

News of Special Interest to Iowa and Nebraska Farmers

Paradox Noted In Sheep and Lamb Industry

While Number of Animals on Farms Below Average, Receipts at Market Unusually Heavy.

A paradoxical situation exists in the sheep and lamb industry at the present time, according to statistical matter recently sent out by the United States department of agriculture. Despite the fact that the number of sheep and lambs on farms January 1, was far below the average for the past 20 years, receipts at primary markets during the first three months of the current year have been unusually heavy.

The United States Bureau of Crop Estimates has figured it out that there were 48,612,000 sheep on farms January 1. With three exceptions this was the smallest number so far reported since 1900. On the other hand, receipts of 68 markets during the first three months of this year showed an increase of 734,000 head or 17 per cent over the receipts during the corresponding period in 1920. During the same period local slaughter increased 22 per cent, while stocker and feeder shipments, which represent the number going back to the country for feeding or breeding purposes, decreased 348,529 head, or 39 per cent.

Alarming Features. Such a situation is now without its alarming features to students of the trade who foresee the liquidation of an unusually large percentage of everything salable, including much breeding stock.

Reports from the great sheep producing areas of the northwest indicate that because of financial difficulties still further liquidation will be necessary during the coming summer and fall. Reliable information strongly suggests the possibility of this process being to such an extent that the range sections and many middle western and eastern areas will be left with a smaller number of breeding sheep than at any time during the past 20 years.

The heavy receipts at central markets during the first three months of the year may be traced to several causes. Owing to the drought over much of the range area last summer, many western range lambs and sheep were sent for feeding to sections of Idaho, Montana, Colorado and elsewhere, where feed was reasonably plentiful. Much of this stock was not marketed until after the first of the year.

Forced to Sell Stock. During January and February, financial pressure forced many ranch owners to sell breeding stock, including many ewe lambs and yearling ewes, which would otherwise have been held for lamb production. The open winter in these sections made it possible to ship stock, whereas in normal years severe weather would have retarded or entirely prevented such movements. In many sections it has been a common practice to hold for breeding purposes as high as 40 per cent of the ewe lambs out of each crop. Reliable reports from range districts indicate that unless the financial situation changes materially, not more than 10 per cent of this year's crop will be held.

The stagnant wool market, coupled with lower prices for sheep and lambs, last summer's unfavorable climatic conditions in much of the range country, and money stringency have been the chief factors which have brought about the condition in which a majority of flock masters now find themselves.

Anticipate Light Receipts. Many members of the trade anticipate a period of comparatively light receipts during the month of May, as is generally the case. This, it is believed, will bring about some advance in prices at that time. On the other hand, some of the closest students of the industry look for fairly liberal supplies. In taking this view, they assume that Colorado-fed lambs will continue coming to market, though in decreasing numbers, up to about the middle of May. This movement has been retarded considerably by depressed trade and price conditions.

Cattle Prices Reach New Low Mark on Omaha Market. Cattle are selling on the Omaha market at a lower price than before the war and prices are off more than they have been at any time during the last decade. With receipts of 8,000 head on the Omaha market one day last week, prices took a 10 to 15 cent slump, and the 88 steer herd almost disappeared from the market. The best heavy-weight heaves sold up to \$7.90 with no heavy heaves over \$7.57.

If Your Tractor Goes, Or Won't Go at All, Look for Mice Family

It's an old story that a mouse can make an elephant climb a tree or do most any other ungodly thing, but when you hear of a mouse putting a full-grown tractor on the blink. This is what happened to a tractor owned by a farmer near Elwood, Neb. Recently said farmer took a day off and put his tractor in shape for the spring "drive." After polishing it up, giving it a fresh drink of gasoline, with dessert of the finest cylinder oil and otherwise performing all the stunts which should please any well-behaved iron horse, he tried to start it. But it refused to start; simply sputtered and spit a few times and then laid down on the job. Experts were called in and after considerable investigation and probably the usual amount of profanity, it was found that a family of mice had been making their winter home in the carburetor.

Moral: The next time your tractor balks, look for mice.

