

# Present Meat Price Situation Explained By Department Head

## Wallace Raps Malicious Propaganda By Packers To Destroy Farm Program

By HENRY A. WALLACE  
Secretary of Agriculture

American consumers deserve more accurate information about causes of present pork prices than that contained in a recent Associated Press dispatch from Chicago.

That dispatch, while correctly attributing first responsibility for present pork prices to the 1934 drought, defined the second cause as follows: "The Agricultural Adjustment Act, which provided for the destruction of 6,000,000 piggy sows or grown sows which would have been on the market this year. In addition uncounted prospective litters were destroyed."

This analysis is attributed by the Associated Press to Chicago "meat authorities." I am curious to know if these unnamed sources are packers who are suing in court for recovery of processing taxes already paid or sequestered in court on the theory that the packers pay these taxes, while at the same time spreading anonymous propaganda through the press to persuade consumers that the tax is borne by the consumer.

The interpretation of the effects of the 1933 sow slaughter on present pork prices, as contained in the Chicago dispatch, is a complete misstatement of the facts.

**3,000 Per Cent Wrong**

To start with, the statement that "6,000,000 piggy sows or grown sows" were killed is just about 3,000 per cent wrong. The total number of sows purchased by the government was not 6,000,000, but was, by actual count, 232,149, or about one-thirtieth of the number cited in the dispatch.

In the second place, the statement that these sows were "destroyed" is an error. In slaughtering of these sows the edible meat was saved, and 100 million pounds of cured pork was distributed to families on relief rolls, as a result of the emergency buying operation.

Third, the part of the dispatch stating these sows "would have been on the market this year" is an absurdity. Farmers would not have held these sows until this year under any imaginable set of circumstances. The only kind of sows held for such lengths of time are blooded animals with records of high productivity, while farmers were in fact improving the blood lines of their herds by selling off their culls in 1933.

**Malicious Propaganda**

The rest of the statement that "in addition uncounted prospective litters were destroyed" makes the distortion just about complete.

So with more misinformation than I believe I have ever seen packed into two sentences, the public is given the inference—which the meat packers fighting the farmers' programs seem agreeable to have spread—that the government's 1933 pig purchase operation in some way contributed to increasing the present retail prices of pork. Consumers should be warned that a nation-wide effort is being made by packers and other processors to undermine the farmers' programs by spreading malicious and untrue propaganda of all kinds about the effects and purposes of the adjustment programs upon the consumers of the country.

The facts are that consumers now would be paying somewhat more for pork, if there had been no pig purchase program in 1933. A few simple little facts, if widely understood by consumers, will show them why this is true.

These facts are: First, that the government buying of both 232,149 sows, and 6,198,717 little pigs, was completed before October 1, 1933—nearly two years ago.

Second, that the sows purchased were due to farrow, or produce litters, in the fall of 1933.

Third, that the average age at which pigs are marketed is nine months. This means that if there had been no government buying, all of the 6,000,000 little pigs bought by the government would have been marketed in the winter of 1933-34 and the spring of 1934; the 232,149 sows would have been sold off about the same time, most of them in February and March of 1934, and the pigs from their litters, born in the fall of 1933, would have gone to market not later than the fall of 1934.

**Limited By Feed Supply**

Fourth, (and this is a vital fact for everybody to remember) that the supply of pork is limited by the supply of feed. With a given supply of feed, farmers can market just so many pounds of pork, and no more. They may vary the number of pigs, but the total weight, whatever the number, is absolutely limited by the feed supply.

Fifth, that in 1934, when the little pigs and the sows and their litters would have been marketed if there had been no government buying program, the markets were already glutted by supplies forced on the market by lack of feed caused by drought. That unprecedented drought reduced the 1934 corn crop by nearly a billion bushels and confronted farmers with the alternative of cutting down their hog herds or letting large numbers starve to death.

Sixth, that hog products are not usually held in storage for more than six months after slaughter.

When these facts are pieced together they spell out a story completely different from that which consumers are being asked almost every day to believe.

The true story is that the government, with its 1933 pig purchases, reduced by less than 6,000,000 pigs (including the possible million pigs not littered by the 232,149 purchased sows) the number of marketings in 1934, when nearly 68,000,000 were slaughtered. The need for the 1933 reduction is shown by the fact that even after the reduction was made, the 1934 slaughter was comparable to the 1933 total slaughter of 73,000,000 for farm and commercial use, and the 1933 slaughter of slightly less than 71,000,000. All of these totals compare with the hog slaughter in years before we lost

# TVA Farm Development Program Immense Benefit To Agriculture

(EDITORIAL NOTE—This is the second of a series of articles by Mr. Gough on the TVA program as it relates to North Carolina agricultural development.)

