

Farm Equipment, Machinery Sales Largest Since '30

Prices Have Advanced — Buying For Replacement Forecasts Still Larger Sales.

Increased material, labor and other costs are expected to contribute to a slight advance in the cost of farm machinery next year. Prices paid by farmers for equipment increased about 2 per cent from September, 1934 to September 1935, and are now only 3 per cent below the 1928-29 price level.

Prices of many items of farm machinery, particularly horse-drawn implements are now relatively high compared with prices of other commodities purchased by farmers.

Wholesale prices of several items of farm machinery are now higher than at any time during the 23 years for which prices have been tabulated. This is especially true of horse-drawn equipment such as grain drills, mowing machines, hayrakes and corn planters. Other machinery is selling at about the same prices as prevailed in the period 1928-29, particularly grain binders, cultivators, disk harrows, gas engines and manure spreaders.

Machinery Sales Increase

Sales of farm machinery in 1935 have been the largest for any year since 1930, and for some machines sales have been so large that deliveries have been delayed. In view of the low level of replacement of farm machinery during the past five years, it is probable that sales will be still larger during 1936.

The demand for electricity on farms continues to increase. Electrical facilities available to farmers may be expanded considerably if the plans of the rural electrification administration materialize.

The Fertilizer Situation

Lower fertilizer prices are in prospect for next year. During 1935 wholesale prices of the principal potash salts have been decidedly lower than a year earlier. Prices of sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda have been somewhat lower, while prices of superphosphate have remained about the same.

Wholesale prices of mixed fertilizer to dealers during the third quarter of 1935 were somewhat lower than in the first half of the year. Prices paid by farmers declined from 106 per cent of pre-war in March, 1935 to 99 per cent of pre-war in September. It seems probable, according to the bureau of agricultural economics of the U. S. D. A., that this decline in retail prices will continue during the spring season of 1936.

Farm Wage Rates

Farm wage rates are expected to continue rising during 1936 in view of the greater demand for hired farm workers now in prospect. If industrial production increases in 1936, some reduction in the number of workers available for hire in rural areas may be expected.

Barring abnormal weather conditions in 1936, crop-adjustment programs will be the primary factor determining changes in farm-labor requirements. Decline in supply of farm workers during the past year resulted from an increase in employment in industries, and from the absorption of many surplus workers by various work relief projects.

Although sales of building materials have increased considerably since last spring, there is as yet no indication of any major change in prices.

Corn-Hog Contract Signers May Raise Production Quotas

A proposal to permit signers of corn-hog contracts to produce 80 per cent of their base hog production next year received the unanimous approval of producers and state agricultural specialists in conference in Washington, it was announced by Claude R. Wickard, chief of the Adjustment Administration's corn-hog section.

Producers who attended the conference stated that this provision in the new two-year voluntary contract to be offered corn and hog producers in 1936 and 1937 would permit a 30-per cent increase in hog production in 1936 and an increase in Federally inspected slaughter of from 7 to 8 million head in 1936-37 over the slaughter expected in the present year which began October 1. Such a production in 1936 would be about 20 per cent under the average annual production in 1932 and 1933. Though hog production in 1935 was limited to 80 per cent of 1932-1933 production, it was pointed out by Administration officials that not one of the major hog-producing states was able to reach the maximum because of the severe drought-enforced liquidation of hogs in 1934.

The conference recommended a hog adjustment payment of \$2.50 for each hog produced up to 50 per cent of each signer's base. The payment would be the same for a production ranging from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of the producer's base. For example a contracting farmer whose base is 100 hogs and who raises 50 hogs would receive an adjustment payment of \$125. If he raised more than 50 hogs he would receive the same total payment if he did not exceed his base production.

The new contract proposed by the conference would call for an optional adjustment of from 10 to 30 per cent in the base acreage of individual signers in 1936 with the requirement that participating farmers produce 20 per cent of their base acreage. Deductions would be made in the corn payment if the signer's planted acreage is less than 25 per cent of the base and no payment would be made if the corn is planted in 1935.

It was suggested, however, that an optional adjustment of 10 to 25 per cent in corn production would be satisfactory if it would bring about the desired reduction of 10 million acres in corn next year. Further investigation as to the percentage range producers may be allowed to reduce from corn use believed necessary before a final decision is reached. Corn adjustment payments would remain at \$5 cents a bushel as in 1935, on the estimated yield of retired areas.

LIVESTOCK

Golden-Hoofs Prove Title Right



With other livestock taking front-page headlines, wool farmers will not overlook the farm flock of sheep, which are likely to prove a better investment than ever during the next few years. Above is a flock in Ashe County, North Carolina.

More Meat Animals On American Farms Forecast For 1936

With increased feed crop production this year an upward trend in numbers of meat animals—especially hogs—is expected, according to the bureau of agricultural economics. These increases in numbers, however, will not be reflected in increased slaughter before 1937.

