

Agricultural Brevities

Farm Income

Agricultural gross income from farm production for 1935 is estimated at \$8,110,000,000, the largest in any other year since 1930.

In 1934 it was \$7,266,000,000, and in 1932 \$5,337,000,000.

Cash income for 1935 production was about \$6,900,000,000, a 10 per cent increase over 1934. The value of goods retained for home consumption is estimated at \$1,200,000,000 or about 16 per cent more than in 1934.

There was a pronounced increase in income from both crops and livestock from 1934 to 1935.

In the southern states, the larger production of cotton and tobacco and the increased income for livestock offset the lower prices for tobacco and cotton and the total income shows an increase over 1934.

The Department of Agriculture reports that the increased income of farmers in 1935 has been accompanied by marked increases in purchases of commodities, both for the family and for production. The increase has been most noticeable in the case of clothing, house furnishings, farm machinery, automobiles and building materials. Retail sales by general stores in towns under 5,000 averaged 19 per cent above 1934.

Increases in rural purchasing power have contributed about 40 per cent of the industrial improvement, according to a statement made by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

The figures of the department show that from 1929 to the first quarter of 1933, farm cash income dropped 61 per cent, and rural retail sales fell 57 per cent.

From the bottom of the depression to the present time, farm cash income has advanced 86 per cent and rural retail sales 93 per cent.

Livestock

Pig production which increased last fall will show further increase this spring according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This increased production of pigs will be reflected in increased hog slaughter, which will wipe out the present deficit in pork by mid-summer.

An increase of about 31 per cent in the fall pig crop of 1935 over that of 1934, a decrease of 5 per cent in the combined spring and fall crop of 1935 from that of 1934, and a prospective increase of 24 per cent in the number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1936 were shown in the Department of Agriculture report based upon returns from December and June pig surveys, made in cooperation with the Post Office Department through the rural mail carriers.

The War on Cattle Ticks

Cattle fever tick area in the United States has been cut down in less than 30 years to only nine per cent of the area that was infested with the tick when the Department of Agriculture started to drive it out of the country. On July 1, 1906, nearly 730,000 square miles in 15 states were under Federal quarantine. On December 1, 1935, about 62,000 square miles remained under quarantine—all in Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

Crops

The United States Department of Agriculture warns that soybean farmers in southern states who shop for bargains when they buy Mammoth Yellow or Laredo seed for planting, may find that they have purchased instead early maturing yellow Macoupin or Norredo (formerly called Early Laredo or Early Indiana Laredo).



This illustration was made from pictures taken in late summer. It shows the appearance of early soybeans as compared with late southern varieties both grown in the south.

Neither variety is adapted in the south, although they are desirable in the north. It is almost impossible to distinguish the seed. Mammoth Yellow and Laredo are well adapted in the south, but either of the two when planted in the south mature too early. Because seed of these unadapted varieties usually sell for less and there is temptation to substitute the cheaper seed with loss to the grower.

Japanese Beetles

L. H. Worthley, in charge of Japanese Beetle quarantine enforcement for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, reports that Japanese beetles in large numbers during 1935 spread more solidly over certain areas in the eastern part of the United States.

The area now subject to plant quarantine regulations to keep this costly pest of gardens, orchards, and fields from overrunning new territory, lies in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Worthley stated that his department had found light infestations in 34 places where the pest had never been found before; eight in North Carolina, 11 in Virginia, 4 in West Virginia, 9 in Ohio, 1 in Maryland, and 1 in Maine. Beetle gains were recorded at Greenville, S. C., where the number of beetles trapped jumped from 89 compared with two caught last year.

Dr. C. H. Hadley, entomologist at the Japanese Beetle Laboratory, Moorestown, New Jersey, at a meeting of the Federated Shade Tree Commission expressed little hope that the Japanese beetle could be brought under control at any near future date. Dr. Hadley told of the new aluminum sulphate mixture which has been developed as a non-poisonous spray for early bearing fruit trees.

Foreign

On January 1, 1936, a new textile spinning law became effective in Germany. This law places all of the fibre spinning industry on a regulated quota basis. The government will fix basic mill consumption contingents for all factories using animal and vegetable fibres for spinning. This law is expected to result in a limited use of imported



fibres. In China the 1935 cotton crop is estimated at 2,161,000 bales of 478 pounds each. This compares with a final estimate of 3,125,000 bales in 1934.

This estimate indicates a crop much below consumption requirements of the past two years. In 1934-35 mills in China consumed 2,235,000 bales.

Stocks of cotton in Chinese mills are low, and with the 1935 crop estimated at 31 per cent less than the 1934 crop, China may be compelled to increase purchases of foreign cotton this year.

Rural Electrification

Under the Rural Electrification Administration in Virginia, charters are being granted to cooperative companies that are formed to purchase electric current in bulk at lower rates from power companies.

This will permit a widespread use of electricity by fruit and vegetable growers in all sections of the state.

Heretofore, it has been necessary for growers to erect their own lines and pay heavy charges for light and power in grading and packing sheds where much night work is done.

Farm Credit

Figures released by the Farm Credit Administration on 1935 operations indicate an optimistic outlook in farm real estate. Over 6,400 farms were sold by the Federal Land Banks to farmers and other investors in the first ten months of last year.

Farm real estate sales during ten months in 1935 amounted to \$22,154,000 with a recovery of 101.2 per cent of the carrying value, according to the Farm Credit Administration.

A part of the new interest in farm purchases came from provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1935 which author-

ized the Land Bank Commissioner to make first or second mortgage loans for farm purchases in amounts up to 75 per cent of the appraised normal value of the property to be purchased.

S. D. Sanders succeeded F. W. Peck as Cooperative Bank Commissioner, on the 1st of January.

Mr. Sanders has been president and general manager of the Washington Cooperative Egg and Poultry Association for 13 years, and has achieved a national reputation as a leader in the cooperative movement.

As Cooperative Bank Commissioner, he will direct the operations of the Central Bank for Cooperatives at Washington and the 12 district banks that cover the entire United States, including Puerto Rico.

Mr. Peck resigned to resume his duties as Director of Extension at the University of Minnesota, as his leave of absence terminated on December 31, 1935.

Organization

With the invention of the automobile, the National Grange commenced an agitation for Highway Safety and for the protection of the rights of all who use the highways. In 1928, in cooperation with the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, and the Highway Educational Board, a Highway Safety Contest was started for the purpose of interesting the Granges of the nation, and especially our younger members in the problems of Highway Safety. The first prize was a free trip to the annual session of the National Grange. A number of national prizes were also offered, and in addition, one silver and three bronze medals were given to the best essay writer in each state.

The results have been worth-while. Eight thousand Granges have considered the problem of Highway Safety in their regular Grange meetings. Hundreds of thousands of people have heard programs dealing with the subject; but more important, boys and girls have been brought face to face with the serious problem of safety on our highways.

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