

1953 Income On Farms In United States Drops Five Per Cent Below Previous Year

Costs Taking Larger Proportion of Farm Income Results In Only 36.5 Per Cent of Gross Income, Smallest Since 1932

Farm operators in the United States realized a net income of 12.8 billion dollars in 1953, according to preliminary estimates. This was 5 per cent less than they received in 1952 and 13 per cent lower than in 1951. But it was 4 per cent above the postwar low of 1950.

Realized gross farm income includes the value of farm products sold or used in the farm home during the year, plus Government payments to farmers and the rental value of farm dwellings. The value of products sold, or cash receipts from marketings, declined 4 per cent in 1953 as a larger physical volume of sales was more than offset by lower average prices of farm products. Government payments were also down from 1952. On the other hand, farmers' nonmoney income—rental value of dwellings plus home consumption of farm products—was nearly the same in 1953 as in 1952.

With cash costs taking a larger proportion of farm income as a result of the growth in mechanization to farm operators, farmers retained as net income in 1953 only 36.5 per cent of their realized gross farm income, the smallest percentage for any year since 1932. The decline in total production expenses was almost entirely in such farm-supplied items as purchased feed, seed, and livestock and in rental payments, which are mostly share rents. The total of other expenses was up 3 per cent in 1953.

Farmers sold or consumed about 2 per cent more than they produced in 1953 while in 1952 they sold or consumed about 2 per cent less than they produced. As a result, farmers marketed about 4 per cent more products than in 1952, even though the total physical volume of farm output was about the same in each year, thereby holding their realized or spendable net income above their total net income.

With farmers' holding of crops and livestock decreasing 675 million dollars during 1953 compared with an increase of 654 million dollars in 1952, the total net income of farmers, including these inventory changes, was down 2 billion dollars or 14 per cent from 1952. This compares with a decline of 700 million dollars, or 5 per cent in their realized net income. The drop in total net income contrasts with a 5 per cent raise in national income.

Estimates of 1953 income given above are preliminary, based on information available as of February 15. However, it is not expected that there will be enough additional data to allow any substantial revisions before

Cash Receipts in 1953

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings last year are estimated at 31.0 billion dollars, 4 per cent less than their receipts in 1952. The total volume of farm marketings was up 4 per cent, but the weighed average of prices received was down about 8 per cent.

Receipts from livestock and livestock products, estimated at 17.2 billion dollars, made up about 55 per cent of total cash receipts and were 6 per cent below the previous year. This decline was due to a drop of 9 per cent in average prices, more than offsetting a 3 per cent increase in livestock marketings. Crop receipts last year totaled 13.8 billion dollars, down 2 per cent from the previous year, with crop marketings about 7 per cent lower.

On a state basis, 1953 cash receipts were below 1952 in 37 states, and increases were relatively small in most of the other 11 states. The largest decline was 26 per cent in Nevada.

Cash Receipts by States

Total cash receipts in 1953 were lower than in 1952 in 37 states, higher in only 11 states. The decreases ranged from less than 1 per cent in North Dakota to 26 per cent in Nevada. The increases ranged from less than 1 per cent in Pennsylvania to 20 per cent in Mississippi. Crop receipts were lower in 28 states, ranging from 1 per cent below 1952 in Connecticut and New Jersey to 37 per cent in Nevada and 42 per cent in Maine. In the 20 states where crop receipts in 1953 were above the previous year, the smallest increase was 2 per cent in Missouri and the largest was 32 per cent in Iowa and Mississippi. Receipts from livestock and products were down in 40 states, by only 1 per cent in Rhode Island and South Carolina but my 24 per cent in Nevada. Increases in livestock receipts in the other 8 states were generally small.

The declines in total cash receipts by states in 1953 were more often due to decreased receipts from livestock and products than from crops. In the North Atlantic Region, receipts from livestock and products were maintained in most states by higher prices of eggs and larger marketings of broilers. Outside of this region, however, North Carolina and Georgia were the only states where receipts from livestock and products were not lower than in 1953.

