

● Mr. Hog Producer

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sonal farrowings merely move a few dollars of price from one season to another. On the other hand, stability in the supply and price of pork strengthens the demand for it. So there is a benefit in smoother farrowings.

Marketing of hogs from the large 1959 pig crops began only recently. Because numbers marketed will be consistently larger, prices will be lower in the next 12 months than in the past year.

But because of smoother seasonal supply, prices are not expected to bounce around much in the year ahead. Instead, they may hug fairly close to the lower level now being established.

This fall, for instance, prices probably will fluctuate within a rather narrow range. Their low, which

could occur as early as October, will be lower than the July price. Prospects are, however, that prices won't approach the December 1955 low of about \$10.50.

Nine per cent more fall pigs are planned by farmers. Market supplies of hogs next fall and winter may not be up as much as last winter. Then marketings were increased by an unusually large number of spring-farrowed hogs held for delayed sale.

But even so, lower prices than this past winter and spring are foreseen.

The big question concerns prospects for the spring crop of 1960, and for prices when hogs from that crop are marketed in the fall.

Several factors point to an increase in spring farrowings in 1960. Low hog prices will tend to choke off a rise, but may not prevent it entirely.

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Fall of 1960 has resulted in 22 per cent reduction in the price of hogs. Moreover, pork will meet more competition from beef next year, as cattle slaughter rises.

Industry Reward To the industry as a whole there would be a reward for avoiding overexpansion in 1960. To hold production steady, or cut it back a bit, would set the stage for a price upturn. After two years of decline, recovery late in 1960 would be most welcome. —Harold F. Breimyer, in pork supply per person

A further increase in farrowings next spring would seriously endanger hog prices in the fall of 1960. Prices this fall, at best, will be on the borderline of acceptability. If more pork were to be produced by next fall, price problems would be multiplied.

Tighter Controls Imposed On Barley-Sorghum

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that producers of barley or grain sorghums for harvest in 1960 who wish to get non-recourse price support on either of these crops in excess of \$50,000 must reduce their acreage of the crop 20 per cent below their 1959 acreage and otherwise be in compliance with price support regulations.

A similar announcement was made Aug. 6 with respect to wheat for harvest in 1960 (press release USDA 2174-59).

The Department also repeated its warning to large growers of fall-seeded oats, rye, or flaxseed (press release

USDA 2174-59) that these crops also may be declared subject to the price support limitation.

Under a provision of the 1960 Agricultural Appropriation Act (Public Law 86-80), nonrecourse price support to any person on the 1960 production of any agricultural commodity declared by the Secretary of Agriculture to be in surplus supply is limited to \$50,000 unless "such person shall reduce his production from that which such person produced the preceding year, in such percentage, not exceeding 20 per centum, as the Secretary may determine to be essential to bring production in line within a reasonable period of time

with that necessary to provide an adequate and demands, plus adequate services—"

The Secretary has ordered barley and grain sorghums to be in surplus and determined that production cut exemptions of either of these crops from the effect of the provision should be at the maximum fixed provision.

The \$50,000 limit applies only to nonrecourse price support. Loans continue to be made in excess of \$50,000. The borrower "shall repay all amounts in excess of \$50,000 agricultural commodity in twelve months from the date of the advance funds or at such later date as the Secretary may determine."

The limitation, Department officials emphasized, is to individual "persons" and not to individual farms.

A special application on which the applicant listed all farms located) in which he or shared in the production, as well as in which he will share in the 1960 production, may be required of a person who wishes a nonrecourse price support on a surplus crop in excess of \$50,000.

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