

Prospects Appear Bright For Higher Seed Prices

Prices equal to or even higher than last year are in prospect for most 1963 Oregon seed crops. Sales in both domestic and foreign markets have been large and carryover stocks are now generally smaller than a year ago.

This is the market outlook for seed crops as seen by Ray Teal, Oregon State University extension seed and grain marketing specialist. Teal makes his comments in the Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular which is now available from county extension offices.

Decreased acreages coupled with good foreign and domestic demand are the factors cited by Teal as responsible for the bright outlook.

Byegrass seed prices were higher in mid-June than last year. Oregon acreage was reported to be 11 per cent smaller this year with prospects of a good yield, he said.

Unofficial reports indicate a large crop of hairy vetch seed in Texas this year. Mid-June prices were below last year's even though carryover should be small, he said. Crop conditions in Oregon, Texas, Oklahoma and other producing areas should be watched closely because prices will depend heavily on the size of the crops.

Common vetch prices are expected to hold at last year's levels, Teal reported. Crimson clover seed prices will likely be above last year's levels unless

there is a large crop of hairy vetch seed that could be substituted at a lower price.

Prospects are that most 1963 turf seeds will sell at prices as high as last year unless the Midwest and European crop of bluegrass is large, the specialist said. Oregon prospects are for heavy yields of common blue grass varieties.

Imports of bluegrass from The Netherlands have been the largest on record so far this year, he noted. The use of turf seeds has been good and may help offset the larger imports.

Fine fescues and bentgrasses are in tight supply at present.

Composite Field Crop Is Expected To Reach Record

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The 1963 composite field crop is expected to reach record proportions despite bad growing weather and lack of moisture in some areas, the agriculture department indicated Wednesday in its first big production report of the year. Although the department delayed until next month an estimate of a production index, indications were that this year's output of food, feed, and fiber would be abundant — perhaps equal to or greater than the record-setting harvest of 1962.

The crop reporting board said farmers reporting for their localities rate "all crops" prospects as generally good to excellent in the West, Northern plains, and Central states as well as most of the North Atlantic area.

But there were scattered areas of only fair prospects mixed with the good to excellent as rainfall has been deficient in many areas and soil moisture shortages were critical in some spots.

May Have Bumpers
The board added that although prospects across the nation are

Teal said. Exports of bentgrasses were good this season, although imports of fine fescue were 50 per cent larger this season through April than for that period a year ago.

This was expected because of the large carryover in Canada last year. Teal added that imports are expected to decline since the 1962 Canadian crop was only half as large as in 1961.

Fescue and bentgrass seed prices should near last year's high, Teal believes.

Alta fescue seed prices in 1963 will depend upon the size of crops in Oregon and the South. At present, large crops and small carryover are expected, he said.

not rated quite as good as a year earlier, favorable conditions could bring bumper crops in many areas and make up for the bad start in others.

The department said the planted acreage this year totaled 309 million acres, 2 per cent more than the record low of 302 million planted in 1962. Of this planted acreage, the current estimate of total harvest is 291 million acres — 1 per cent greater than the record low of last year.

The board estimated the corn crop—the nation's biggest cash crop—would total 3.85 billion bushels. This is 6 per cent more than in 1962 primarily because of a 7 per cent acreage increase. It is only 2 per cent below the record 3.9 billion bushels produced in 1960. The prospective yield this year is 63.2 bushels an acre, second only to last year's record of 64.1 bushels.

Tonnage More Too
The tonnage of all feed grains is expected to total more than last year. The combined production estimate of corn, oats, and barley as of July 1 is 3 per cent more than the 1962 total of these crops.

The acreage of sorghums planted is 11 per cent larger but an estimate of grain production will not be made until Aug. 1.

But using sorghum planted acreage as a base, it appears that total feed grain tonnage output this year will be around 14.3 million tons. Consumption is expected to be about 15.4 million tons. If this is realized, the surplus of feed grains will be reduced about 5 million tons.

Last year the surplus was reduced about 11 million tons. Production of feed grains last year totaled 14.3 million tons.

All wheat production this year will be about 1.1 billion bushels, 2 per cent above last year but 9 per cent below average.

The board said soybean acreage at 29.1 million acres will be up 4 per cent from last year and the largest of record.

All hay acreage is expected to total 1 per cent less than last year. Tobacco, peanuts, and sweet potato acreages are smaller than in 1962. Irish potato acreage is unchanged, while sugar crops continue the rapid expansion of the previous two years.

Freeman Seeks Broader Trade With Russians

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FARM REVIEW AND FORECAST

HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon

Tuesday, July 16, 1963 PAGE 9

Varieties Of Potato Seed Available

By LEONARD J. CALVERT
Information Specialist
Oregon State University

The first potato with high resistance to leaf roll virus is among three new potato varieties developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with state agricultural experiment stations, reports Rex Warren, Oregon State University extension farm crops specialist.

The leaf-roll-resistant variety, named Penobscot, was developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. It has been tested in Maine, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.

A limited amount of certified seed is available to growers for trials through the Maine experiment station's Aroostook Farm, Presque Isle, Me. Foundation seed is being produced by the Maine State Seed Potato Board.

In tests, Penobscot produced satisfactory yields, consistently high dry-matter content, showed much more resistance to leaf roll than commercial varieties now under

cultivation and field immunity to mild mosaic.

Penobscot tubers are oblong to oval, with cream-buff skin and eyes of medium depth. They show good quality for processing into chips or french fried potatoes, both at harvest time and at intervals after storage.

The second new variety, named Reliance, is a medium-maturing potato with moderate resistance to several common potato diseases. A limited amount of seed is available from seed-certifying agencies of Minnesota and North Dakota, whose experiment stations cooperated with ARS in developing this fresh market variety.