Plan Garden on Paper Before Planting

By FRANK RIDGWAY.

Haphazard gardening methods have probably caused more disappointments and failures among home vegetable gardeners than any other single factor. Before sticking a spade or a hoe in the ground a plan of the garden should be worked out.

System is just as important to the man who is to operate a tiny backyard plot as it is to the commercial gardener or farmer. A carefully arranged planting plan is even more essential to the small gardener than it is to the larger operators because of his limited amount of space.

Row System Best. There are various methods of planting, but the row system is generally advocated by practical gardeners. Planting in beds out in the sunlight, and the plants are not so easily cultivated. There is a better distribution of sunlight on the plants where the rows run north and south, rather than east and west, or in an oblique fashion across the plot. The row system lends itself more readily to the drafting of plans in advance of planting.

When the planting is done in rows, the tall and dwarf plants can be arranged to small advantage. The growth of small plants is often stunted by being in the shade of taller plants. This may be avoided by the proper arrangement of the rows. In drawing lines on the chart to represent rows arrange such tall crops as corn, pole beans, and staked tomatoes along one side of the garden where they will not shade low growing vegetables like bunch beans, dwarf peas, and onions.

Mistakes in Seeding. Making definite plans on paper before it is warm enough to begin planting will enable the gardener to avoid buying a surplus of seed. Most gardeners who try to do gardening work without plans buy more seed than they actually need, and often they plant the seed thicker than is necessary. Both money and labor are wasted, for thick seeding means that thinning will have to be done or the plants will be crowded or the growth of the young plants will be checked.

The mistake that is commonly made, where the principal object of the gardener is to get the seed in the ground, regardless of the kind and arrangement, is that the ground is covered with a dozen or more seed varieties that cannot be grown in a crowded space successfully or kinds of vegetables that will not be used.

Rotate the Crops. A trick that is worked successfully and one that beginners will be safe in trying is to plant one-half of the area one week and the rest a week later. This may be done with such crops as beans, beets, radishes, and lettuce.

It takes much more plant food where a succession of crops is grown than it does where only one crop is sown. To help out the soil fertility problem a different crop should be planted in the same plot of ground in successive years, because plants require different kinds and amounts of plant foods.

Such vegetables as cabbage and cauliflower should not follow each other, because they are attacked by the same kinds of insects and diseases. If the same plot of ground is used by a gardener year after year, it is important that the crops be rotated. Plant root crops in the rows where leaf crops were grown last year. This is a rule successfully followed by many growers.

Sugar Led Exports From Philippines Development of Industry Responsible for Heavy Increase Shown in Imports.

Sugar jumped to the position of first importance in the export trade of the Philippine Islands during 1920. In 1919, sugar was in fourth place, being exceeded in value by hemp, coconut oil and tobacco products. Hemp has long ranked first among Philippine products, and while sugar frequently has come next in order, this is the first time, at least in many years, that sugar has outranked all other exported commodities.

These four principal exports, sugar, hemp, vegetable oils and manufactured tobacco, had a value in 1920, of \$125,188,154, while the total value of all exports was \$151,123,855. Of this amount sugar accounted for \$49,619,260, or 33 per cent; hemp represented \$35,862,000, or nearly 24 per cent; coconut oil and copra were valued at \$26,985,736, or about 18 per cent; cigars brought in \$12,721,138 or slightly over 8 per cent, while the balance was made up of miscellaneous products.

Of shipments to the United States sugar was valued at \$39,348,934, hemp at \$20,614,026, copra and coconut oil at \$21,874,207 and cigars at \$10,546,303. Of the total exports \$105,216,262, or nearly 70 per cent, went to the markets of the United States.

The value of goods imported into the Philippines during 1920 was \$149,438,282, as compared with \$118,639,054 in 1919. Of the total imports, \$92,289,778, or about 62 per cent in value, were taken from the United States. It will be seen from these figures that exports from and imports to the Philippines were very nearly equal last year, a small trade balance in favor of the islands being shown both in general commerce and in trade with the United States.

Eight attendance officers in Seattle, Wash., constantly search the city in passenger automobiles and roadsters for school children who have a tendency to play "hooky."

