bell of Moscow, weighs 219 tons. It was never rung because an 11-ton piece broke off when it was made.



ALMOST 85 PER CENT of the turkey output in the United States is grown in large flocks of 1,600 birds or more. Producers with large turkey flocks often require outside financing or credit since costs of bringing birds to market age run from $3 to $5 per head.

Tillage Trials Show Results

Stubble mulching — the farm practice of leaving crop residues on the soil surface — is proving generally successful in semi-arid regions of the United States for maintaining crop yields and controlling water and wind erosion, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says.

Results of research to date on this farming technique are reported in a new USDA Technical Bulletin, No. 1166, "A Summary of Research Experience With Stubble Mulch Farming in the Western United States," by Austin W. Zingg and C. J. Whitfield of the Agricultural Research Service.

Studies reported in the bulletin were made in cooperation with Agricultural Experiment Stations of 12 western states and USDA's Soil Conservation Service. The states were Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Copies of the bulletin are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., at 30 cents per copy.

This summary report illustrates how the coming of the moldboard plow to the arid and semi-arid West from the more humid East brought soil troubles to western agriculture. Stubble-mulch tillage followed the plow into the West out of grim necessity —farmers had to halt the ravages of plow-fostered wind and water erosion.

Billion Trees Planted In '57

For the first time in history, the United States this year will plant a billion forest trees, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson announced today. To celebrate this achievement the tree selected to represent the billionth will be planted December 18, at Macon, Georgia.

This year's record exceeds by approximately 200 million trees the previous high set in 1956, according to a Forest Service compilation of reports from nurseries, state foresters, and federal agencies responsible for tree planting. The total includes all forest, soil bank conservation reserve, and windbarrier tree planting by private landowners, industries, and public agencies.

Secretary Benson praised the forest land owners responsible for establishing this record. "It shows tree planting has come a long way since given its first big impetus by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's" he said. "This year's planting alone almost equals one half the total number of trees planted by the CCC boys between 1933 and 1942."

Greatest progress in planting is occurring on private lands. This year 86 per cent of the tree planting was on private lands and 14 per cent on public lands. Twenty years ago only 26 per cent was on private lands while 74 per cent was on public land.

While encouraged by this year's record, Secretary Benson said that even at the rate of a billion trees a year, it will take more than 50 years to restore the tree growth land which must be planted to make it productive again. Over the years a very large acreage of such land has accumulated.

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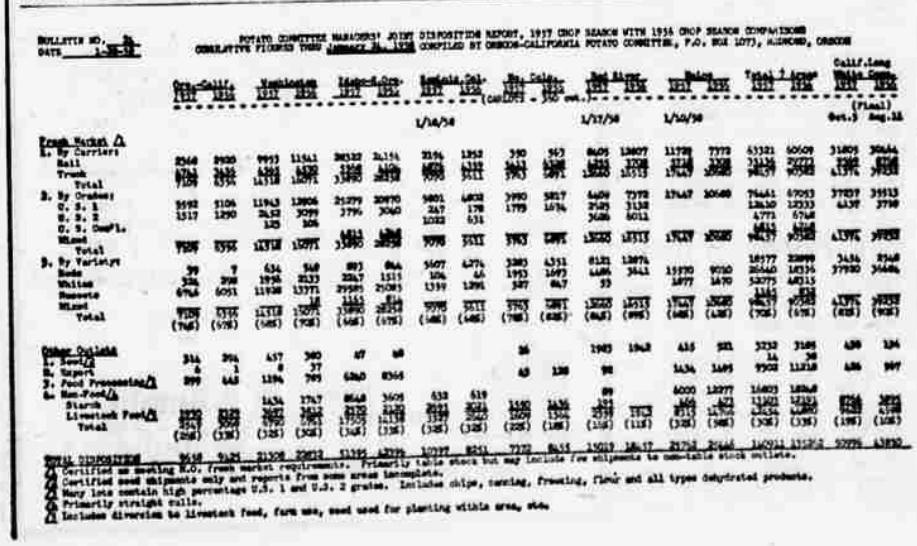
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DATE 1-30-58

