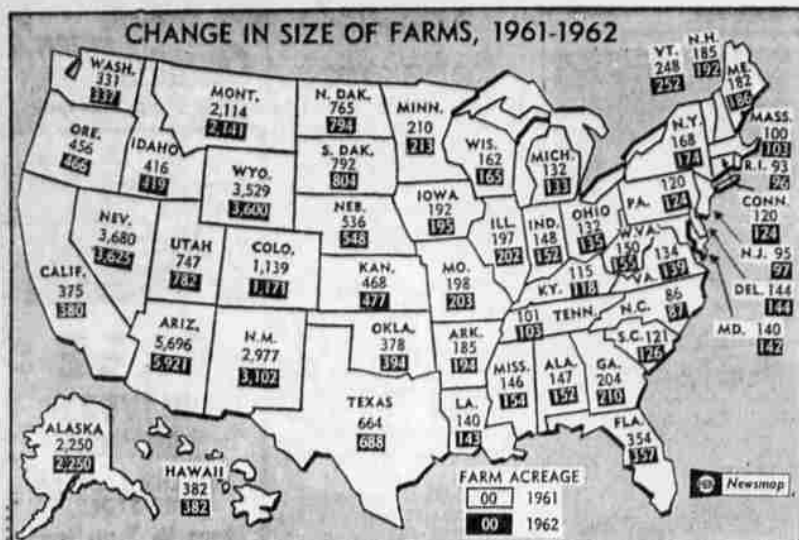




SIZE OF FARMS INCREASES—Newsmap shows how the average size of farms has crept slowly upward. In 1961 the national average was 207 acres as contrasted to the 1962 average of 234. Back in 1950, when there were many more farms, the average was only 213 acres. (Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.)

Highly Accurate Forecasts On Crop Yield, Maturity Predicted Soon

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY—Highly accurate forecasts of crop maturity and yield are now possible and crop quality forecasts will come in the near future, according to a nationally-known agricultural meteorologist who is a visiting professor at Oregon State University.

The forecasts will be possible early in the season — perhaps as early as 12 to 20 days after planting, says Dr. Jen Yu (David) Wang.

Revised yield forecasts have to be issued later in the season depending on the current weather but maturity and quality forecasts can be made quite accurately without using long-range weather forecasts, he insists.

Wang has been in charge of crop forecast research at University of Wisconsin since 1957. Crop maturity date forecasts made 12 to 20 days after planting in 1961 proved to be 85 to 95 per cent accurate for sweet corn and peas.

Last year, his forecasts covered yields as well as maturity date. For peas, the accuracy of these forecasts ranged from 75 to 99 per cent at various test sites from 89 to 97 per cent for sweet corn.

He expects to add quality forecasts to maturity and yield outlook within five years. There aren't many crops that can't be forecast, he says.

Such forecasts are of tremendous value to the canning industry and to other agricultural interests, Wang pointed out.

Wang's forecast methods combine the ancient science of phenology with the latest electronic measuring and recording instruments to give almost minute-by-minute information on the crop and environment.

Phenology, a science dating back to ancient China, is the use of plants or animals as indicators of weather conditions, he explains. More formally, it is a study of the relationship between various physical environmental factors and periodic changes in growth and development during the life cycles of plants and animals.

A basic concept is that all plants have a certain minimum temperature necessary for growth depending upon the environmental conditions. A certain number of these temperature "units" are required for crop maturity, depending upon species and varieties.

Air and soil temperatures and a number of other factors are considered the significant elements, Wang says, and the plant.