Arizona ranks first in farm income per farm, the amount being \$38,330. This is more than twice the amount for the second highest state, California. At the bottom is West Virginia, with farm income per farm of \$1,549.

North Carolina ranks fortieth in cash income per farm, the amount being \$3,064. North Carolina ranked forty-second in this respect in 1952. It is interesting to note that our rank has improved, even though farm income was \$46 million dollars less in 1953 than in 1952, and that farm income per farm was less by \$159.00.

Again Arizona ranks first in farm income per farm from the sale of crops, the amount being \$28,270. West Virginia is last with \$341.00. North Carolina ranks twenty-fourth in cash receipts per farm from crops, the amount being \$2,331. North Carolina is principally a crop state. Our low income per farm is simply due to the small amount of crop land per farm. We have the smallest farms in the United States, upon an average, and it is rather surprising that North Carolina ranks as well as she does. The high income per acre from tobacco is the main reason why our rank in income per farm is much higher than our rank in size of farms.

North Carolina ranks forty-sixth in per farm income from the sale of livestock and livestock products, the amount being \$734.00. Our total farm income from the sale of livestock and livestock products was \$211,636,000, a record high. North Carolina was one of the two states where the income from the sale of livestock and livestock products was not lower in 1953 than in 1952. This appears to be proof that North Carolina is gain-

ing as a livestock state. North Carolina ranks forty-fifth in per cent of farm income derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products, the per cent being 23.9 for 1953. North Carolina generally occupied forty-eighth position in this respect. However, the difference between 22.5 per cent in Mississippi and 23.5 per cent for North Carolina is not significant. The drop in income from tobacco tended to raise the per cent from livestock, since livestock did not drop. The average for the United States was 55.5 per cent of all farm income from the sale of livestock and livestock products, which is considerably more than twice the ratio for North Carolina.

As stated previously, North Carolina and Georgia were the only states where farm income from the sale of livestock products was higher in 1953 than in 1952. For the nation, as a whole, farm income from the sale of livestock was off about 6 per cent in 1953, as compared with 1952. For North Carolina, even with lower prices the total income from the sale of livestock and livestock products increased from \$205,000,000 in 1952 to \$211,636,000 in 1953. All evidence indicates that we are making headway as a livestock state, slowly but surely.

Hail the advent of each dangerous day, And meet the great adventure with a song. —Maurice Baring.

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Edenton Soldier In Exercise Hill Top

Army Cpl. Willie E. Blanchard, 21, son of Mrs. Lula O. Blanchard, 110 North Oakum Street, will move to the Yakima (Wash.) Firing Center in May to participate in Exercise Hill Top the last three weeks in May with the 44th Infantry Division.

Forty-fourth Division soldiers, as friendly forces, will face a well-trained aggressor team in the largest joint Army-Air maneuver ever to take place in the Pacific Northwest.

Exercise Hill Top marks the first time the 44th Division has taken to the field since its activation from the

Illinois National Guard in February, 1952.

Corporal Blanchard is stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., as a squad leader in Company L of the division's 129th Regiment. He entered the Army in December, 1952, and completed basic training at Camp Rucker, Ala.

CATHOLIC SERVICES

On the first Sunday of every month, first mass is in Palace Theatre, Windsor, at 8 A. M. Also mass at 10 A. M., on that Sunday in St. Ann's Church, Edenton, stated Father John Beshel, pastor. All other Sunday masses in Edenton will be at 9 A. M., and 7:30 A. M., on week-days, he said.

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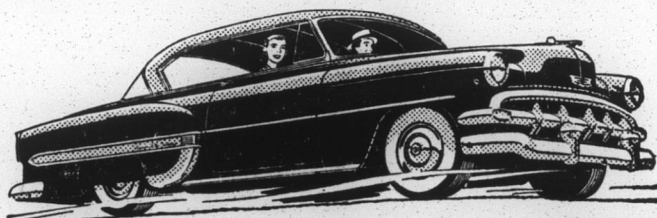
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