

## Production Of Feed Grain Is Up 12 Percent

Feed grain production was 12 percent higher in 1967 than in 1966 and the highest on record. Prices are sharply lower. There is great danger that this will cause a serious overproduction of meats and eggs in 1968.

This unfavorable situation is primarily the result of government programs and action.

Wheat acreage allotments were increased one-third in conjunction with pleas from Washington that much more wheat was needed to help feed a hungry world. Feed grain and soybean producers also were encouraged to step up their production.

The resulting bumper crops and depressed prices of these crops will encourage increases in the production of livestock and poultry products which are already in over-supply. Producers of hogs and poultry are especially vulnerable in the coming months.

Dr. Karl Hobson, of Washington University, makes the following outlook predictions for hogs, cattle and lambs in the year ahead:

"Some improvement in hog prices can be expected this Spring as it is usual at this time of the year. Prices next fall and early winter, however, are likely to be the lowest in the present cycle. That's because the large supplies of cheap corn in the Corn Belt seem to make an increase certain for next spring's pig crop.

"Recovery from the low hog prices of late 1968 will be slow. There isn't likely to be much money in hogs again until about 1970.

"The next period of favorable cattle prices seems likely to come around 1970-72 if weather favors good pastures and feed crops at that time. A strong holdback in cattle for increasing herds may be under way by then, and pork suppliers may be near the low point of the next hog cycle.

"No big change in cattle prices seems likely for 1968 unless there's a severe drought or a sharp change in economic conditions.

"Fed cattle marketings are likely to be fairly large next spring, bringing some decline in prices from winter levels. The cattle-on-feed reports show a substantial increase in feedlot animals that will reach market weights and finish in the spring. If spring prices are weak, the usual summer rebound can be expected.

"Lamb prices are likely to be moderately higher in 1968. Fewer lambs are being fed, and the coming lamb crop will be smaller again.

"Sheep and lamb numbers in the U.S. declined in 1967 for the eighth successive year."

It is estimated that January 1968 stocks of frozen turkeys were over 100 million pounds larger than the stocks a year ago.

An 18-percent reduction in the number of turkeys raised for market next year was recommended by USDA in its 1968 turkey marketing guide.

To help accomplish the reduction, a 22-percent decrease in the number of breeder hens on Jan. 1, 1968 was suggested by Department officials.

Such a reduction of the turkey flock from 1967 levels is expected to result in a producer price averaging between the levels of 1966 and 1967, the Department said.



## Idaho Farmer Enjoys Low-Cost Gains in Growing Cattle

Rex Wood of Hazelton, Idaho, figures his feed cost at 12c per pound of gain on a growing ration of corn silage and alfalfa LMS (haylage).

He puts cattle on feed at about 400 pounds, feeding ½ corn silage and ½ alfalfa LMS. Charging \$10 per ton for the silage, he has a feed cost of 12 cents per pound on these growing cattle. In one 66-day period, he got 1.9 pounds per day gain and he says, "My gains usually are 1.6 to 1.7 pounds per day year-round." When he feeds alfalfa LMS only, he feeds two pounds of grain per day.

Wood feeds out 1,000 head of cattle per year with his two 600-ton Butler structures. Before purchasing the Stor-N-Feed Systems, he fed out 150-200 head of cattle per year on chopped baled hay and grain. He sold the rest of his hay crop for a cash crop.

Wood says, "I was looking for a better way to handle my hay crop. I couldn't get labor to stack bal-

ed hay; sometimes it would lay in the field two weeks before I could get it out. Now, I need no extra labor during hay harvest. I figure I get one more ton of dry matter per acre on the hay crop when I put it up as LMS, and there's not as much field loss. I believe this is the answer for the hay producer."

Wood gets three cuttings of alfalfa per acre with yields of 12 tons and 50% moisture haylage per acre.

Wood says, "The savings in harvesting costs alone will pay for my structures. I save \$7.00 per ton on harvesting costs. It costs me \$2 per ton to harvest LMS, where it was costing me \$3.50 per ton to bale hay, \$3.50 to stock the hay, and another \$3.50 per ton to chop it before feeding."

Wood likes the feed coming out of his Butler structure. He also says, "I have had excellent service from Butler. The unloading is fast (10 tons per hour), and I am well-satisfied with my structure."

Wood prefers this method of feeding cattle. He says, "It takes very little labor to feed the cattle; in fact, I would have the same labor whether I fed cattle or not."

Wood is considering some double-cropping with small grains. He harvests winter wheat in July, and in 1968, he is going to try replanting barley for silage. He believes it will be in the boot stage by October for a silage crop.



**BUTLER**  
**STOR-N-FEED**

**BUTLER**

Builders for the farmer who's in business to stay

Butler Agri-Products Division

**Now Available in Bottom or Top Unloader**



**DESIGNERS and BUILDERS of SYSTEMS**

**AGRI - INC.**

R. D. 2, Ephrata

Phone: 717-354-5374

We are your Butler Agri-Builder for low cost farm buildings, Stor-N-Feed livestock and dairy systems. One source responsibility.