

No Major Market Trends During Past Two Weeks

"Steady to weak" characterized the farm market situation for most products during the April-May changeover in the calendar, according to M. Paul Mitchell, Purdue University extension agricultural economist.

No major changes or trends developed during this two-week period and day to day price changes responded chiefly to variations in receipts delivered.

Wheat prices are closing the period about on a par with the newly developed strength of recent weeks, due largely to increased exports. Corn, on the other hand, has lost a cent or two in futures trading, partly as the result of larger current supplies and partly as a result of indicated expanded acreage this year.

Soybeans have shown some moderate price gains, 1-2 cents per bushel, despite continued weakness in oil and meal quotations.

Hog prices tended to weaken slightly as volume picked up early in the period, but closed the period on a stronger tone. Top quotations stood again at the \$17 level at the larger markets for best grading hogs. This makes current market conditions quite comparable with those of a year ago, both as to volume and prices.

Although no major trends have developed in cattle prices, the trade seems to be sensitive to the supply situation and sluggishness rather than strength has been evident most of the time. Since most market interests are expecting some increases in numbers of grain fed cattle in the immediate future, Mitchell advises marketing cattle that are properly finished for their grade.

Poultry prices have barely held steady with broilers and fryers, selling mostly at 16-18 cents, but egg prices have lost 2-3 cents per dozen—Grade A Large selling mostly within a range of 28-34 cents per dozen.

A factor behind the farm market scenes is the agricultural export trade of the United States. This is not always fully appreciated by farmers since little publicity is given to this phase of market activity. However, the agricultural resources of this country are such that in recent years about 10 per cent of the U.S. agricultural resources are devoted to the production of food and fiber for export. There is an even greater potential for export except for the fact that price legislation has lifted the prices of many agricultural products above world market levels.

Normally, export sales are supposed to be paid for in the currency of the exporting country, unless barter arrangements are possible. Since 1954, agricultural exports have been increased substantially under the provisions of Public Law 480. This law provides for the acceptance of payment for surplus farm products in the currency of the importing country. This currency is converted into goods obtainable in the particular foreign country or used in other ways in this country, including technical assistance within that country and other types of activities under foreign aid legislation.

In late years about 1/4 of our agricultural exports have moved abroad under this set-up, Mitchell says.

The principal farm crops or products exported include wheat, cotton, feed grains, soybeans, lard, livestock and meat products and tobacco.

February exports, latest month for which data are available, showed gains of 60 per cent over year

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING: WHEREAS, the physical and inspirational well-being of every citizen depends on a productive soil; and an adequate water supply; and

WHEREAS, the soil is a sacred trust to be used and passed on to future generations; and

WHEREAS, conservation of soil and water resources is of concern to every citizen of the State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, our State has embarked upon a definite soil conservation program through 81 Soil Conservation Districts containing more than 19,500,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, these districts are organizations of local people functioning under State Enabling Legislation; and

WHEREAS, there is active participation in the study and adoption of soil and water conservation practices in every county of the State and a number of agencies and organizations are assisting farmers in the important work of conservation of soil and water resources; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the splendid work having already been done, and in anticipation of a still greater task ahead, I urge all citizens, both rural and urban, privately and through their organizations, to protect and conserve the fertile fields of our State and to take active steps to stop the ravages of soil erosion and improper land use.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold W. Handley, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim the week of May 22-29, 1960, as

SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

and during the week and throughout the year, appeal to all people to join in this worthy movement, to give assistance in every possible way in the conservation of soil and water, thereby protecting Indiana.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Indiana, at the capitol, in the city of Indianapolis, this 18th day of April, 1960.

Harold W. Handley

Governor of Indiana

By the Governor
John R. Walsh
Secretary of State

earlier levels. For the fiscal year beginning last July, agriculture exports have been running fully 20 per cent above the previous year. Current estimates indicate that the total 1959-60 agricultural exports will approximate \$4.5 billion.

Except for subsidized activities, foreign trade travels a two-way highway. That is, an exporting country must also import foreign products. Agricultural imports in the current year have been running only slightly above a year earlier. Many of these are non-competitive or complementary products, such as tropical fruits, coffee, etc. However, some are supplementary or competitive with American grown products. In such cases these are attracted to our markets by relatively higher prices and compete with a tariff handicap, the economist explains.

The recent deal with India, whereby more than 100 million bushels of wheat will be sold from commercial stock during each of the next three years should provide some much needed stability to the wheat market.

