FARM MANAGEMENT

FACTS ..... for reference

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA • AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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SOLVING THE FARMERS PROBLEM

Government programs to solve farmers problems have been in existence since the advent of recorded history. Continued change has resulted in continued problems, however. A serious problem at the present time is the plight of the small farmer. Much has been said and written about this problem, but no basic solution has been instituted.

A recent publication "Progress in the Rural Development Program - First Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture," September 1956 says "..... general recommendations to promote..... new job opportunities and training in non-agricultural skills ....." T. W. Schultz, University of Chicago, speaking before the American Farm Economics Association at Asilomar in August urged programs to hasten the transfer of marginal farmers to other lines of activity. The December 1956 issue of Farm Journal carries an article on "Is Your Best Farm Program A Factory Job." This article describes how families on small farms have stayed in business by working at regular outside jobs.

This is one solution to the small farm problem on which we should place greater emphasis in our Farm Analysis activities.

--- A. D. R.

1957 LOCKS BRIGHTER

Realized net income of farm operators in the first 9 months of this year (1956) was running 4 per cent above the average for 1955 and will likely show some further increase in 1957. This is the first upturn since 1951.

Consumer income available after taxes is running about 5 per cent above 1955. Expenditures for food are up by about the same proportion, as consumers still spend about a fourth of their income for food. Food expenditures are expected to increase further next year as income rises. However, the higher level of charges for marketing and processing farm products in recent years has offset much of the effect of rising incomes on demand for farm products.

The total value of goods and services produced by the economy rose slowly during the first half of this year as increased outlays by consumers, business and the Government were partly offset by declines in home building and auto output. Consumers increased their buying and their savings in response to rising incomes. Businessmen increased capital outlays sharply and Government spending rose.

Some further increase in employment is likely in 1957 if economic activity expands as anticipated.

---P. S. P.

FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGES

If you do not have a copy of the following publication, you will be interested in getting one.

California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Acreage Estimates, California Fruit and Nut Crops by Counties 1919-53, Special publication 257 - Supplement. Sacramento, April 1956.

This publication contains bearing, non-bearing, and total acreage for all important fruit and nut crops. Copies can be obtained by writing the Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P. O. Box 1258, Sacramento 6.

FUTURE NEEDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Needs for agricultural products in 1957 have recently been estimated by the USDA. This data should be useful in Farm Analysis and other counseling with farmers.

Livestock	Production Needed 1975 Per cent change from 1954
Cattle and calves	36
Sheep and lambs	16
Hogs	44
Milk	25
Eggs	47
Broiler	46
Turkeys	33
Crops	
Corn	34
Oats	4
Barley	-14
Sorghum grain	4
Hay	31
Soybeans	26
Peanuts	-2
Flaxseed	-10
Wheat	12
Rice	-16
Rye	-24
Potatoes	1
Sweet Potatoes	11
Beans, dry	-4
Peas, dry	14
Truck crops	40
Fruits and nuts	35

These figures indicate that we can give encouragement to people going into livestock production even though there are local trouble spots at the present time. On the other hand we can be discouraging to barley, peanut, flax, rice, rye, and bean growers. This does not mean that these crops might not be the best alternative for some growers but industry as a whole will need to cut down.

Source: USDA-ARS, Farm Output, Past Changes and Projected Needs. Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 162, Washington, D.C., August 1956.

---A.D.R.

FARM MANAGEMENT REFERENCE BOOKS

Several requests have been received recently for reference books on Farm Management. Unfortunately, there is really no good book available for the western states. At the present time, Dr. Hedges of the staff here at Davis, is writing a book, but we are not sure when it will be published. Probably as good a book as is available is:

Heady, Earl O., and Harold R. Jensen, Farm Management Economics, Prentice Hall Inc., New York, 1954.

For second choices:

H.C.M. Case, and Paul E. Johnson, Principles of Farm Management, J. B. Lippincott Co., New York.

Malone, Carl, "How to Make Your Farm Pay," 1950 Iowa State, College Press, Ames.

Robertson, Woods, "Farm Business Management," 1946, Lippiniatt, Chicago.

These books were written by the mid-westerners for mid-western conditions which places some limits on their value for our situation.

---A.D.R.

Phelps - Burlingame - Shultis - Reed - Parsons