POTATO COMMITTEE MANAGERS' JOINT DISPOSITION REPORT, 1957 CROP SEASON WITH 1956 CROP SEASON COMPARISONS
CUMULATIVE FIGURES THRU JANUARY 26, 1958 COMPILED BY OREGON-CALIFORNIA POTATO COMMITTEE, P.O. BOX 1071, KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

	Ore.-Calif. 1957	Ore.-Calif. 1956	Washington 1957	Washington 1956	Idaho-E.Ore. 1957	Idaho-E.Ore. 1956	Kern Co. Calif. 1957	Kern Co. Calif. 1956	No. Colo. 1957	No. Colo. 1956	Red River 1957	Red River 1956	Maine 1957	Maine 1956	Total 7 Areas 1957	Total 7 Areas 1956	Calif.Long White Comp. 1957	Calif.Long White Comp. 1956
	(Cwt.)						1/14/58		(Cwt.)		1/17/58		1/10/58				(Final) Oct.-Sep.16	
Fresh Market △																		
1. By Carriers																		
Rail	2546	2920	9957	11541	20532	24154	2194	1252	390	543	8409	12807	11728	7773	43321	60509	31805	30644
Truck	6794	3435	4361	4320	1308	3409	4555	4112	3463	4308	1455	1708	2128	2508	24134	20273	2585	6548
Total	9340	6355	14318	15861	21840	28563	6749	5311	3853	4851	9864	14515	13856	10281	67455	80782	34390	37192
2. By Grades:																		
U. S. 1	5592	5104	11943	13806	21279	20970	5801	4802	3990	5817	6409	7372	13147	10440	76461	67053	37237	35513
U. S. 2	1517	1250	2432	3099	3796	3040	247	178	1779	1634	2425	3132			12630	12333	6139	3798
U. S. Comb.			125	306			1022	631			3426	4011			4771	6948		
U. S. Cmb'l.					4511	4548									4511	4548		
Mixed																		
Total	9340	6355	14318	15861	21840	28563	6749	5311	3853	4851	13260	14515	13147	10281	96371	90882	43376	39311
3. By Varieties																		
Russet	39	7	634	568	893	844	5407	4274	3383	4311	8121	12874			18477	22899	3434	2348
Russet	326	398	1956	2133	2047	1515	104	44	1953	1693	4486	3441	15970	9010	26440	18536	37930	34484
Russet	6976	6051	11930	13371	29581	25383	1339	1291	527	847	53		1877	1470	52175	48315		
Russet					1161	814									1161	814		
Mixed																		
Total	9340	6355	14318	15861	21840	28563	6749	5311	3853	4851	13260	14515	13147	10281	96371	90882	43376	39311
	(746)	(578)	(585)	(928)	(468)	(675)	(486)	(485)	(788)	(828)	(845)	(998)	(688)	(638)	(706)	(678)	(828)	(928)
Other Outlets																		
1. Seed △	314	394	657	340	47	48			16		1983	1942	415	521	3232	3185	438	134
2. Export	4	1	8	37									14	38	14	38		
3. Food Processing △	899	648	1194	795	6240	8344			43	138	98		1434	1695	9702	11218	486	997
4. Non-Food △																		
Starch			1434	1747	8648	3605	633	619			89		6000	12977	16803	18948		
Livestock Feed △	1230	1125	3602	3612	2170	2120	2023	2021	1160	1436	223		866	423	11201	12181	8264	3835
Total	2543	2168	7065	7306	17058	14118	2656	2640	1209	1574	2359	1973	8315	15604	43154	45080	8750	4968
	(208)	(138)	(325)	(308)	(348)	(336)	(328)	(328)	(228)	(188)	(118)	(118)	(328)	(348)	(328)	(338)	(198)	(168)
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	9638	9138	21328	23812	51192	42378	10377	8251	7172	8151	19019	18417	21762	25466	140911	135262	52576	43830

△ Certified as meeting M.O. fresh market requirements. Primarily table stock but may include few shipments to non-table stock outlets.
△ Certified seed shipments only and reports from some areas incomplete.
△ Many lots contain high percentage U.S. 1 and U.S. 2 grades. Includes chips, canning, freezing, flour and all types dehydrated products.
△ Primarily straight culls.
△ Includes diversion to livestock feed, farm use, seed used for planting within area, etc.