March Slaughter Of Livestock Sets Mark

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Liveweight of all livestock commercially slaughtered in Indiana during March totaled 169,740,000 pounds, five per cent above February and 19 per cent larger than March, 1959, report state-federal agricultural statisticians at Purdue University. The current production estimate for March marks a new record high for the month.

The previous record March production was set in 1956, when 151 million pounds were slaughtered commercially, according to the statisticians.

A commercial hog slaughter record was set. Pork output totaled 111,264,000 pounds liveweight, compared to 106.5 million pounds in February and 94.4 million pounds in March a year ago. The previous high was reached in March, 1959.

Cattle slaughter during March was the largest of record since that month in 1956, when 55.6 million pounds were produced. The March, 1960, slaughter was estimated at 55,110,000 pounds, eight per cent above February and 22 per cent above the same month of last year.

The 10,300 calves slaughtered had a total liveweight of 2,112,000 pounds, eight per cent more than the February kill and 42 per cent greater than the March, 1959, production.

Sheep and lamb slaughter amounted to 1,254,000 pounds liveweight, 26 per cent below February and 13 per cent less than March a year ago.

Commercial slaughter includes that of packing plants and local butchers, but excludes farm slaughter. Totals indicate the marketings of livestock by farmers an the availability of meat.

Surveys Show That Certified Seed Pays

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Farmers are losing thousands of dollars by planting seed of unknown quality and performance, according to a new leaflet prepared by the International Crop Improvement Association. Facts to support this statement are presented through results of seed surveys conducted in many states and Canada.

Seed surveys made in various states by vocational agriculture teachers, county agents, seed control officials, crop improvement association staffs and others have shown that farmers often lose money by trying to save money through using their own seed, unadapted varieties and hybrids or untested seed.

In a seed oats survey in Indiana, J. E. Douglas, Indiana Crop Improvement Association, reports 63 per cent of the samples had not been tested for germination or weed content. He says that 95 per cent of the farmers were using varieties recommended by Purdue University. Through yield comparisons in one state it has definitely been shown that the farmers' net profit would be increased if certified seed were used.

The leaflet emphasizes no known way exists for anyone to tell the performance of seed by appearance. Planting just any seed, therefore, is a gamble. International Crop Improvement Association officials point out through the leaflet that before seed can be certified it must be true to variety. It must equal or exceed the prescribed requirements for germination, varietal purity, adaption and freedom from seed.

To be eligible for certification a variety or hybrid must have provided high performance in its recommended area. Complete information on recommended, certified seed varieties and hybrids can be obtained by talking with your local county agent, certified seed producer, certified seed dealer, or by writing to the Indiana Crop Improvement Association, Life Science Building, Lafayette, Ind.

Savings Bond Sales Decrease In April

T. F. Graliker, chairman of the Adams county U.S. savings bonds committee, has received a report showing the county's bond sales for April were \$41,792.00 compared with \$52,310.63 for the corresponding period of 1959. The state's sales for this month were \$9,974.834 and \$11,132,113 for April of last year—a drop of 10.4 per cent.

Indiana's savings bonds sales for April were the lowest for any month this year. Only thirty-two of Indiana's 92 counties reported sales increases for the month.

Of This And That

By Lois M. Folk
Home Demonstration Agent

Drip, drip, drip goes our liquid sunshine, but we won't let this dampen our spirits. Remember when it's raining rain, it's raining violets. A rainy day makes good sewing weather, not good sowing weather.

Perhaps there is nothing more exasperating than to be sewing merrily along and then to find a certain piece of equipment has been lost. This usually means a house-wide search. Having a special place set aside for sewing and for the storage of sewing equipment and supplies helps eliminate this problem. Of course you will still need to enforce veritable warnings of "Do not touch," to keep scissors and other supplies from sprouting wings. For the person who sews a lot, a fully equipped room would be wonderful, but most of us must be content with a drawer or a special corner.

The amount and type of equipment will vary, depending upon the amount and type of sewing you do. The sewing machine is the major piece of equipment and most often the core around which the sewing center is planned. Adequate cutting space should be available at a convenient and comfortable height, along with the iron, ironing board, and other pressing equipment.

Now for the small equipment which is often piled into a large drawer that permits a smart search every time you change thread or need the seam gauge.

There are some easy and inexpensive ways to clear the sewing clutter. You might try a large utility or cosmetic tray for small supplies. These small compartments are wonderful for keeping the tracing wheel, tape measure, pin cushion, gauges, and scissors in order. An old egg carton or a plastic egg tray is ideal for holding loose hoops and eyes, buttons, and snaps. To keep thread from tangling you can lay them in one of the larger utility tray compartments or you can saw a board to fit your drawer and then use finishing nails as spokes for spools. Remember that spools are different sizes so pound in your nails accordingly.