By HERBERT GOUGH  
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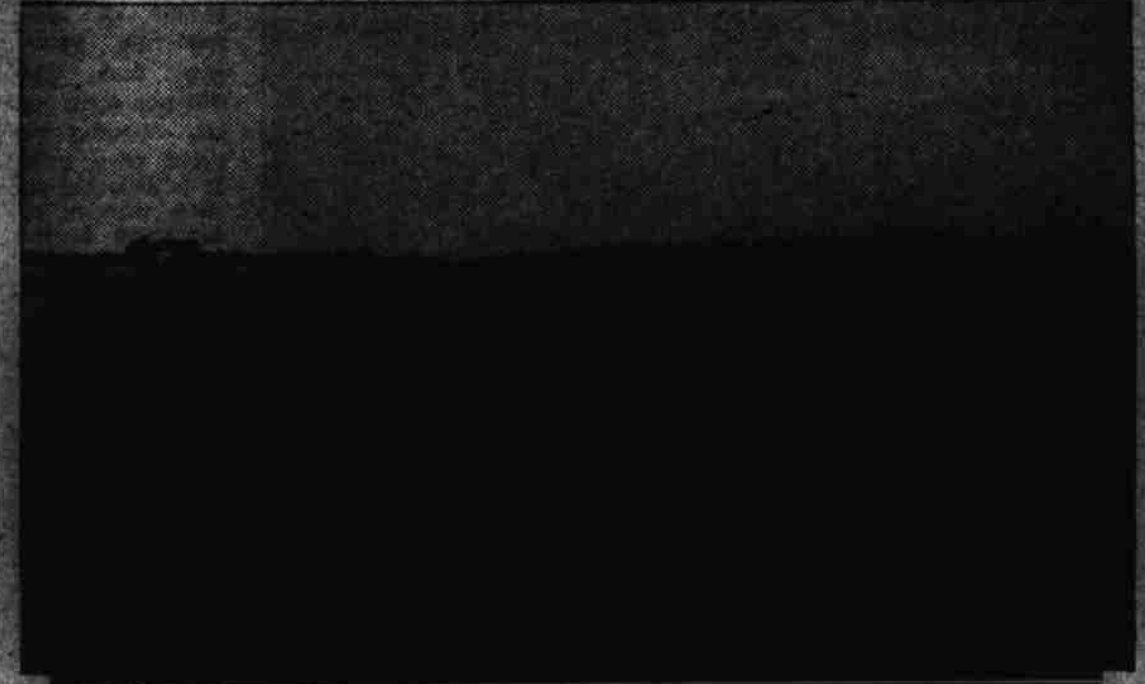
The agricultural program of the Tennessee Valley Authority is the most advanced of any Authority project in North Carolina. One hundred and fifty-six demonstration farms have been designated, and all of these but one have at this writing, been mapped. These 156 farms represent a total acreage of 22,100.

The farmers of a county working with state extension services and county agents, themselves designate which are to become demonstration farms. When a farm is so designated, it is mapped and accurate records of the progress of the farm is kept and is available to farmers of the county. The demonstrating farmer receives the TVA super-phosphate in varying proportions depending on the use to which the land thus fertilized is to be put. Lands used for cultivated, plow crops like corn, receive one of the TVA fertilizers. Thus farm-

1 cent per kilowatt-hour for the next 200 KWHR per month.  
2 cents per kilowatt-hour for the next 150 KWHR per month.  
3 cents per kilowatt-hour for the first 50 KWHR per month.  
4 mills per kilowatt-hour for the next 1,600 KWHR per month.  
7 1/2 mills per kilowatt-hour for all over 1,600 KWHR per month.

It will be noticed that after 1,600 kilowatt hours, the rate is increased slightly from 4 mills to 7 1/2 mills per kilowatt hour. This is because the average rate up to 1,600 kilowatt hours, starting at 3 cents and descending to 4 mills, equals exactly 7 1/2 mills. At that point it becomes constant.

