

Farm Costs To Change Very Little

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Agriculture Department said today total farm production expenses in 1961 will be little changed from this year when they leveled off after a long uptrend.

Production expenses for goods and services of non-farm origin generally were about the same or slightly higher in 1960 compared with 1959, the department said in its 1961 outlook issue of "The Farm Cost Situation." The report was published during the 38th annual Agricultural Outlook Conference.

Total wages of hired hands were about the same this year as last, but interest payments and taxes rose sharply. Expenditures for livestock and feed, which were obtained largely from other farmers, were lower in 1960 than in 1959.

Expenditures per farm continued to rise, because of the increase in the average size of farms. Costs and returns on eight types of farms, widely scattered throughout the country and representative of much of U.S. agriculture, indicate that production expenses were generally higher in 1960 than in 1959. Increases ranged up to 12 per cent on intermountain cattle ranches where, because of drought, more hay was bought at higher prices.

In the first 10 months of 1960, prices paid by farmers for production items, including interest, taxes, and wage rates, averaged about one-third of 1 per cent higher than a year earlier. Prices paid for farm machinery were about 3 per cent higher, and wage rates averaged 2 per cent higher. Taxes were 8 per cent higher, and interest payments per acre on total mortgage indebtedness were nearly 10 per cent higher than last year. Prices of most other goods and services of non-farm origin were about the same as in 1959.

Moderately higher farm wage rates are anticipated in 1961, but the total wage bill will not differ greatly from 1960 because fewer hired hands will be hired. Machinery will continue to be substituted. Interest paid by farmers in 1960 will total about \$1.34 billion, of which \$640 million is on loans secured by real estate mortgages and about \$700 million is on short-term loans. Interest payments in 1961 are expected to be slightly higher as a result of increased borrowing.

Real estate and personal property taxes paid in 1960 by farmers are expected to total about \$1,548,000,000. Further increases are expected in 1961. The department said farm property taxes have risen faster since 1947-49 than almost any other farm cost item.

The department estimated farmers' expenditures for property and casualty insurance in 1960 will total about \$360 million. This is an increase of about 8 per cent over last year.

Faithful Friend Given Sedation

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP)—Baron, a two-year-old Dachshund whose brown and white mongrel friend was killed by a car, was placed under sedation Sunday night.

The little Dachshund dragged the mongrel, Jenny, from the street and into his yard. Then he stood over her for 90 minutes, not letting anyone near her.

Police dragged him away and locked him in a storeroom at his owner's home. A veterinarian later placed him under sedation.

The Colossus of Rhodes, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was a bronze statue representing Helios, the sun god.

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Nixon Clinches Alaska

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Vice President Richard M. Nixon clinched Alaska's three presidential electoral votes Saturday as counting of absentee ballots gave him a steadily mounting lead.

With more than half of the state's approximately 5,000 absentee votes tallied Nixon had picked up another 295 and stretched his margin over Democratic President-elect John F. Kennedy to 953.

The remaining absentees were from areas which gave the Republican candidate an edge in the regular balloting.

At this point Nixon's overall total in the surprising upset was 29,390, Kennedy's 28,437.

Even in usually Democratic southeast Alaska Nixon gained in the absentee count, which went to him 792-637.

On 728 absentee ballots out of some 1,300 in the central-Fairbanks area Nixon took 385 to Kennedy's 343. In the south central-Anchorage early absentee returns Nixon's lead was 225-137.

The Republican lead in the regular balloting was 27,968-27,330, a margin of 638.

The outcome provided one of the major form reversals of the election. Alaska had been generally conceded by political experts as firmly in the Democratic column.

CALL FOR HELP

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Patrolman William Sturges was ticketing autos Friday when he heard a man shout from a window. "There's an emergency here, a man is caught in the conveyor belt."

Sturges abandoned his work, called for a rescue squad and rushed into the building but couldn't find a "victim."

When he returned to resume ticketing all the illegally parked autos had been moved. The worker was unidentified.

Blast Is Test For Project

NOME, Alaska (AP)—A non-nuclear explosion was set off Friday in a test phase of a project aimed at eventually using a nuclear blast to create a harbor.

The Atomic Energy Commission would say only that the explosion at the Project Chariot site in the Cape Thompson area was successful.

Cape Thompson is 200 miles north of here and more than 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The AEC said the blast was designed to test ground characteristics.

The project calls for a later test, in the same area, using a nuclear blast.

The AEC has said four nuclear devices equal to 260,000 tons of TNT would carve a key-shaped harbor. The devices would be buried 400 to 700 feet deep.

According to the AEC timetable, this blast could not take place before March, 1962.

If the experiment was successful, the AEC said, the method might be used to create other harbors and to dig canals.

The African mousebird, slightly larger than a sparrow, creeps rather than hops along the branch of a tree.

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