

Seed Crop Report

SEED CROPS COMMITTEE REPORT (CROPS) OUTLOOK CONFERENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

March 14, 1958

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) Committee
The small seed committee agrees with the Grain Committee that there is a real need for good early season estimates of Basin acreage particularly for Hannechen barley, potatoes and alsike clover seed and that a grower committee to outline procedure for obtaining this information is desirable.

It is recommended that growers cooperate to the fullest possible extent in returning questionnaires to the Crop Reporting Service. Reliability of crop reports can be improved by increasing the number of returns by growers.

Alsike clover seed is the Basin's principal seed crop. The Basin has produced over half of the nation's alsike seed crop for some years.

High average seed yields here indicate we have a competitive advantage in alsike seed production. Even so, the crop is not a profitable one for growers whose yields are below the 450 lb average. Yields of 600 lbs. or more per acre are required. Yields of 228 lbs. is about half that of the Basin.

Canadian production and imports into the U.S. is the primary factor influencing prices in recent years. Production in Canada has fluctuated widely.

The present tariff quota effective June 30, 1957 for a two year period allows entry of 3 million lbs. at a 2c duty with a 6c duty on fiscal year imports in excess of 3 million lbs. A tariff quota effective for the previous 2 year period permitted entry of 2 1/2 million lbs. A tariff quota effective for 1 year ending June 30, 1955, allowed entry of 1 1/2 million lbs.

The quota system resulted from efforts on the part of Basin growers when a combination of Canadian production and heavy CCC holdings in 1953 caused a serious price break. CCC holdings were the result of support prices for alsike in previous years. Administration has increased quota in spite of tariff commission recommendation to lower it. Quota gives some protection but only moderate protection.

declined from an average of 17.1 million lbs. for the 45-49 period to 11 million lbs. from the 1956 crop. The U.S. is producing all the alsike seed it needs. We have no need for imported alsike.

When Canada has a heavy seed crop, low prices can be expected. A poor seed crop in Canada should be expected to result in better prices. Prices for the 1957 crop, however, average low at around 19c per lb. in spite of low Canadian production in 1957.

The National supply, (12.5 million lbs. produced plus 6 million lbs. carryover) indicates a probable carry over of around 7 1/2 million lbs. into 1958 provided imports and exports do not increase or decrease stocks. A somewhat larger carryover than desirable.

Alsike, however, is likely to continue to be a profitable crop for those growers who can obtain yields of 600 lbs. or more per acre.

INSECT CONTROL — Control of insect pests is of primary importance in maintaining yields. Three insect pests of economic importance can be successfully controlled. One of these is the clover root curculio, the adults of which must be killed early in spring before many eggs are deposited. Experiments with Aldrin and Heptachlor soil treatment prior to seeding grain in which clover is to be started look much more promising than spring applications of DDT or Heptachlor to established clover.

MEADOW MICE — Endrin is preferred to DDT or Heptachlor for early spring clover root weevil con-

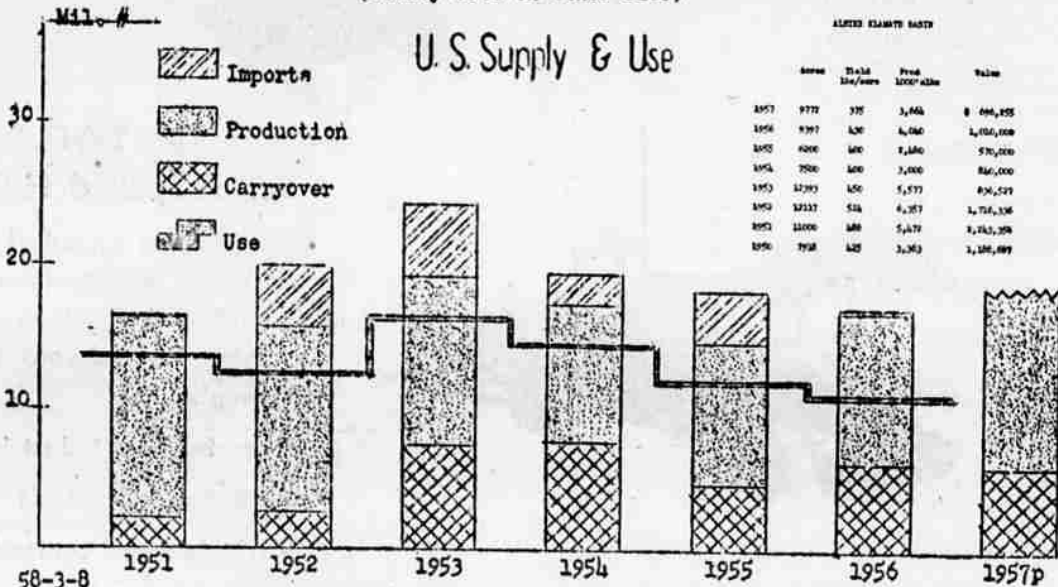
Oregon Commodity Data Sheet

Oregon State College Extension Service — Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service
Corvallis, Oregon March 17, 1958

Alsike Clover Seed

Area, item, and unit	1945-49 Average	1950-54 Average	1955-56 Season	1956-57 Season	1957-58 Season p
Oregon					
Acres harvested, thous.....	12.4	9.9	6.5	7.0	6.5
Yield, clean seed, lbs.....	235	401	375	430	450
Production, clean, mil. lbs.....	2.9	4.0	2.4	3.0	2.9
Average farm price, \$/cwt.....	30.82	29.70	21.70	33.20	19.00
United States					
Acres harvested, thous.....	127.7	72.1	53.8	46.8	56.9
Yield, clean seed, lbs.....	124	178	184	227	221
Production, clean, mil. lbs.....	16.0	12.4	9.9	10.6	12.6
Carryover, June 30, mil. lbs.....	2.4	4.5	4.8	6.2	6.0
Imports, mil. lbs. 1/.....	1.4	2.5	3.5	.2	*
Total supply, mil. lbs.....	19.8	19.4	18.2	17.0	
Total used, mil. lbs.....	17.1	14.3	12.0	11.0	
Exports, mil. lbs.....	2.0	1.0	.1	.7	
Domestic use, mil. lbs.....	15.1	13.3	11.9	10.3	
Average farm price, \$/cwt.....	29.66	28.10	21.00	32.60	17.70

p Preliminary. * Imports July 1 through December 31, 1957 totaled 140,200 pounds compared to 177,100 pounds a year earlier. 1/ Includes American goods returned, if any. (County data on other side)



rol wherever serious mouse infestations are present. Endrin kills mice effectively, but may not be used later in the season when foliage contamination prohibits use of straw for feed.

Toxaphene may be used in place of DDT for mid-season control of lygus and seed weevil. Toxaphene is also very effective against mice at 4 lb. rates per acre and residual toxicity to other warm blooded animals is much less than that of Endrin.

Meadow mice were responsible for heavy seed losses in some fields last season. Present county wide control efforts, using poison baits under direction of the County Agent's office can be expected to be very helpful in reducing mouse damage in the 1958 crop. Increase in population of gophers makes some assistance with control efforts desirable.

The committee recommends that the County Agent's office continue its warning and educational efforts in respect to control methods and materials and timing of insecticide application.

A fourth insect of economic importance for which good control methods have not been developed is the lesser clover leaf weevil.

POLLINATION — Pollination requirements of alsike clover require at least one good strong colony of bees per acre.

Adequate numbers of pollinating insects and control of harmful

(Continued on Page 30)

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