

Farm Commentary

HATCHERY OUTPUT CONTINUES DOWN

U.S. hatchery production continues down. Broiler-type chick output, at 228.7 million, off 10 pct. from a year earlier, egg-type output, at 32.7 million, off 19 pct. from a year earlier.

This marked the 8th straight month the broiler-type hatch has been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier, the 11th straight month that the egg-type hatch has been down.

The Jan. - Nov. totals. Broiler-type chicks hatched, at 2.85 billion, down 3 pct. from a year earlier, the egg-type hatch, at 440.5 million, down 12 pct. from a year earlier.

HOG IMPORTS CONTINUE UP

Hog imports, already record high, continue up. But, cattle imports for all of 1974 may be the lowest in a decade and imports of sheep and lambs, the lowest in 13 years.

Hog imports at 8,692 head during October up 22 pct. from a year earlier. Cattle imports, at 8,698 head during the month, less than a third of the Oct. 1973 total. Sheep and lamb imports, at 136 head, less than one tenth of a year earlier.

The Jan. - Oct. totals. Hogs at 182,821 head, 2½ times that of a year earlier and more than double the previous record high (of 89,032 head) for all of 1972. All are from Canada.

Cattle, 545,452 head, down 25 pct. from a year earlier as it appears the total for all of 1974 will be the lowest since (the 546,606 total) 1964.

Sheep and lambs: 536 head, less than one tenth of a year earlier and it appears the total for the year will, perhaps, be as low as the 1961 total of 979 head.

MEAT IMPORTS DOWN SHARPLY

U.S. meat imports continue off. October imports of Meats subject to the Meat Import Law (mainly fresh and frozen beef and veal) totaled only 72.3 million lbs., less than half of the Oct. 1973 total. Imports of all red meats (those covered by the Meat Import Law, plus preserved and canned beef and veal and all pork and lamb) totaled 112 million lbs. during the month, down nearly 50 pct. from a year earlier.

The Jan. - Oct. totals. Imports covered by the Meat Import Law, 880.8 million lbs., down 22 pct., all red meats, 1.340 billion lbs., down 17 pct. from a year earlier.

WORLD WHEAT OUTPUT NOW SEEN LOWER

World wheat production now seen lower. The reason. Lower than expected USSR output and what is described as a "deteriorating" crop in Argentina. These losses have more than offset a higher than expected Canadian crop and an Australian crop that is turning out to be bigger than anticipated.

Russia's wheat crop, seen at 90 million metric tons only a month ago, is now seen at 88 million tons, down 22 pct. from a year ago. Argentina's crop, seen at 6.5 million tons a month ago, now seen at 5.0 million tons. Canada's crop, seen at 13.4 million tons last month, now estimated at 14.2 million tons. Australia's, seen at 11.0 million tons last month, now estimated at 11.7 million tons. Overall world wheat output now seen at

just under 350 million tons, this against a projected 359 million tons last month and last year's 361 million ton output.

NOW IT'S AN OLIVE SHORTAGE

The Spanish table olive harvest is seen at less than 70,000 tons. That's down 50 pct. from last year. Moreover, only 38,000 tons of the 1974 production are exportable varieties, compared to 111,000 tons last year.

Exports last year totaled 80,000 tons, with exports to the U.S. alone at 36,619 tons.

U.S. WHEAT PLANTINGS UP 6 PERCENT FOR '75

Farmers have planted 55.5 million acres of winter wheat for harvest next year, up 6 per cent from 1974 and the most since 1953, the Agriculture Department said Monday.

Based on Dec. 1 surveys, the department's Crop Reporting Board said the 1975 winter wheat crop could produce a record 1,599,527,000 bushels, up 15 per cent from the 1974 peak of 1,391,300,000 bushels.

The estimate was the department's first official indication of 1975 crop prospects and raised hopes that next year's harvest will signal a rebuilding of U.S. wheat reserves to help meet world food needs.

Officials said the 1975 winter wheat harvest could average 28.8 bushels per acre, compared with 26.5 bushels from the 1974 crop. A year ago, in response to soaring grain prices, farmers planted 52.4 million acres of 1974 winter wheat, a boost of 21.2 per cent from the 1973 crop.

Winter wheat accounts for about three-fourths of the U.S. bread grain and is concentrated mainly in the Great Plains. It is planted in the fall, lies mostly dormant in the winter and then matures for harvest the following spring and summer.

In Kansas, the leading wheat producer, the report showed farmers increased plantings 4 per cent from a year ago, and are expected to produce 375 million bushels, compared with 319 million this year and the record of 384.8 million in 1973.

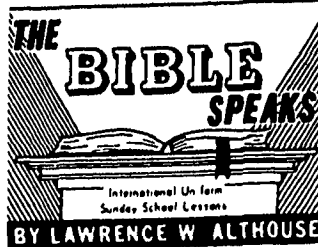
The total 1975 wheat crop will include durum and other types to be planted next spring as well as the winter variety farmers planted this fall. There was no estimate of 1975 spring wheat production in Monday's report.

However, 1974 production of spring wheat was about 402 million bushels. If 1975 output holds about the same, total U.S. wheat production next year would be about 2 billion bushels.