HOME GARDENERS' GUIDE

VEGETABLES.	Seed.	Distance of plants—	Ready for use from
		in rows. Rows apart.	in rows. Rows apart.
BUSH BEANS	1 qt.	18 in.	45 to 60 days
POLE BEANS	2 qt.	4 ft.	55 to 90 days
BREETS	2 qt.	18 in.	45 to 75 days
CABBAGE, EARLY	1-2 qt.	18 in.	100 to 120 days
CABBAGE, LATE	1-2 qt.	18 in.	125 to 150 days
CARROT	1 qt.	18 in.	75 to 100 days
CAULIFLOWER	1-2 qt.	2 ft.	100 to 135 days
CORN, SWEET	1/2 pt. 100 hill	3 ft.	85 to 100 days
CUCUMBERS	1 qt.	4 ft.	60 to 85 days
EGGPLANT	1-2 qt.	2 1/2 ft.	100 to 150 days
ENDIVE	1 qt.	1 1/2 ft.	80 to 75 days
LETTUCE	1 qt.	18 in.	45 to 100 days
MELONS, MUSK	1 qt.	4 ft.	115 to 140 days
MELONS, WATER	1 qt.	4 ft.	120 to 140 days
ONION	1 qt.	18 in.	115 to 150 days
PARSLEY	1 qt.	4 in.	100 days
PARSNIPS	1 qt.	2 ft.	125 to 150 days
PEAS	1 qt.	2 in.	50 to 75 days
PEPPER	1-2 qt.	2 ft.	100 to 150 days
POTATO	1 qt.	4 ft.	80 to 100 days
RADISH	1 qt.	2 in.	20 to 30 days
SALSIFY	1 qt.	4 in.	115 to 160 days
SPINACH	1 qt.	18 in.	40 to 60 days
SQUASH	1 qt.	3 ft.	80 to 75 days
TOMATO	1 qt.	4 ft.	100 to 125 days
TURNIP	1 qt.	4 ft.	60 to 75 days

Iowa Farm Bureau Outlines Plans For Coming Year

Executive Committee Completes Details at Meeting—New Activities Made Possible by Legislation.

Business of a routine nature took up the greater part of the time at the annual meeting of the executive committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation held recently in Des Moines. Certain details of the program for the year, hitherto incomplete, were rounded out and plans inaugurated for the development of new phases of federation activities, now possible under the legislation secured through the Thirty-ninth general assembly.

A number of speakers appeared before the committee in the interest of various enterprises that fit in with federation work. W. P. Dawson, chairman of the legislative committee, submitted a report of legislative labors during the recent session of the legislature. L. A. Andrews explained the possibilities of service for Iowa farmers under the new law permitting the organization of farm credits corporations. Knute Espe reviewed the work of the Iowa office of co-operative livestock shipping associations.

The matter of extending financial aid to the committee of 15 for the purpose of conducting a survey preliminary to the development of a more efficient and efficient system of marketing livestock was discussed. As the leading state in the production of finished meat animals, it was pointed out that Iowa is keenly interested in this problem and it was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the federation should support the project. To this end it was voted to appropriate \$1,500 to help get the work under way.

Following Secretary Cunningham's report of his recent visit to Washington, there was a general discussion of problems of transportation, taxation, farm credits, etc. The resolutions reads as follows: "Be it resolved by the executive committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation: That in view of the construction placed upon the provisions of the Evans-Cummings law, and that what shall be considered a fair return upon the property owned by common carriers and the consequent intolerable burden placed upon the farmers of the state in the form of excessive freight charges and in view of the encroachment upon the prerogative of the various state authorities, which is sought to be justified by this act, the American Farm Bureau Federation is respectfully urged to do all in its power to obtain a repeal of those provisions of the law by which such burdens and encroachments appear to receive their sanction."

Bottom Falls Out of Butter Fat Market

The farmer with a big bunch of cows upon which he depends for a substantial part of his yearly income by the sale of cream is "out of luck" lately. Cream prices have slumped along with many other farm products, and it is altogether likely that a further drop is due before prices again take the up-grade. At Keosauqua, Neb., this week the price of butter fat dropped from 41 cents to 33 cents in one day, and similar reports come in from numerous other towns throughout the state and Iowa.

