

Crop & Livestock Round-Up

PA. CATTLE ON FEED HOLDS STEADY

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service finds that cattle on feed in Pennsylvania as of the first of the year was 80,000 head. Although this was the same as a year ago, it was down 5 percent from the 1959-63 average.

Cattle on feed less than three months on Jan. 1 totaled 48,000 head, down 2,000 from a year earlier. The number of cattle on feed 36 months at 26,000 head was up 2,000 from a year earlier. Cattle on feed more than 6 months on Jan. 1 was unchanged at 6,000 head.

Thirty-three percent of the cattle on feed were in the 700-899 pound group, a 3 percent increase over last year. The 1-100 pounds and over class was down 5 percent. Feeders expect to market 30,000 cattle this quarter, 2,000 more than were marketed in the same period of 1964.

The cattle situation on the national scene showed that there was 1 percent more cattle on feed in the U.S. than a year earlier. Iowa, the leading cattle state in the North Central area was up 1 percent on cattle numbers. All of the East North Central States, except Wisconsin, had fewer head on feed as of Jan. 1, than a year ago. All of the West North Central States, except North Dakota, showed increases in number of cattle on feed.

PORK DEMAND EXCEEDS SUPPLY

Total pork consumption for 1964 was again over 12 billion pounds according to D. Ivan Johannes, Secretary of the Pork Committee of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Though the 1964 consumption of pork was slightly below the 1963 figure of 12.4 billion pounds, which was the highest consumption of any peace-time year, it is still significant that America's consumers are eating all the pork we produce, Johannes stated at the Pork Committee meeting held in Kansas City.

While per capita consumption of pork is down somewhat, total consumption is riding a high plateau. Johannes observed.

Total population is increasing at the annual rate of 2 percent compared to the 1.6 percent decrease in total production of pork which occurred in 1964. Therefore, the decrease in consumption is due to a decrease in production plus an increase in population and does not reflect a dropping off of demand for pork, Johannes said.

Hog Prices to Increase

Hog prices in 1965 should average \$1.00 to \$2.00 higher than in 1964, according to Penn State University. The pig crop farrowed between June and November was 6 to 8 percent smaller than a year earlier, thus marketings during the early part of the year will be down. If producers follow through on intentions to farrow 13 percent fewer sows in the December to February period, hog slaughter will be substantially lower in the summer of 1965. This would bring about the possibility of a strong price increase by mid-summer.

Beef will continue to give pork strong competition in the coming year and will tend to reduce hog price increases.

EGG NUMBERS UP

A total of 3,143,000,000 eggs were produced in the state last year, approximately 300

million less than the 1958-62 average, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The 1964 total was 29 million more than in the previous year.

The average price received by farmers for eggs in mid-December, 37 cents a dozen, was one cent below the price received in December 1963.

U.S. CHICK PRODUCTION 2 PERCENT ABOVE 1963

Hatcheries produced 210,323,000 chicks in December 1964, compared with 208,722,000 in December 1963. Broiler chicks totaled 185,936,000, up slightly from December last year and the largest output of record for December. During 1964, there were 2,500,000 broiler chicks hatched, 2 percent more than in 1963 and the largest output during any year of record. Broiler-type eggs in incubators on January 1 were up 2 percent from January 1 last year. There were 24,387,000 egg-type chicks hatched in December 1964 — 5 percent more than a year earlier. The hatch of egg-type eggs in 1964 totaled 528,959,000, up 3 percent from 1963. The number of egg-type eggs in incubators on January 1, 1965, was up 1 percent.

FEED SUPPLY & HAY SUPPLY DOWN

Approximately 352 million bushels of corn were in storage on Pennsylvania farms January 1, about two million bushels more than a year earlier but 10 million bushels below the 1963 average, according to the State Crop Reporting Service.

Supply of corn stored on farms in Pennsylvania was estimated at 2,784 million bushels, the lowest since 1959 and 14 percent less than a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The supply of corn on farms in the United States is 230 million bushels less than the estimated annual requirements for feed, livestock and poultry. Last year, USDA indicated the nation would use 3.014 billion bushels of corn for livestock and poultry feed in the current crop year.

In Pennsylvania, farmers on January 1 had 14 percent less corn on hand than a year earlier. In addition to corn, hay supplies were down 27 percent from the previous January.

Hay supplies on farms were 5 percent less than a year earlier. The production of 2,073,000 tons of hay was 200 tons more than a year ago. The state supply of hay was 374,000 tons, or 10 percent of the five-year average.

COWS MILK UP

Pennsylvania's dairy industry set a new production record last year, 15 pounds of milk per cow per day, more than the previous record set in 1963, according to the State Crop Reporting Service.

Average milk production per cow for the state was estimated at 15 pounds in 1964.

Producers' reports indicate that in seven billion pounds of milk were produced in Pennsylvania last year, up from the 1963 total of 6.5 billion.

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service also reported that 810,000 tons of Pennsylvania

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