

State Farm Price Level Dips Lower

Declining prices for practically every commodity except milk pushed the October Index of Prices Received by Farmers to the lowest point since January 1966, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Leading the drop were meat animal and fruit prices, which registered the largest declines.

The index of prices received for livestock and livestock products dropped 5 points (2 percent) despite an increase for milk prices. All meat animals except sheep and calves showed substantial decreases with slaughter cows, at \$16.60 per cwt., off 80 cents; hogs, at \$19.30, off 70 cents and steers and heifers, at \$24.80, off 60 cents. Lambs also dropped 60 cents, to 21.60 while sheep, the only gainer, rose 20 cents to \$6.80 per cwt. Calves were unchanged at \$32.20.

Grain prices were mostly steady, except for corn, which dropped 11 cents to \$1.27 per bushel. Wheat and barley were unchanged at \$1.27 and \$.97 respectively. Oats was up 2 cents to \$.78 per bushel, while rye was down a penny at \$1.07. Hay prices dropped slightly, with alfalfa down one dollar per ton. Potato and apple prices dropped seasonally to \$2.25 per cwt. and \$3.12 per bushel respectively.

Decreasing prices for farm chickens and eggs pushed the index of poultry and egg prices to the lowest level since 1941 despite a slight increase for broilers and roasters. Egg price which averaged 31 cents per dozen for all eggs sold, was only 1 cent higher than the previous 20 year low, established in June this year.

The prices received index for all farm products, a measure of the change to prices received by farmers, was 244 percent of its 1910-14=100 percent base. This compares with 250 the previous month and 261 last year.

Fewer Turkey Breeder Hens Expected In U.S.

Turkey breeder flock owners in 15 important turkey States reported that at the beginning of the 1968 hatchery season they expect to keep 11 percent fewer breeder hens than a year earlier. Turkey breeders plan to reduce the number of Beltsville and other light breed hens 18 percent from the 1967 level. The expected number of heavy breed hens to be kept is 10 percent less than a year earlier. The 15 States covered by this report account for approximately 80 percent of all breeder hens in the United States based on January 1, 1967 inventory numbers of breeder hens.

Reductions are expected in the number of heavy breeder hens in all 15 States except Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Missouri. The largest percentage declines are expected in New York, down 20%; Ohio, down 18%; Minnesota, down 15%; and California, down 13%.

Light breeder hens are expected to decline from a year earlier as follows: in Ohio, 68%; Minnesota 4%; Iowa, 44%; Oregon, 20%; and Missouri, Virginia, and Texas each 25%. Increases from a year earlier are expected in Pennsylvania and California, while in Michigan no change is intended. The three States of Minnesota, Virginia, and Oregon accounted for approximately two-thirds of the 1967 United States total light breeder hens.



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