Buyers say cream is coming in in larger quantities now than for many months. Pastures generally, are further advanced than in previous years and this is given as one reason for the flooded condition of the market.

Progress of the Crops.

Weekly Crop Bulletin of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Too much emphasis is apt to be put on the "kick-off" of the crop season. It will be observed that a good crop often results from a very poor start. This season's crop is not so promising as it has been lost throughout the west, and it is only from the far east that we now hear the season is promising. A continuous series of "cold waves" has retarded planting in the north. For the past three weeks the country west of Omaha has had below normal temperatures. Much of the planting has been unevenly distributed, nowhere excessive for the season. In the Mississippi valley and eastward the cold waves have been less persistent. But in the west, especially in the northern section, the cold waves have been more severe. Cold waves which reached about the Atlantic coast did not spread into Texas and Oklahoma. Rain and early frosts so that April will leave a "regret" in all districts. During the past week the south got a lot more rain in the lower Mississippi valley and eastward. The south has been wet for several weeks. Replanting of corn and cotton is extensive in Mississippi and Louisiana. Planting of cotton has been delayed in the Mississippi valley and eastward. Growth of vegetation has been correspondingly more rapid. But in the west, especially in the northern section, the cold waves have been more severe. Cold waves which reached about the Atlantic coast did not spread into Texas and Oklahoma. Rain and early frosts so that April will leave a "regret" in all districts.

Wheat and grasses have made good progress in all parts of the country, except local damage to wheat along the southern stretches of the belt, where more complaint of rust, plant lice and chinch bugs. The districts complaining are mixed farming sections. The total damage will be material. Seeding of spring small grain crops is completed up to the high altitudes in northern Montana. North Dakota gets considerable rain a week ago, and reports are spring wheat coming up to a good stand and farmers greatly encouraged. Montana still needs rain—the entire upper Missouri country needs moisture and warmth to start crops and pastures and to make better conditions for live stock, some loss of alfalfa is reported in the present conditions.

The Pacific northwest has had cold and wet weather with heavy enough to do a lot of damage. The fruit districts of Oregon, which escaped injury from the early frosts which did so much damage in the interior, "got theirs" on April 1. It is to be hoped the damage may prove less than official reports now indicate. The southwest shows no improvement in the drought conditions reported for some weeks, from central Texas to the Pacific coast hard conditions confront stockmen. April in the high altitude valleys fruit growers have suffered greatly by the cold wave of April 25, which reached almost to the Mexican border. California, however, escaped this late freeze and reports her loss of damage to fruit crops is less than reported. Valencia oranges are being picked in the California orange belt, and alfalfa is being harvested in Arizona.

Be careful in the selection of stock to raise. Be sure that you know something of the parentage of chicks. You should know that the parent stock is strong and vigorous. You should find out something concerning the egg records of parent stock and know whether the chicks you have are bred for egg production. A little investigation now will save you much future trouble. Better go slow at first and be sure you are on the right track.

It Kills Poultry Lice

An early applied powder kills a sure death to nearly all kinds of lice—Pratts Powdered Lice Killer. An occasional application keeps poultry practically free from lice. "Your Money Back If YOU Are Not Satisfied!" Dealers Everywhere. Pratt Food Company Philadelphia Chicago Toronto.

Prices for Tame Hay Show Slump; All Markets Dull

Limited Demand Causes Unusually Slow Movement—Large Surplus Still in Hands of Farmers.

At the beginning of the second quarter of the present year, the hay markets of the country continue very dull. Prices of tame hay have declined \$3 to \$4 a ton since the first of the year and the movement generally has been very slow because of the limited demand, it is pointed out in an article in the Market Reporter of April 23, published by the United States Department of Agriculture. On January 1, it was estimated that only 25 to 30 per cent of the marketable surplus had been shipped from the principal timothy producing states. From a survey just completed by the United States Bureau of Markets, it is estimated that 60 per cent of the surplus has now been marketed, leaving 35 to 40 per cent yet to be shipped before the new crop arrives on the market.

