Good Farm Records Aid Decisions

MITCHELL — Good farm records can be keys to more efficient use of management, labor, land and capital, according to Cliff Ashburn. University of Nebraska Extension farm management specialist at the Scotts Bluff Experiment Station.

"When good records are kept and analyzed, they can help farmers make decisions and plans," he points out.

"Records can help answer" such questions as: Should I raise more hogs? Would it be more profitable to feed additional cattle or lambs or sell the grain for cash?"

In order to have a true picture of the business, the records should be complete for all purposes. They should contain an inventory of the land, buildings, equipment, livestock, feed on hand and all other necessary 1tems such as labor for livestock and crops.

A complete record of income and all expenses on each enterprise of the program will point out which phase is making a return and which is not, Ashburn says.

In making final decisions on the farming program, Ashburn thinks these questions also should be answered: Do I want to make the change? Will it pay? Will it pay more than anything else I can do? Can I make the change?

In addition to serving as guides in making plans farm records can be used for income tax and social security purposes. Records also aid in establishing credit for business purposes as well as dividing expense and income for tenant and landlord, rental or partnership arrangements.

Although part of 1959 has pass. ed, there is still time to develop farm records for the year. County agents over Nebraska can give information on account books designed for the farm business.

Reasons Listed For Change in Parity Levels

LINCOLN — The percentage of the farmer's expenditures that goes into production costs has increased in recent years, while the percentages spent for living and for interest, taxes and wages have decreased.

As a result, the parity price for most farm products has dropped slightly, according to Honor



M. Ochsner, caairman of the Nebraska Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee. Parity prices are used in con-

aection with the price support programs administered by the ASC committee as a means of comparing farm prices with past periods in terms of purchasing power.

Ochsner says the U. S. Department of Agriculture's latest survey shows that production items account for nearly 51 per cent of farm expenses compared with 41 per cent during the 1947. 51 period.

This is the result of larger farms and commercialized agriculture, with substitution of machinery and equipment for labor.

On the other hand, the percentage of farm expenses going for living has dropped nearly 5 sper cent, and so has the percentage for interest, taxes and wages.

Since the production items have risen in actual cost less than other farm expenses. Oscinner said the result is to reduce farmers' expenses relative to the prices received in the past.

The net effect has been to reduce parity prices as computed in January, 1959, about 3 and one-third per cent from what they would otherwise have been.

BRITISH EXPORTS

London — Britain's export to Communist China increased by 120 per cent in 1958, as compared with 1957, John Rogers, parlimentary secretary to the Board of Trade, told the House of Commons recently.

CRIME DOESN'T PAY!

Kansas City — Burglars entered a paint store and knocked the combination off a safe. That released tear gas which gassed them out for a while. Returning, they dynamited the

safe open.

It was empty. Besides that, said store manager Harold Swafford, it wasn't locked.

COMPARES JOB

Washington —Senator William (D., N. J.) has figured out the difference between the two houses of Congress.

A former Representative, the freshman Senator says: "I've got a larger office, more help and ten times as much work."