

Livestock Prospects Promising for '63, According to Oregon State Economist

Oregon livestock prospects are promising for 1963, but cattle and hog prices are likely to average slightly lower than in 1962. Lamb producers may experience their best market year since 1957.

These trends are indicated by recent and prospective changes in livestock numbers, marketings and demand in the year ahead, reports Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State university extension agricultural economist. Marks makes his report in the new OSU Farm and Market Outlook circular, now available from county extension offices.

Oregon cattle prices have been improving the past 18 months mainly because the expected increase in national beef production failed to materialize. Beef output in 1962 was nearly the same as in 1961, while population gained almost two percent.

Western Prices Bolstered

At the same time, cattle feeding slowed down in the corn belt and average slaughter weights of cattle were lighter than in other recent years, Marks notes. Smaller marketings in the midwest helped bolster prices in the west, despite record feedlot activity in California, Arizona and Texas.

In the next two or three years, cattle feeding is expected to increase some more in the midwest as well as the west, suggesting greater market competition for western-fed beef than in the past year, he points out.

As beef marketings increase generally, prices on slaughter cattle from Oregon probably will adjust to lower levels, especially if the increase rate is much in excess of population growth. Such an increase now seems to be in prospect, Marks said.

Beef Herds Increasing

More cattle are sure to be available for feeding in 1963 and larger supplies for slaughter also will be coming from winter wheat pastures and ranges because beef cattle herd sizes have been increasing.

Favorable range conditions and rising prices in 1962 encouraged ranchers to expand their herds. Preliminary estimates suggest that on Jan. 1, 1963, the nation had a record cattle inventory of 102 million head, Marks states.

Further expansion is the 1963 prospect, providing range conditions continue favorable. Range feed conditions will continue to be an important key to the turning point in the current production and price cycle. So long as range conditions remain favorable, there is little danger of a price bust resulting from the recent buildup rate in cattle numbers, Marks believes.

U.S. supplies of feed grains are still abundant, though the supply has declined over the past two years, he notes. The barley supply is a little larger than last year, both in the northwest and nationally.

Protein Feed Prices Higher

Despite smaller overall supplies, feed grain prices may average about the same as during the 1961-62 feeding year, Marks notes. The supply of high protein feeds is slightly larger per animal unit than last year, but these feeds cost more this year due to generally

good demand from domestic as well as foreign users.

Domestic red meat production will continue to be supplemented by large imports, Marks states. U.S. cow slaughter is expected to increase some, but not enough to cause a large reduction in imports of processing beef.

Foreign suppliers, namely Australia and New Zealand, probably will increase their exports to broaden their market outlets in the United States, especially if Great Britain, world's largest meat importer, joins the European Common Market, he observes.

Hides, Skins Duty Free

The direct effect of the Common Market on U.S. livestock product exports will be relatively minor because the U.S. is a net importer of beef, Marks continues. U.S. exports of hides, skins and beef casings are not affected and will continue to enter the market duty free.

However, U.S. exports of variety meats and tallow may be seriously affected, he warns. Under present arrangements, these products will be imported by the Common Market by a system of import certificates which can be suspended whenever Common Market prices come under too much pressure.

Oregon hog prices in 1963 probably will average a little lower than in 1962, Marks notes. Some price recovery from the 1962 fall low is in prospect for early 1963, but not as much as a year earlier.

More Meat in Storage

The prospective decline in hog marketings this winter will be offset by larger stocks of pork in storage plants, increased supplies of frying chickens and larger beef supplies, he adds.

The U.S. 1962 fall pig crop was larger than a year before and a further increase is in prospect in spring farrowings, Marks said. Thus, hog marketings in 1963 are expected to be moderately larger than in 1962. With prospects of adequate grain supplies and fairly stable prices through 1963, producers are likely to raise more hogs, he observes.

Hog prices have been unusually stable the past three years except for sharp seasonal dips in 1961 and 1962. Hog-corn price ratios also have been favorable, but hog-barley price ratios have been near average. Little change in these relationships is in prospect for 1963.

Sheepmen who survived the recent low price years face relatively better times, at least until supplies build up again, Marks says. Lamb prices in 1963 should average higher than in 1962.

No Sheep Expansion Seen

Flock liquidations in 1960, 1961 and 1962 have reduced the number of sheep and lambs to a point where the Jan. 1, 1963, inventory may show the smallest number since 1950. With price improvement, however, no further large scale liquidation is in prospect, but no large increase in holding ewe lambs for flock expansion is in prospect either.