Are patterns your problem? If so, they can be filed in a box or perhaps you have a drawer of the appropriate size. For a "super-duper" system, you can devise your own filing system. You might wish to file them under the names of your family members or you might wish to use dresses, blouses, shirts, etc. as headings. Also, don't be afraid to throw away those old patterns which are out-of-date. Whatever improvements you use at your sewing center, they are certain to make sewing easier and to keep temps cooler.

4-H Craft School

All 4-H members are urged to attend the county craft school on May 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Co-Op basement. Mr. Hubert Feasel, Adams Central teacher, will show us how to work with mosaic and seed crafts. This will be a very fascinating craft as you create your own designs in making decorative, as well as useful articles. A large craft display is also planned by the committee with 4-H craft members showing us what they have made used.

The committee planning the day is: Mrs. Dale Grandienard, chairman; Mrs. Robert Yost, Mrs. Ted Yoder, Mrs. A. A. Fenner, Mrs. Richard Everett, Mrs. Reiney Selking, Mary Schlagenhaufer, Mrs. Russell Edgell, Mrs. Mark Schurger.

Young Homemakers

Thirty-six young homemakers graduated Friday evening with a Y.H. degree in Money Management. Graduation exercises were held in the Dutch Mill, Bluffton following a lovely banquet. Mrs. Duncan Johnston of Berne gave the homemakers many pointers on floral arrangements and displayed many arrangements. A period of group singing was enjoyed and was led by Mrs. Richard Marbach and Mrs. David Millholland. All of this was tied into a neat package by Mrs. William Bulmahn, toastmistress.

Graduates are the Mesdames: Lynn Sprunger, Leroy Nussbaum, Earl Yoder, Berdell Lehman, Armando Velasco, Doyle Lehman, Leonard Schwartz, Tommy Bryant.

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Fertilize Soybeans?

USE 200 lbs. per Acre of GREEN BELT

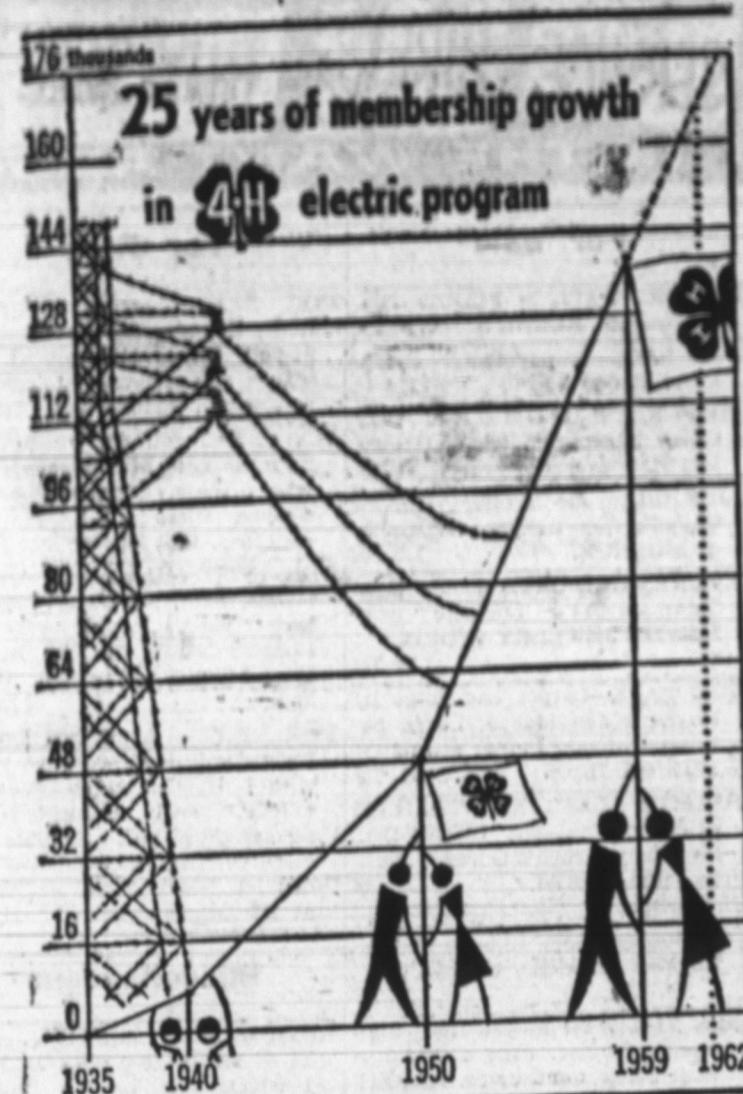
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YOUR BEANS will —

Mature Earlier
— Grow Taller (Harvest more Beans)
— Be Higher in Quality

See Your Green Belt Fertilizer Specialist
The GREEN BELT Chemical Co.