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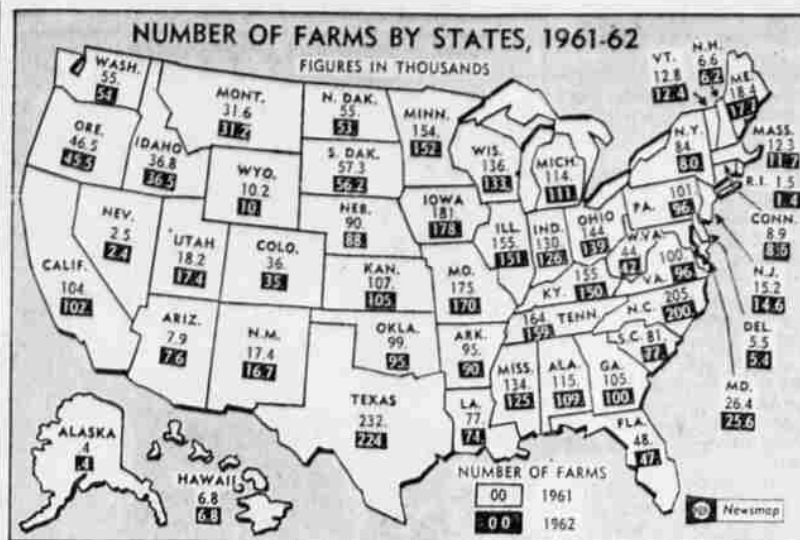
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FEWER AND FEWER FARMS—The number of farms is steadily decreasing in the United States. Newsmap illustrates the point that the number of farms in operation in 1962, estimated at 1,168,145, is about three per cent less than in 1961. Total land embraced by the nation's farms is estimated at 1,168,145 acres. (Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.)

FARM REVIEW AND FORECAST

PAGE 8 HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Ore. Tuesday, April 9, 1963

Prospects Of Wool Market Outlined By OSU Economist

Economic forces influencing 1963 Oregon wool prices suggest a fairly strong market undertone, with the main uncertainties being the recent increases in U.S. wool stocks and the attitude of fabric makers toward buying wool at the higher prevailing prices.

This is the way Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist, sees the outlook for wool. He makes his observations in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular now available from county extension offices.

Oregon wool prices in February averaged 21 per cent, or 9 cents a pound higher, than a year ago after prices advanced on all wool grades in late 1962 and in January, Marks noted.

Overseas wool auctions continued to display a firm undertone in early March, giving support to U.S. produced apparel wools. Prospects are that domestic and world wool prices will remain at recent levels until this spring when the U.S. shorn wool crop is available in seasonally larger volume, he adds.

Wool supplies in the year ahead may be smaller both nationally and worldwide because of smaller carryover stocks in 1962 and smaller production in the 1962-63 market year, the economist points out.

In February, the U.S. counted about 70 million pounds of clean wool on hand, an increase of 8 per cent over last year. The increase, reported by the Wool Associates, probably reflects recent large imports, Marks said.

United States mill use of wool in 1963 is expected to remain relatively stable at around the 1962, the highest since 1956, he commented.

While supply and demand relationships suggest continued firm prices, chances are a slightly lower trend may develop after Easter, the economist warned. He noted that an unusual wool market feature this year has been substantial wintertime contracting by woolen mills in Texas and Wyoming, the leading wool producing states, as well as in Colorado and Idaho.

This suggests less buyer interest in the spring as mills satisfy their needs through contracting. Because of this, advances in wool prices after mid-year as in 1961 and 1962 may not be repeated this year, he adds.

At the same time, domestic mill use dropped below year earlier levels in late 1962 as did orders at weaving mills which have increased inventories. This does not indicate an extended downward price trend, Marks emphasized, because these relationships could be reversed in relatively short time.

However, he cautions, the less encouraging ratio of inventories to unfilled orders may reflect a broader shift by fabric makers to synthetics. Trade reports show wool industry concern that customers may step-up the use of lower priced manmade fabrics in clothing because of higher wool prices.

An alternative available to the U.S. textile industry to paying higher prices for foreign apparel wools is to import more wool textile products from Japan, Italy and England. Imports last year reached record levels, he said.

However, Marks points out that this alternative is uncertain because the U.S. wool textile industry is striving for quantity restrictions on fabric imports similar to those negotiated for cotton last year.