Odds are that the 1963 lamb crop will be even smaller than in 1962. Lamb prices during the early part of 1963 will average much higher than a year earlier, with summer and fall prices likely to hold above the same seasons the past year, he predicts.

Wool prices in 1963 probably will average about the same as in 1962. Domestic stocks are down and a smaller crop of shorn wool is in prospect due to the reduction of sheep numbers, but prospects are for continued strong competition from lower-priced man-made fibers and from larger imports of woolen fabrics.

Owyhee Riding Club Makes Plans for Year

Owyhee Riding club held its first meeting of the year Feb. 1 in the Oregon Trail Grange hall. In attendance were 30 members and three visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Dickson and daughter.

During the business session, plans were made for the coming year. Movies were shown by Bob Holmes.

Next meeting for the group will be on the regular night which will be Feb. 22.

A potluck dinner preceded the Friday evening meeting.

RETURN FROM CALIFORNIA

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Judd returned home last week from a two-month visit in California. The couple spent most of the time with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Downer and family in Taft, but also visited relatives in Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Los Gatos.

ENROUTE TO OGDEN

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Stoker were Sunday dinner guests of their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Brower. The couple was enroute from Seattle to their home in Ogden.

75 Million Heart Fund Dollars For Heart Research Since 1949



SYMBOLIC CHECK is displayed to 3-year-old Ronda Weed, a beneficiary of heart surgery, and her mother, by Herbert and Melvin Greensfelder of Logansport, Indiana, identical 67-year-old twins who suffered "identical" heart attacks 10 months apart and have since fully recovered. The \$75,000,000 shown on the check represents the total channeled into medical research by all Heart Associations in the nation since the first Heart Fund campaign was conducted in 1949.

OSU Weather Bureau Training Director Reports Meteorologists Badly Needed

Everybody talks about the weather but there aren't nearly enough trained meteorologists to do the weather work and research needed today in America, the training director for the U.S. Weather Bureau observed recently at Oregon State university.

The weather bureau, the armed forces, industry, research centers and colleges are all in need of trained weather workers, according to Albert V. Carlin.

He came to OSU to observe training under way at OSU this term for 26 Weather bureau workers from 22 states and Washington, D.C. The weathermen were selected for the intensive program to broaden their weather training and to advance them in their careers as Weather bureau meteorologists.

One of 16 in Country

Oregon State university is one of only 16 universities in the country that prepares graduates to be professional meteorologists. Dr. Fred Decker heads up the meteorology work at OSU.

Electronic computers that greatly speed and simplify processing of weather data, and the weather

satellites, have helped produce major advances in weather forecasting, Carlin noted.

Other Forecasts Foreseen

Stream flow and water supply forecasts will become more important in years to come as increasing populations tax water supplies. And air pollution forecasts and observations will become common place, Carlin believes.

To help attract top young people into meteorology, the Weather bureau has launched a summer training program, Decker noted. Students may start work-training at weather stations the summer after high school graduation and continue through college-year summers provided their work is satisfactory. Pay is \$80 to \$70 a week.

More than 250 students were in the program last year.

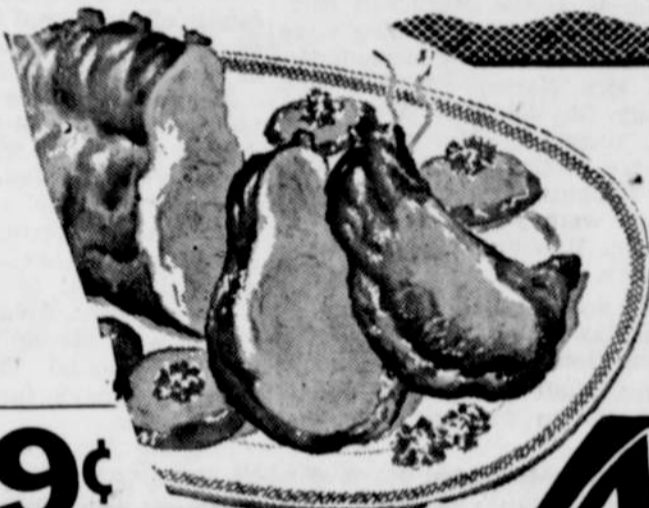
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