



**OREGON** Game Commission personnel are pictured installing one of the new type plastic guzzlers for quail and dove in some of the arid regions of Oregon. The pictured water guzzler for the brush bound birds is in the Lakeview area. —Game Commission Photo

## Produce Data Is Reported

The following Northwest crop information is available from the extension department of Oregon State College for the week ending May 23.

**WHEAT TRADE** — Trading in Northwest wheat was generally very moderate during the past week. Domestic demand was limited to fill-in lots of milling classes.

**BARLEY-OATS-CORN** — Trading in the feed grains was limited. Barley and oat prices remained unchanged, and corn gained about \$2 per ton. Dealer bids for No. 2 Western Barley ranged from \$44 to \$45 per ton, coast delivered. The same grade was offered by dealers for \$47 to \$47½, bulk basis on track at coast.

**NEW ALFALFA**—Haying operations were started in some parts of the Pacific Northwest this week. However, market prices have not been established as yet. Most important areas are not expected to start harvesting for another three weeks or so. Old crop No. 2 grade alfalfa was nominally priced at \$13 a ton in the

Freewater, Oregon area. Hermiston growers quoted \$14 to \$15 a ton, and Madras farmers asked \$15 to \$18.

**SOIL BANK**—The USDA recently announced that farmers who earned soil bank certificates for reducing 1958 acreages of wheat under the acreage reserve program can redeem them for cash or for grain. These certificates may be exchanged for wheat, barley, rye, oats or grain sorghums but not for corn or rice.

**FEED DEADLINE**—The USDA announces that the final date for filing applications to take part in the feed wheat program for 1958 has been extended. The new date is June 6, or 15 days prior to the final date for adjusting excess planted acreage to the farm wheat acreage allotment, whichever is the later.

# Why Farm Income Is An Oasis On The Desert Of Recession

By GAYNOR MADDOX  
NEA Food Markets Editor  
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NEW YORK (NEA) — After years of depression most of today's farmers, like their livestock, are in the clover. An NEA Service survey shows that despite the current recession other areas of our economy, farm income is up seven per cent over last year. Retail prices for farm-raised foods have jumped — in some cases, such as citrus, almost 100 per cent.

Good growing weather, a record supply of corn and feed grains for livestock, and continuing consumer demand for a more expensive diet explain why beef, pork, fresh produce and citrus fruits are the lucky tickets in the farmers' food dollar sweepstakes.

Growers of these foods can now buy a few luxuries — and much needed farm machinery. However, milk and dairy products, wheat and other cereals, are not drawing the top prizes.

The ill wind blowing against the auto, housing, refrigerator, TV and other expensive hard goods industries is blowing good for the farmer. Money not being paid out to meet installments on these items is today clinking into supermarket cash registers despite rising food costs.

Historically, food is the last item people cut back on. Furthermore, consumer income is still very high — for the first four months of this year about one per cent higher than last. The recession is more or less concentrated in certain areas.

The farmer is eating higher on the hog since 1951 when the agriculture downturn started. U.S. Department of Agriculture economists predict farm income for 1958 may be 10 per cent higher than in 1957.

They admit that is an "iffy" prediction. Income will be higher if there is no further downturn in our overall national economy, and if, because of their increased economic literacy, farmers do not rush to over-produce because of high prices and thereby depress their own market.

To get a grass roots report on this economic breather for the long-harassed farmer, NEA Service queried leaders in important farm areas.

From Iowa, E. Edward Hill, president of Farm Bureau Federation in Des Moines, admits things are good but is keeping his fingers crossed.

"Iowa's two chief sources of agricultural income are hogs and cattle," Hill explained. "Hogs are at a four-year high and cattle at a seven-year peak. Disastrously low prices of two years ago caused production to be drastically reduced; also breeding herds are

being rebuilt following the drought."

He added that although egg and dairy prices are only fair and feed grains cheap, the present income situation for Iowa livestock farmers is very good, helping to make up for several poor years.

"We expect no further price increases and probably some decline. We have the largest surpluses of feed grains in history, also approximately one billion bushels of wheat in government storage good for little else but livestock feed. These grains will eventually be translated into livestock and oversupply," he said.

Hill put this downbeat period to his statement: "We anticipate trouble for the hog farmer within one or two years and for the cattleman within two to four years."

In DeKalb, Texas, Norman Moser, president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, takes a more optimistic long term view.

"Breaking of the drought has given renewed vigor to the agricultural economy of our area. If cattlemen are let alone and allowed to promote their product with their own money, they can produce all the beef the country will consume, sell it at reasonable prices, and still make money," Moser said.

Barring a major business recession, which he thinks is extremely unlikely, Hill said cattlemen see several good years ahead for their business.

In Florida, this year's citrus crop, despite severe freezes last winter, is expected to result in a record income to the industry, according to Homer Hooks, general manager of the Florida Citrus Commission in Lakeland.

"We believe that Florida citrus will be in comparatively short supply next year also," Hooks predicted, "and that prices will hold up at profitable levels for at least another year."

In Arizona, agriculture booms in the Phoenix and Yuma districts and farmers want Congress to help them obtain more Mexican workers for the profitable crops. Unemployed auto workers are not interested in farm work, they explain.

"Our farmers' net income from vegetable and citrus fruit sales has been almost doubled since last year because of adverse weather in other producing areas," said Dean Stanley, one of the largest growers and shippers of that area. "Despite the general business recession and lack of any farm program, cattle and cotton prices will assure Arizona farmers at least 25 per cent greater income for 1958 than for any of the past eight years."

Stanley added this optimistic postscript: "Arizona farmers,

bankers and other citizens have so much confidence in the national economy that vegetable and melon growers are investing more than 25 million dollars this year in new irrigation and land improvements."

In Kansas, more cautious in his appraisal of the farmer's future is Arthur D. Weber, dean of agriculture, Kansas State College at Manhattan. Stating that the apparent improvement in the farm economic situation in Kansas is due to better production factors (moisture, increased feed supplies and grass) rather than to higher prices, except possibly for beef cattle, he said:

"Meanwhile, the cost-price squeeze continues with increased net incomes unlikely owing to high cost of equipment and supplies. Unless unusually favorable circumstances prevail for production and marketing of crops and livestock, the farmer's net income in 1959 will not be as high as in 1958."

From California, supplier of about 40 per cent of the nation's perishable farm commodities, comes another warning against extravagant optimism.

"Current selling prices for lettuce, celery and other farm perishables does not necessarily represent an economic farm pickup," said Kenneth R. Nutting of Salinas, a dominant figure in California agriculture. "Present high prices for some perishables are due entirely to operation of law of supply and demand. Expect high prices to decrease as soon as supplies from other districts mature."

Although milk production this year is estimated at a billion pounds more than last, the dairy farmer is not economically happy. A. L. McWilliams, general manager of the Pure Milk Association in Chicago, speaking for dairy farmers in the vast Chicago milk shed, complained: "The income for dairy farmers in our area is lower today than it was a year ago. We do not anticipate any increased sales despite recent highly publicized figures showing up-graded farm income."

## Increase Noted In Turkey Hatch

An estimated 171,000 heavy breed turkey poulters were hatched in Oregon during the week ending May 17, according to the Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This was down nine per cent from the previous week and 13 per cent less than a year earlier. Heavy breed set in Oregon, estimated at 230,000, was down 15 per cent from the previous week and eight per cent less than the same period last year.

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