Reliance has been tested in Minnesota, Arizona, Indiana, Kansas and Washington. It has moderate resistance to a wide variety of disease pathogens—including those causing late blight, common scab, russet scab, silver scurf, aster yellows and leaf roll. The variety is immune to virus X but is susceptible to Y viruses, spindle tuber and verticillium wilt.

Reliance tubers are smooth and oval with shallow eyes and show a tendency to delay sprouting, a distinct advantage in storage. The skin is white but turns russet when grown at some locations.

Reliance produced higher yields

than the comparable Kennebec variety at 10 of 16 locations in the five states where it was tested. Although Reliance makes satisfactory potato chips at harvest time, it is intended chiefly as a fresh market potato.

The third new variety, named Shoshoni, combines high-yielding ability with resistance to scab and verticillium wilt and shows excellent processing qualities for dehydrated potato products. It was developed in cooperation with the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and tested in Idaho.

In growing trials, the 6-year average yield of U.S. No. 1 tubers was 230 hundredweight per acre for Shoshoni, compared with 125 hundredweight for the comparable Russet Burbank. Shoshoni was rated equal to Russet Burbank for processing and showed considerably more resistance to verticillium wilt than Russet Burbank, although less than Menominee.

A limited amount of Shoshoni foundation seed is being increased at the Idaho Tetonia Branch Station, but seed for commercial plantings will not be available until 1965.

Future trials may widen the areas of adaptation for the three new varieties. USDA has no seed of the varieties for distribution.

Influenza Epidemic Hits Horses; Situation 'Bad'

An epidemic of influenza which has been disabling horses from coast to coast may be poised at the "explosive" stage in Oregon, the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association warned Friday.

Veterinary researchers described the disease as a new strain or new type of illness, reassured horse owners that it was rarely fatal and emphasized that anti-biotic therapy could be helpful in preventing serious complications and after-effects.

During the past 90 days, the ailment has been forcing postponement or curtailment of horse racing schedules in many parts of the country. The season at Longacres, near Seattle, was interrupted for two days.

When the Portland Meadows season ended a week ago, veterinarians estimated that approximately 50 per cent of the horses on the grounds had been affected and that, had the meet lasted another week, there would not have been enough well horses to hold a race.

Two new organisms, one a virus the other a bacteria, are being blamed for the epidemic which is affecting horses of all ages. Thus far, show horses and saddle horses, because of the infrequency of their exposure to other horses, have not been as seriously involved as race horses.

"But," the OVMA warned, "the disease will very likely continue to spread and the proportion of affected animals probably will increase before it diminishes."

Owners will have no difficulty veterinarians say. The horse develops a persistent cough, an elevated temperature and a listless attitude.

If the animal is not put under stress during the infection, it seems to be able to combat the

disease successfully. But failure to enforce rest during the course of the disease can lead to serious, or even fatal, complications, such as pneumonia.

Since the disease is spread either by contact or by air-borne virus, owners are cautioned to use antiseptic sprays in stall areas, to keep animals isolated if possible and to practice other standard sanitary precautions.

Veterinary laboratories are making extensive tests to attempt to develop a vaccine which could immunize animals against the new disease. Researchers also are trying to determine whether the new strain of flu is transmissible to humans.

State Retains Mobile Units For Slaughter

Farmers can continue to have their slaughtered meat transported by mobile slaughter units.

Two hearings were held by the Oregon Department of Agriculture last month to consider evidence on the proposal to discontinue this service to the farmers.

An order issued last week by the department rejects the proposal.

Hearings officer J. W. Southworth said at the present time there is insufficient evidence of illegal sale of uninspected meats or of illegal use of mobile slaughter units to warrant prohibiting transportation of meat by these units.

The change in regulations was under consideration because there had been some concern that uninspected meat was finding its way into retail channels through meat markets via mobile slaughter units.

The mobile slaughter law permits farmers to have animals slaughtered for their own use or for direct sale to the consumer without inspection—all other meat sold in the state must have either state, federal or approved city inspection.

A year ago a legislative interim committee on agriculture, concerned over livestock thefts, sanitation of mobile slaughter units and meat inspection safeguards, proposed that the department strengthen controls over the mobile units or that the Mobile Slaughter Act be repealed.

During the past legislative session some of the legislators had suggested the department should maintain close surveillance of the units in accordance with the department's continuing obligation to protect the consumer and assure him of a wholesome and desirable meat product.

In giving his decision, Southworth said the department intends to continue to study the movement of livestock from farms and ranches to the consumer, especially where there is no inspection of the product.

Instead of repairing a badly marred table top, select a new top of laminated plastic or marble at a lumberyard and have it cut to fit. Both these materials, says the Cleanliness Bureau, are burn-proof and alcohol-proof and can be washed with a sudsy sponge.



STAFF OF LIFE—Wilson Weaver averaged approximately 68 bushels of wheat per acre from a government measured 4-acre field. The variety was Dual and the test weight was 62½ pounds per bushel. Weaver prepared his 4-acre Columbia, Mo., plot for alfalfa, but was afraid of grasshopper infestation and decided to plant wheat instead. The acreage received \$140 worth of plant foods.

Senate OK's Duck Bill

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Senate today passed and sent to the House a bill to promote waterfowl management on four wildlife refuges along the Pacific Flyway in Oregon and California.

The legislation as amended by the Senate Interior Committee gave conservation priority but recognizes agricultural land use in the area. California senators said. It permits the present pattern of leasing in the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake refuges to continue with special provision on sharing of revenues.

The other refuges affected are the Upper Klamath and Clear Lake refuges.

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