In a review published during the week of January 8, it was estimated that 40 to 45 per cent of the hay in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois had already been marketed, while in the other timothy states, including Michigan and New York, 20 to 25 per cent was estimated to have been sold. At this time the surplus to be marketed is estimated to be almost the same in all these states. This would indicate a heavier movement from the northern and eastern states during the past three months than from the central western group.

Less Alfalfa Held.

From 65 to 70 per cent of the alfalfa crop is reported to have been marketed up to April 1, compared with 35 to 40 per cent on January 1. While this leaves a smaller percentage for alfalfa than timothy, it does not necessarily show a better movement of alfalfa during the past three months, for the reason that the alfalfa movement had been heavier than the timothy movement up to January 1, and there was a smaller surplus of alfalfa at that time. The reports do indicate, however, that stocks in various alfalfa sections, as in the timothy sections, have been evened up and that Idaho, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska have now reduced their marketable surplus to nearer the percentages shown by the other states. Practically all the hay has been shipped from New Mexico and Arizona and new hay is now appearing on these markets. Reports from Montana show a light movement in that state, with only 30 to 35 per cent of the surplus marketed to date.

Because of the low quality of much of the alfalfa which is yet unmarketed and the prevailing prices and market conditions, which in many instances do not permit return in excess of the cost of preparing and delivering the hay to market, it is thought by many dealers in the central western states,

that a considerable part of this alfalfa will not be baled and marketed. On the west coast the movement of alfalfa has been about normal, and it is estimated that not over 25 per cent of last year's crop remains unsold. New hay is being marketed in the southern part of California.

Much Prairie Hay Held.

While reports from Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma indicate that 70 to 75 per cent of the prairie hay has been marketed, the reports from the whole prairie section show that only 50 to 55 per cent of the crop intended for market had been shipped up to April 1. The estimated percentage of hay to be marketed in the various prairie producing states on April 1 are as follows: Montana, 60 per cent; Wisconsin, 60 per cent; Missouri, 50 per cent; Kansas, 40 per cent; Iowa, 30 per cent; Nebraska, 45 per cent; North Dakota, 50 per cent; Minnesota, 45 per cent; South Dakota, 50 per cent; California, 50 per cent; Arkansas, 20 per cent; Texas, 30 per cent and Oklahoma, 40 per cent.

The price decline which began last May has continued and the average price for No. 1 timothy at the principal markets which was about \$29.50 a ton at the beginning of the year, is now about \$25.25 and \$19 a ton lower than at the corresponding time last year. Alfalfa has declined from \$27.50 for No. 1 on January 1 to about \$24.25 a ton at the present time, compared with \$37 on April 1, 1920.

Prairie hay is practically unchanged at about \$16 a ton as the average price for No. 1 upland, but is down \$13 a ton from the price of May a year ago. Taken as a whole, hay prices are lower than at any other time during the past two years.

Alliance Furnishes Camp Ground for Auto Tourists

Alliance, Neb., May 1.—(Special.)—Automobile tourists passing through Alliance will have the privilege of a spacious camping ground within the city limits. The city park board has set aside a half block of ground adjoining the city park for this purpose. A pavilion, with all modern conveniences, including hot and cold running water, has been erected on the ground and every facility for the accommodation of camping parties will be at hand. Signboards will be placed along all roads leading into the city directing tourists how to reach the camping ground. The accommodations of the park will be free to the public.

Pawnee City Seniors Visit Wesleyan on "Sneak Day"

Pawnee City, Neb., May 1.—(Special.)—The senior class of Pawnee City high school held their annual "sneak day" and about 30 members drove to University Place, more than 90 miles, in automobiles, where they were the guests of Nebraska Wesleyan university. Members of the faculty accompanied them. Spark plugs of British manufacture are made to fit the American automobile, while the American spark plugs, as a rule, will not serve for British-made cars or motorcycles.

Barney Oldfield says:

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By R. B. HOWELL,
General Manager.