

Coltrane Predicts Improvement In Feed Situation In North Carolina

"The feed industry as well as the purchases of feed have been behind the eight ball for some time, but as I look into the crystal ball, the situation is beginning to clear, and any change in the general feed situation will be for the better," Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture D. S. Coltrane predicted recently.

Coltrane qualified the prediction by saying this applies to carbohydrates and not to protein. "The prophet, we realize, is more than likely to end up on an under-sized dry limb, yet it is of interest and value to try projecting current information into future developments," said Coltrane.

The tight feed situation which has plagued our live-stock and poultry producers as well as the industry for several months apparently passed its most acute stage in early July, with new-crop oats, barley and wheat beginning to become available, and with abundant green feed in most sections of the state.

However, restrictions still in force on the purchase and use of feed continue to limit the output of commercially mixed feeds and some by-product feeds. July 15 prospects for feed-crop supplies for the 1946-47 feeding season are very encouraging. A record corn crop of 3 1/2 billion bushels is in prospect, and the second largest crop of oats has been harvested. But barley production is considerably under that of a year ago. The July indicated supply of feed grain for 1946-47, including carry-over of old-crop grains plus new production, would be the largest on record, both as to total tonnage and on the basis of animals to be fed.

Partly offsetting the large domestic supply of feed are expected reductions in the quantity of wheat for feed and in total supplies of by-product feeds. Output of both protein feeds may be about five per cent less in 1946-47 than in 1945-46.

The total supply of feed consis-

On Home Soil



BACK on the main stem of his home town, Independence, Mo., President Truman surprises the home folks by taking a brisk stroll at 7:45 in the morning. (International)

trane for the 1946-47 season, including feed grains, by-product feed, and wheat and rye for feed, on the basis of July indications, would be almost two per cent larger than 1945-46 total supply of 160 million tons. The supply per animal unit would be seven or eight per cent larger than a year earlier.

Hay supplies are ample for the live-stock to be fed, although supplies are slightly smaller per animal feeding unit than the large supplies of a year ago. With a higher level of farm income, especially from the sales of dairy products, hay prices in 1946-47 may average as high or higher than in the 1945-46 season.

New-crop corn is expected to become available in fairly large volume about November, and the availability of feed-grain supplies during the 1946-47 feeding season is expected to be on a much more nearly normal basis than during 1945-46.

With the condition of the corn crop so favorable in mid-July, and with much of the acreage planted considerably earlier than a year ago, it is probable that if average or better growing conditions prevail during the rest of the summer, the feeding value of this year's crop will be materially above that of the 1945 crop. Large quantities of 1945 corn in some important producing areas were "soft," or wet, as a result of frost before the crop was mature.

Numbers of livestock on farms are indicated to be decreasing and of next January 1, the number of trans-acting animal units on farms may be around five per cent smaller than on January 1, 1946. The live-stock and poultry trends will be discussed in more detail at a later date.

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