There will be a considerable increase in slaughter supplies of hogs the last half of the year, but this may be offset at least in part by a smaller slaughter of cattle. Lamb slaughter the first half of the year is likely to be much smaller than in the corresponding period of 1935.

The general level of livestock prices is likely to be at least as high next year as this in view of continued improved consumer demand for meats and continuing small slaughter of livestock.

Some decline in prices of better grades of slaughter cattle is likely in the first half of the year in view of the probable increased supplies of these kind of cattle, but prices of the lower grades may be strengthened by a strong replacement demand.

Increases Late In 1935

The supply of most animals on farms in terms of total live weight of cattle, hogs, and lambs at the beginning of 1935 was not so high as at the beginning of 1934, when the aggregate supply was estimated to be the smallest in more than thirty years. Increases will not occur until late 1935.

The 1934 drought wiped out most of the increase in number of meat animals which had occurred from 1928 to the beginning of 1934. There was a further decrease in 1935. But over the next four years a marked expansion in livestock numbers and meat production is in prospect with the largest increases in hogs.

However, governmental actions of one kind or another may considerably affect the trend in livestock numbers. For instance, should the number of hogs be limited by a control program for hogs and feed grains, the increase in cattle and sheep raising in the corn belt probably would be greater than if no program were adopted.

The cotton and tobacco-woolage reduction programs will tend to increase pasture and forage-crop acreage in the cotton belt and to increase livestock production in the South.

The net results of these different factors influencing livestock production probably will be to perpetuate a situation caused temporarily by the 1934 drought; that is, to decrease somewhat the proportion of livestock production in the Great Plains and westward, and to increase the proportion east of the Mississippi River.

Five More States Are Now Free Of Bovine Tuberculosis

Five more states have been officially designated as modified accredited areas by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, signifying their practical freedom from bovine tuberculosis. These States, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana, constitute the largest group ever admitted, at one time, to the modified accredited status in the history of eradication work.

The early completion of State-wide testing in these states was made possible through the use of Federal emergency funds provided for cattle-disease control and to the splendid cooperation on the part of the livestock owners and local officials.

The advanced status of the work in these five states brings the total of modified accredited areas to 21, or nearly two-thirds of the 48 states. Officials in charge of the work for the U. S. Department of Agriculture point out that some retarding of hogs in areas now apparently free of the disease will need to be conducted but that the most difficult part of tuberculosis-eradication work in the modified accredited areas has been completed.

RISING STOCK OF VEALIN

Rising hogs of the wet range is important before cold weather sets in, says W. C. Nettles, N. C. extension entomologist, suggesting that some cases of standing from unsuitable conditions, which is generally available, cheap, and effective. This remedy has been used to good effect by farmers in all parts of the state.

Feed Supply Is In Balance With Farm Animal Population

Balance between feed supply and the number of farm animals is better today than for a number of years, says the outlook report of the bureau of agricultural economics. The supply of feed grains, including carryover of old crop grain, available amounts of wheat and rye that may be fed, and the prospective supplies by by-product feeds total about 100,000,000 tons.

Allowing for an average carryover into next season, and for commercial use of feed grains, the 1935-36 supply of these items for feed purposes would give each grain-consuming animal unit, including poultry, about the same quantity as on the average of the years 1928-29 to 1932-33.

Hay supplies, after making adjustments for carryovers at the beginning and the end of the season, provides nearly 2 per cent more tonnage per hay-consuming animal unit than on the average in the years 1928-29. Hay supplies are high in comparison to the last five years.

With normal weather conditions in the spring of 1936 and a continuation of the corn-hog program, a smaller grain-crop harvest, not much change in oats and barley acreage, and a slightly increased corn acreage may be expected. Some decrease in soybean acreage for grain and also for hay or forage is in prospect. The increase in corn may not fully offset the prospective reductions in grain acreage and soybeans.

Average yields on the prospective acres of feed grains would give a 1936 production about 5 per cent larger than in 1935, but such production would be less than the 1928-33 average. The increase in production of grain-consuming livestock probably will be as great or greater than this increase in feed production.

Entries At International To Total 12,000 Animals

By WILLIAM E. OGELVIE

(Special To State Farmer)

First entry from North Carolina for the 1936 International Grain and Hay Show, world's largest annual competitive farm crops exhibit, was made by T. R. Nichols, of Fuquay.

He will exhibit samples of corn which he has grown this year on his Wilkes county farm. It will be the 17th edition of the Chicago crop show, which is being held this year November 30th to December 7th in connection with the International Livestock Exposition.

Among the first entries R. H. BRINN received for the crops show this year were those of several wheat growers of New South Wales who have entered samples of that crop that they exhibited last spring in Australian shows. Their samples are now in Washington undergoing inspection by the United States Department of Agriculture after which they will be forwarded to Chicago.

The show will provide 91 different classes for corn, small grains, seeds, and hay. Cash premiums will be given on all prize-winning samples.