One of the most significant moves toward rural electrification is being seen now in the two counties in Mississippi mentioned above. In Alcorn County, of which Corinth is the county seat, the farthest advanced of the two power associations, the urban and rural consumers joined hands to form the Alcorn County Electric Power Association. It was recognized by



A once-badly-eroded field has been sown to hypericum, which has proved to be one of

the most effective plants in controlling erosion.

ers are being encouraged to diversify their lands, utilizing some of the land for nitrogen-extracting cover crops. And thus the farmer is able to get a better balanced economy, for the cover crops in turn permit him to raise livestock. Five hundred and fourteen tons of superphosphate have already been shipped into North Carolina by the Authority for use on these demonstration farms.

**Work Through Extension Service**

In its agricultural program, the Authority is working closely with, and through, state extension services and county agents. The TVA contribution is the fertilizer, and an assistant county agent. Fourteen assistant county agents have already been placed in the field in North Carolina.

In addition to this work already under way in the state, there are three terracing units at work, saving hundreds of acres of land for all time from destructive erosion.

The Authority acts only in a supervisory capacity in connection with the work of the Associated Co-operatives. One co-operative creamery has been established at Erastown, and canneries have been located at Murphy, Hazelwood, Cranberry and Green Mountain. Approximately 400 persons, nearly all of whom were on relief rolls, are being given employment in these canneries during the canning seasons.

North Carolina has not as yet felt the blessings of cheap electricity. That still remains in the future and follows the successful completion of the Authority's engineering program of dam building.

Other sections of the valley, and territories immediately outside the area, have been more fortunate. In northern Mississippi, two entire counties are being supplied with TVA cheap power, in addition to several cities like Tupelo, located outside of these counties.

The Authority's power policy gains its inspiration from the almost complete lack of rural electrification in the Valley. Scarcely more than two or three in a hundred farms in the Valley now are supplied with power, according to a Power Commission survey. The Authority feels this power has been withheld from rural areas for invalid reasons, and plans of the TVA provide for the extension of rural lines where feasible.

**Basic Rates Established**

One of the first things the Authority did in the early days of its operation, was to establish basic rates. For homes and farms these rates were, and are today:

our export markets for pork, as for example in 1925 when slaughter was 68,000,000 head and when we exported 67 per cent of our pork, and 33 per cent of our lard.

The average farm price of hogs for the year ending September, 1934, was \$3.73 per hundred. Although very low, this price was somewhat higher than that of the previous year and higher than it would have been without the government program. The slight increase in price, plus benefit payments enabled the farmers to escape the disaster they would have faced.

All through 1934, when retail pork prices were moderate, consumers paid somewhat consumers begrudge the farmers that help in the government had not stepped in with its emergency program in 1933 to save the farmers from bankruptcy prices. I do not believe consumers begrudge the farmers that help in 1934, especially since the gains in farm buying power helped stimulate city business and aided in reviving city payrolls.

both types of consumers, that the prosperity of each was largely dependent upon the other; if the rural areas in the county was largely dependent upon the other; if the rural areas in the county flourished, the citizens of Corinth would correspondingly benefit, and vice versa. And so a co-operative association was formed to operate the county-wide system with TVA power. All domestic and farm consumers have the same rate, something new in marketing electricity.

At the time the Authority purchased the distribution system in the county from the Mississippi Power Company and resold it to the association, the latter believed it would take from 12 to 14 years to repay the Authority. Now it is evident that the entire debt will be repaid in approximately four years. For, despite the lower resale rates of power, the association is paying all necessary city, county, state taxes, amortization charges, interest, depreciation, operating and all other charges and returning a profit as well.

**Consumption Is Doubled**

In the urban operation in Tupelo (Lee County) Mississippi, the municipal system paid all operation charges the first year, all taxes and all other charges including interest, depreciation, etc., and still returned a net profit of \$21,700.

Several rural lines have been extended by the Authority in Alabama.

In Mississippi and Tennessee cities buying TVA power the consumption has approximately doubled while rates have been cut in two.

These are the highlights of the program of Valley betterment of the Tennessee Valley Authority. There are other ramifications too numerous to include in an article of this limited space. The program in the Valley has national implications in that methods successfully worked out in the confined area of 40,000 square miles, will be applied to the rest of the country. The impact of these methods already is making itself felt throughout the land.

## Senator Byrnes Says Farmers Have Lot To Gain From Loan Plan

Southern cotton growers have "everything to gain and nothing to lose" if they will cooperate with the government "to avail themselves of the 10-cent loan instead of dumping their cotton," according to a statement by James F. Byrnes, South Carolina's junior senator.