Bryant, Ind.



County Agent's Corner

By LEO N. SELTENRIGHT

mans, animals or valuable plants.

Conservation Film

The Adams Soil Conservation District has purchased a film "The Lord's Soil" which is available for showing in the county. It is an excellent film on conservation of soil, water and natural resources. It was used at the 4-H Junior Leader meeting last Monday evening and about five requests have come in as a result of this showing. The film is scheduled out of the County Extension Office.

Hog Production

An interesting report from the Agricultural letter of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago on hog production "confinement" is as follows: "Confinement" hog production may account for 75 per cent of total U.S. output of hogs experts quoted by Professors A. G. in the near future, according to Mueller and A. H. Jensen of the University of Illinois. Confinement production, when compared with the conventional pasture system, has many problems such as tail biting and cannibalism, disease control, manure and feed handling, lot and building design and labor requirements. In going from a pasture farrowing to a central farrowing operation, according to the speakers, an average of one-half pig more per litter will need to be saved to pay for the additional expense. Automation costs associated with the dry lot system would have to be paid out of any labor saved or greater feeding efficiency. A high level of management skill is required.

Advantages of central farrowing house and confinement feeding include greater convenience and minimization of chore labor, which may become relatively important during periods of adverse weather. Although diseases may spread more rapidly through a confined group of hogs, the closer observation of all hogs in many instances permits the manager to detect disease sooner and treat it effectively.

It was concluded that even though swine generally may gain more per day in the confined lot than with pasture feeding, confinement feeding takes more feed to put on a pound gain in weight. Thus, confinement feeding at present is not necessarily the most economical in terms of feed use.

Planting Corn

Read the instructions carefully before extensive planting with your new corn planter. Some planters will perform well at high speeds but miss at slower ones. It is best to check the rate of planting with the tractor at the speed you expect to go.

Sprinkle Hogs In Hot Weather

Get those fogger nozzles ready for use on swine. Nozzles should not deliver over 5 gallons per hour, preferably 1-2 gallons per hour. Plastic pipe makes the distribution system easy to install.

Calendar

Monday, May 16 — Plant yield check plots at Minimum Tillage Field Demonstration.

Tuesday, May 17—10:00 a.m. — Field Demonstration on Minimum Tillage at Berne-French School Farm.

Wednesday, May 18—8:00 p.m. — 4-H Council Meeting.

Saturday, May 21 — 4-H Crafts School.

Sunday, May 22 — Rural Life Sunday.

Antibiotics and pesticides are considered adulterants in milk, according to Purdue University veterinarians. Dairymen should take extra precautions against permitting contamination to milk for sale as these materials present a ser-

Hoosier Farm Prices Up Fourth Month

Indiana farm prices increased two percent from mid-March to mid-April. Purdue University agricultural economists and state-federal agricultural statisticians report this was the fourth consecutive monthly increase.

Both Indiana farm purchasing power and index of prices paid increased one cent per cent during the period. Index of U.S. farm prices increased one per cent, while the purchasing power of U.S. farmers remained unchanged.

The Indiana grain price index rose three per cent while the livestock index increased one per cent. Major commodity price increases included hogs and corn, five per cent; cattle, three per cent; eggs, 21 per cent; soybeans, three per cent; wheat, two per cent; hams, two per cent; hams, six per cent and potatoes, 25 per cent. Prices declining were led by milk, down eight per cent, followed by chickens, down four per cent and calves and broilers both down three per cent.

Primarily as a result of egg price increases, the egg-feed price ratio rose 17 per cent during the reporting period. Other feed-prices ratios increasing: hog-corn and turkey-feed, both one per cent. Feed-prices ratios declining: whole-milk-feed, 12 per cent; butterfat-feed, three per cent; chicken-feed, five per cent, and broiler-feed two per cent.

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Recommendations on the container label of any herbicide are based on these tests. This valuable information should not be ignored; when using herbicides, read the label. Follow instructions for application and heed all directions, cautions and warnings. Store in original labeled