Secretary-manager R. H. BRINN, of International Livestock Exposition, predicts a record-breaking entry of both livestock and crops this year. Preparations are being made, he says, to house more than 12,000 animals in the new two million dollar amphitheater constructed last year as a permanent home for the Exposition at the Chicago Stock Yards.

FROM FED CALIFORNIA HETES

All pigs on the farm of E. C. Beatty, of Montgomery County N. C., will be fed enteric style this winter, reports County Agent O. M. Phillips. A modern self-feeder with three compartments to hold the various feeds has been built and a balanced ration will be served the pigs each day. All feed used with the exception of fish meal and shorts, were home grown. Mr. Beatty will keep complete records as to cost of feed, rate of gain, and selling price of pigs when marketed, says Phillips.

Supply of Wool Smallest For Years

The supply of wool for domestic use in the remainder of this marketing year is expected to be the smallest in several years, according to the annual outlook report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The supply of feeder lambs is much smaller this year than last. Because of the small late lamb crop in the Western States, lamb feeding will be reduced sharply this fall and winter.

The small supplies of fed lambs is important for the coming winter and the probable improvement in consumer demand for wool, says the bureau, to result in the highest lam prices in six years.

Wool production was curtailed last year and should this year and sheeps have been greatly reduced. Domestic mill consumption of wool, it is expected, will be less next year than this, but will not fall to the small consumption of 1934. Domestic wool prices are likely to be well maintained at least until next year's domestic clip becomes available.

Next year may open with a slight increase in the number of stock sheep in Western states; and an upward trend is in prospect over the next few years provided feed conditions continue favorable.

However, the upward tendency may be checked by the grading policies that may be inaugurated by the Government under the Taylor act and in the national program. Large changes in sheep numbers in the "header" or farm-flock sheep states is likely in the next few years.

Work Stock Care In Winter Months

By R. A. OLIVER

(National Cottonseed Products Association)

Our Carolina farmers should not overlook the proper care and feeding of their workstock during the idle winter months, especially with the present high prices of mules and horses. Otherwise, they will deteriorate very rapidly thereby decreasing the useful lives of the animals.

Our winter season is severe enough for every farmer to have adequate barns, or stables, and bedding for his workstock. This will prevent exposure, require less feed, and the animals will be in better condition when the spring work season arrives.

The average barn, or stable, in our section can usually be repaired or conditioned with lumber picked up on the farm, the work being done by the farmer, making the cost practically negligible. It should be large enough for the animal to be comfortable, and the floor should be built up with gravel or clay finally packed, to a point where it will remain dry during the rainy winter months.

Use Pure Water

Bedding consisting of pine straw, wheat straw, hay or cottonseed hulls should always be in the stable. To insure the animal a dry, sanitary place in which to live, the stable should be cleaned and bedding renewed at frequent intervals.

Pure water should be available so the animal can drink at will. This is very important. Salt is also necessary to provide part of the minerals needed for the health of the animal. This can easily be obtained in brick form and, whenever possible, should be before the animal at all times. If this is not desirable, then one teaspoon of salt should be added each day in the ration.

Very few people stop to realize that the average farm horse or mule seldom works more than fifty per cent of the time; the other half he is idle and a greater portion of this time is during the winter months. Therefore, it follows that proper feeding is essential at this season in order to keep the feed bill at a minimum and will keep the animal in good physical condition.

Use Of Roughage

For idle workstock, use as much roughage as possible with enough grain and concentrates to balance the ration. Cottonseed meal is a rich protein which can be used to advantage in balancing the horse grown grains and roughage. Cottonseed hulls will also supplement the horse grown roughage, at this season, if the supply is short.

It is well to remember that the work animal is a real power on the farm. Proper care and feeding means good work and a long period of usefulness.

Several suggested rations for idle mules and horses are given below:

	LBS.
Oats, corn, molasses, or crumbed grain	10
roughage, wheat, or barley	5
Cottonseed meal	1
Hay or bundle straw	15
Cottonseed meal	5
Cottonseed hulls	5
Hay or bundle straw	5
Cottonseed meal	5
Cottonseed hulls	15

HOUSING LIVESTOCK IN WINTERS

Disease affecting livestock in winter may be partially prevented by a thorough cleaning of the quarters before the animals are housed. This is the opinion of Dr. C. D. Grinnell, in charge of dairy and veterinary investigations for the North Carolina Department Station.

He says, "As winter approaches, much of our livestock is placed in winter quarters, but before this is done, the quarters should be thoroughly cleaned. The animals need to be inspected carefully for evidence of lice or ring worm. Any evidence of these troubles should lead to immediate treatment before there is an opportunity for spread. This is necessary because when animals are housed even for a part of the time, they are more in direct contact with one another and the spread of parasitic diseases, as well as other, takes place more rapidly."

HOGE SOUTH IN FEED STOCKS

Success of South Carolina farmers in gathering cash from sale of hogs this fall, the turning into profit corn and other farm-grown feeds, as shown by reports from county farm agents. Best results, these reports show, are obtained when the hogs are fed a ration properly balanced with protein supplement.