

Major Farm Trends To Continue In '69

Declining farm numbers and rising farm expenses, two trends that have marked U. S. agriculture for several years, will continue in 1969.

A further decline in U. S. farm numbers of 5 per cent is being predicted. Total net income for the nation will drop, compared to 1968, but net income per farm is expected to be slightly higher.

So the continuation of the rise in farm costs will not completely stop the wheel of farm income progress.

Net income for 1968 is predicted to be 4 per cent higher than a year ago at \$15 billion. The 1969 figure is expected to be about \$14.5 billion.

On the cost list, the same

items that have made rapid increases in the past will continue to lead the list in 1969. These include wage rates, machinery and real estate costs, according to North Carolina State University extension farm management economists.

"With the exception of fertilizer, interest and feed, a general increase in costs of most production items is expected," said Hugh L. Limer.

Farm wage rates have increased at an average rate of about 10 per cent per year in the South Atlantic states, he points out. This rate will continue, spurred on by a strong demand for labor in the non-farm sector and an increase in minimum wages of 15 per

hour for covered farms.

Farm machinery prices increased about 5 per cent during the past year. A similar increase is expected next year.

Although the national average price for hay may decline slightly, an increase is expected in North Carolina where silage, hay and pasture crops were damaged by summer drought.

A similar production situation existed with feed grain, but prices should be slightly lower in the state due to a large national supply. Processed feed prices are expected to average near last year due to higher processing and handling costs.

Other items: feeder cattle

prices fairly stable first quarter with a decline likely in the last half, depending on feed outlook; feeder pig prices at near fall 1968 levels through first quarter of 1969 with some decline expected later in the year; replacement dairy heifers slightly higher as milk prices increase; other increases expected for gas, oil, chemicals, building materials, etc., farm real estate, and real estate and personal property taxes.

As for farm income, Dr. Fred A. Mangum, Jr. of N. C. State summarizes it like this: "With prices of both crops and livestock under pressure, prospects for farm income in 1969 are less favorable than a year ago.

FAA And Air Jams

The federal government has issued restrictions which are aimed at easing the mounting problem of air traffic congestion. The restriction will begin at five airports in Washington, New York and Chicago April 27th.

Missiles And Tanks

The Army has awarded the first production contract for a new missile designed to knock out moving enemy tanks more than a mile away. The \$55,371,527 contract for the missile, called TOW, was given to the Hughes Aircraft Company.

Embroidery Inspires Motif For Inaugural Medal

Washington - For the first time in history, artwork created by a member of a President-elect's family will be reproduced on an official inaugural medal.

The reverse side of the 1969 medal will feature a sculptured miniature of the crewel pattern Julie Nixon embroidered for her father, President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

The design depicts the Great Seal of the United States and the words: "TO RN from JN." Mr. Nixon suggested, use of the embroidery as the motif for the traditional medal, according to the Inaugural Medal Committee.

On Sale Before Inauguration

The committee, headed by Dr. Melvin M. Payne, president of the National Geographic Society, announced that two types of medals will be issued. Proceeds are used only to help defray inaugural expenses.

Bronze versions, 2-3/4 inches in diameter, will cost \$6 each, including an easel designed to display the medal. A limited issue in solid silver, bearing serial numbers 1 to 15,000 and measuring 2 1/2 inches in diameter, will sell for \$45 each.

The medals are scheduled to be available for purchase in the Washington, D. C., area around Christmas and throughout the Nation by

People, Spots In The News



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Official inaugural medals have been issued in their present form since the second inauguration of William McKinley in 1901.

The Nixon medallion will be struck by the Medallic Art Company of New York, which also produced the official inaugural medal for President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965. One medal will be struck in gold for presentation to Mr. Nixon. A silver version bearing serial number one will be placed in a leather case and given to Vice President-elect Spiro T. Agnew.

You can test your own intelligence by your reaction to a new idea.

In Service

JAMES PIPER

PLEIKU, VIETNAM (AHTNC) - James Piper, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Piper, Route 1, Franklinton, N. C., was promoted to Army specialist four Nov. 24 near Pleiku, Vietnam, where he is assigned to the 4th Infantry Division.

Spec. Piper, a rifleman with Company C, 3rd Battalion of the division's 12th Infantry, entered the Army in January 1968 and completed basic training at Ft. Bragg, N. C. He was stationed at Ft. Benning, Ga., before arriving overseas in August 1968.


The specialist attended Franklin (N. C.) High School.

Meal Planning

The Agriculture Department has reported a five-year program to help low-income families plan more nutritious meals with the food they have available. The program which is underway has about \$10-million allocated for this year by the Federal Extension Service.

Nixon's Slogan

The theme of President-elect Richard M. Nixon's inauguration is being changed from "Bring Us Together" to "Forward Together." The original slogan was adopted after Mr. Nixon saw it on a sign at a campaign rally.



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