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Tulelake Chemical Dealer Relates Jet Trip In Blizzard To Seminar

TULELAKE—Flying by jet in an Alaskan snowstorm is hard on the nerves as Ed Greene, owner-manager of Oregon Agricultural Chemicals, Tulelake, and a Dow Chemical representative, Lyle McCutchen, Seattle, can verify.

The two were en route to attend seminars at Anchorage and Juneau on the use of chemicals in weed control when their Pacific-North jet ran into a blinding blizzard. The pilot continued to circle and eventually made an emergency landing on a small island, Annette, headquarters for Coast Guard and U.S. Army personnel. They never reached their destinations.

The April 2-4 meetings were on the Oregon Ag Chemicals Alaskan Industrial Vegetation Control on private, state and federal lands including forest, railroad, highway, telephone, power and other areas.

Greene was to have spoken on the "Background, Early Chemicals, Public Relations," "Sterilants, New and Old Values," "Wetting Agents and Equipment," and "Nozzle Droplets, Pattern, Spray, vs. Drift."

McCutchen was also on the program. The seminars were sponsored by the Oregon Ag Chemicals, Tulelake, which has worked with the White Pass and Yukon, the Alaskan Railroad, Eklutna Irrigation Project, the MEA Power Company, Chugach Electric Company, telephone firms, highways and farmers.

OAC has a government vegetation engineer rating and does engineering for the federal government in Alaska.

A similar type schooling was held for the Washington State Highway District two years ago that brought special recognition to OAC and over \$100,000 in contracts in four months. Norman Parker, Klamath Falls, assists Greene with the Washington Highway schools and services the highway account for the company which has expanded to meet

the need for resident vegetation engineer personnel in Washington state, Eugene, Ore., Chico and Marysville, Calif. Applying crews also cover the Northwest servicing power lines, irrigation and drainage systems, roadsides and anywhere that weeds and brush are not welcome.

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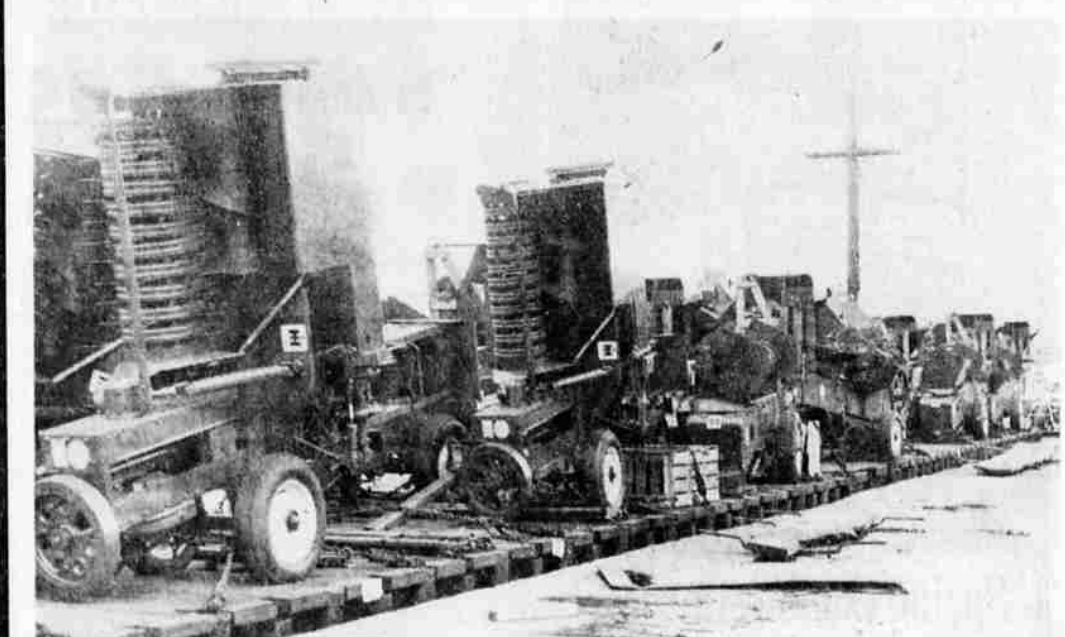
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