Department experts last spring said the 1974 wheat crop was expected to total nearly 2.2 billion bushels, based on planted acreage and an assumption farmers would get normal weather.

The weather was not normal, however, and grain farmers — including those who raise wheat — suffered substantial losses from too much rain last spring and drought last summer.

Consequently, the 1974 harvest of all wheat was less than 1.8 billion bushels, a record crop, but not enough to meet all expected demands until next season's grain is ready.



BODY AND SOUL

Lesson for December 29, 1974

Background Scripture: Luke 4:14-21; 5:17-26; 13:10-17.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 49:8-13.

There are two grave errors that man is likely to make about his own nature. On the one hand, he is likely to forget that his body has a soul. On the other, he is likely to forget that his soul also has a body. Somehow we must find some means of keeping both body and soul in the proper perspective.

The Spirit of the Lord

Jesus ministered to whole men, not bodies or spirits by themselves. He realized that the soul and the body act upon each other and one cannot deal with one perspective of man without also dealing with the other.

In our society today there is a tendency for Christians to major in one department to the exclusion of the other. We are catalogued as being concerned for one or the other, rarely both. So, some Christians never get beyond ministering to the physical and tangible needs of men. Others become so focused on the souls of men that they seem to forget that there is a body attached.

That is why the ministry of Jesus is so instructive for us: it is a ministry of wholeness, not specialization.

Some people assume that there is something incompatible about body and spirit, that the Christian's only concern must be for the soul. Yet, when we view the ministry of Jesus we find a great concern for men's physical wellbeing. When Jesus read the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue, note how he focused on physical wellbeing:

"... good news to the poor ... release to the captives ... recovering of sight to the blind ... to set at liberty those who are oppressed ..." (Luke 4:18).

When John the Baptist's disciples came to Jesus asking if he really were the Messiah, Jesus responded by pointing to his ministry to the physical and spiritual needs of men. It was his concern for people's bodies that made his "good news" so good.

But That You May Know ...

We find this same focus in the daily ministry of Jesus. In Luke 4 we find concern for both body and soul. For one thing, Jesus could easily see that this man was suffering a physical ailment: he was paralyzed. Jesus quickly determined to set this man on his feet: "I say to you, rise, take up your bed and go home" (4:24).

Yet, Jesus cannot minister to the man's body without taking cognizance of his soul, too: "Man, your sins are forgiven you" (Luke 5:20). This, of course, gave the religious authorities difficulty, for they assumed that body and soul had to be kept separate. But to Jesus, body and soul are just two different sides of the same coin. And Jesus demonstrates this when he challenges the authorities:



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
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To Keep That Christmas Tree Moist

Holiday Safety in the home starts with a fresh Christmas tree and then keeping it wet for the time that it is indoors. A dried out evergreen in the house is a definite fire hazard. Living trees that are to be planted on the landscape should not remain in the house more than a week or ten days; they too, should be watered to keep the ball of soil moist. All types of open flames should be kept away from the tree and other decorations.

To Evaluate Farm Records

Farm records will soon be closed out for this year and a time when farm operators should study them carefully in helping to make plans and decisions in the future. Not only are farm records needed for income tax reporting but to direct the effort in the future. Successful enterprises might be expanded while those not profitable are to be decreased or eliminated from the farm operation. We urge farmers to do some "pencil pushing" at this time of the year in order to make the best use of farm records.

To Control Chickweed In Alfalfa

We have reports of rank growth of chickweed in both new and old seedings of alfalfa. A young weed is much easier to kill than a mature weed so the sooner these chickweed problems are sprayed, the better will be the control. There are several materials that can be used depending upon the age of the stand and if any grasses are present. Refer to the Agronomy Guide or the local herbicide dealer for details. The important thing is to eliminate the chickweeds before they get mature and more difficult to control.

To Protect Stored Corn

The farm storage of corn is rather high this winter and this crop is worth record number of dollars. We hope that owners will make every effort to protect the quality of the corn so that it will command top market price. Moisture is one factor that will cause spoilage. Rats and mice can do a lot of damage to corn and reduce the sale value. Special effort to protect the corn crop at this time could mean more income later this winter or next spring.

Farm Calendar

Wednesday, January 1
Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner at the Leola Fire Company. 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. with take out orders available.

Thursday, January 2
Annual Lancaster County Tobacco Show at the Farm and Home Center in the Extension basement rooms. Classes

will be the same as for the State Farm Show Exhibits received beginning at 12:00 noon. Judging begins at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 4
State Farm Show begins in Harrisburg with Governor's preview and tour.

Farm Women Calendar

Saturday, December 28
Farm Women Society 5 meeting at 1:30 p.m. a Christmas party at the home of Emma Peifer.

10:00 a.m. at the Forum-Education Building.

Farm Women's State Banquet at Penn Harris Motor Inn Camp Hill at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 7
Farm Women Society State meeting reconvenes at 9:00 a.m. in meeting room F in the Main Farm Show Building.

Monday, January 6
State Convention of the Farm Women Societies in Harrisburg. Beginning at

"Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?" (Luke 5:23).

It is body and soul, or it is neither.

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American Viewpoints



Let no guilty man escape, if it can be avoided. No personal considerations should stand in the way of performing a public duty.
Ulysses S. Grant