"If they borrow the 10 cents a pound and the crop is marketed in a orderly manner, cotton is bound to increase in value," said Senator Byrnes, who in the dying days of the recent Congressional session was largely instrumental in securing a compromise in the government's cotton marketing policy whereby the amount of the government loan was increased from nine to ten cents a pound and a guarantee of 13 cents per pound was assured the grower.

The county is growing its largest average of lard, and after the recent rains many farmers report the best growth they have had at this date. Plans are being made to build additional seed pans in the farm shops so that it will not be necessary to buy the seed for next spring's proposed acreage expansion.—Clara Rothell, Saluda, S. C.

# Grange Convention To Be Held Sept. 25-27 At North Wilkesboro

Farm Policies As Related To U. S. Will Be Main Topic Of Discussion

Farm policies as related to the United States government will be among the feature discussions of the North Carolina State Grange convention to be held at North Wilkesboro from September 25 to 27, R. W. Post, chairman of the executive committee, has announced.

Some of the questions of "prime importance" that will be presented to the Grangers are:

- 1—Should the AAA be made a permanent farm policy? What would be the effect on American life? If it is to be made a permanent policy, what adjustment should we advocate? How can it be made to meet the needs of all types of farmers?
  - 2—Are reciprocal trade agreements favorable or unfavorable to agriculture?
  - 3—What type of marketing program do farmers want? What can the Grange do to improve the marketing program and bring a large percent of the consumer's dollar back to the farmer?
  - 4—What is a fair tax? Can the tax program of local, county, State and Federal units of government be improved? What kind of tax do the farmers of your community advocate?
  - 5—What steps are necessary to bring agricultural equality? How can the Grange assist in the program?
  - 6—In what way can the school program of the State be improved?
  - 7—What effects will the present economic and social conditions have on the life of the future? What can the Grange do in this present crisis?
- "Come prepared to discuss these and other matters frankly," Harry B. Caldwell, State lecturer, has requested in a letter to all Grangers.

# Vast Insect Hordes Form Major Portion Of A Complex Nature

Man Has Never Exterminated A Single Species In The Eternal Struggle

By A. B. BRYAN

Stand up with both your arms stretched sidewise straight from your shoulders. Let us say that you can reach about six feet. We will let this represent the total number of kinds or species of living animals; that is, the whole animal kingdom. From the tip of your middle finger on your right hand to the first knuckle of your left hand, that is, the whole joint of that finger would represent all the kinds of insects which suckle their young. The rest of the distance to the wrist and on to the elbow would represent all the other known kinds of animals except insects. Then the number of kinds of insects would be represented by the distance from your right elbow to the shoulder across your chest, and clear to the tips of the fingers of your other outstretched hand.

This striking representation, says Prof. David Dunavan, assistant professor of entomology and zoology at Clemson College, is the way in which a noted entomologist impresses upon us the kind and number of insects known to science.

**WHAT IS AN INSECT?**

But what, you ask, is an insect? There are so many pests and vermin and outlandish critters. What do you mean, insect? To answer this query and thus define the term and confine the discussion Prof. Dunavan says:

"For our purpose we shall say that insects are those creatures which in some form or other usually have six legs. We shall exclude the spiders for they have eight legs instead of six. We shall not include the myriapods or 'thousand legs' for of course they have more than six legs. We cannot include such things as earth worms or fish worms for they never have any legs in any state of their growth. In short, we shall speak of only such things as the flies, beetles, caterpillars, butterflies, and the many other true insects."

Altogether there are about 625,000 kinds of species of insects known and recognized at present. This is about 193 times as many kinds of mammalian animals. It is about 46 1/2 times as many kinds as there are kinds of birds known to science. In brief, at least three-fourths of all living kinds or species of animals are insects. In South Carolina at the present time we have on record nearly 8,000 species of insects and every year we find a hundred or more additional ones that we have not previously recognized.

**INSECT MAN'S COMPETITOR**

Asking himself and us the question, what is the importance of knowing such facts as these about these vast hordes of creatures which have been termed man's chief competitor on this earth, our entomologist-zoologist reminds us first of all that of course not all insects are injurious to man. Then he says:

"We are forced to recognize the great army of injurious insects as one of the most dangerous foes man has ever had to face. How are they dangerous? Probably their greatest damage is to growing crops, but we must not forget that many of our worst human diseases are carried by insects alone, that our clothing is destroyed by them, that our domestic animals and our own bodies are tormented by them, and that possession of our very houses is often disturbed by them. One of our early entomologists predicted that the struggle between man and the insects would always be severe because man and certain insects constantly want the same things at the same time."