

Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

Record Winter Wheat Crop Seen

U.S. winter wheat production forecast (as of June 1) at 1.619 billion (1 billion, 619 million) bu. That's down 1 million bu. from the May 1 forecast, but it's still 16 pct. above last year's record high and 27 pct. above 1973.

Prospects declined in Kansas and Texas, improved in Washington, and

remained unchanged in Oklahoma. These four states account for 50 pct. of the winter wheat output. Not included in the current report is any loss suffered in a June 6 storm that included high winds, rain and hail and that inflicted heavy damage in 2 major wheat counties in Oklahoma.

USSR Grain Output Lower Than Expected

The Soviet Union may be exporting more grain this year than expected to, according to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. The reason: Grain crop prospects in the USSR are now seen below both earlier estimates and Soviet domestic utilization requirements. USDA now estimates total grain

output in the USSR this year at 200 million tons. That's 8 pct. below planned production for 1975. Soviet grain exports are also below earlier projections and estimated Soviet domestic utilization. As a result, exports are projected at 10 million tons, are now seen higher. USDA 1975-76

If Yields Go Up, Incomes Will Come Down

If crop production is higher, as indicated by planting intentions, net farm income for 1975 will be lower. This, according to a summary of USDA's Demand and Price Situation issued last week. The reasons. Lower

average prices per unit, continued higher production costs.

The forecast is for a net farm income of \$20 billion. That's down from \$27 billion received last year and the record \$32 billion total for 1973.

'74 Farm Exports Hit \$22 Bil.

U.S. farm exports during calendar 1974 a record high of \$22 billion, up 24 pct. from the previous high (of \$17.7 billion) a year earlier. Farm imports were also a record high \$10.25 billion, up 22 pct. from the \$8.4 billion of a year earlier.

Nothing much new here. But, an Economic Research Service publication issued last week, gives the breakdown by commodity, both dollar value and volume.

It shows, for example, that while the value of corn, wheat and rice exports was record high, volume of all there was down. That exports of evaporated milk, nonfat dry milk and butter were the lowest on records running back to 1950. That cheese exports, though up from a year earlier, were only 5 pct. of those in 1958. That imports of green coffee were the lowest since 1954, imports of crude rubber were the highest since 1952, imports of cheese, sugar, coconut oil, palm oil, tobacco and bananas were record high.

U.S. milk output estimated at 10.8 billion lbs during May. That's down about 1/2 of 1 pct. from a year earlier. Reason for the decline. Lower cow numbers. While output per cow was 968 lbs for the month, up 1 pound from a year earlier, cow numbers, at 11,150,000, were down 1 pct. from a year earlier.

In the major producing States, production was off fractionally in Wisconsin, off 1 pct. in California and Texas, off 3 pct. in both Minnesota and Iowa. It was unchanged from a year ago in Michigan, up fractionally in Pennsylvania, up 1 pct. in Missouri,

up 2 pct. in New York, up 3 pct. in Ohio.

The Jan. - May total: 49.0 billion lbs. about the same as a year ago.

Cattle and calves on feed June 1 in the 7 major States estimated at 5,841,000 head. That's down 26 pct. from a year ago. Texas' total, at 1,128,000 head, down 42 pct. from a year earlier.

California's total, at 624,000, down 35 pct.; Iowa's, at 1,110,000 head, down 26 pct.; Nebraska's, at 970,000 head, down 24 pct. Colorado's, at 684,000 head, down only 8 pct. and Kansas' total, at 960,000 head, up 1 pct. from a year earlier.

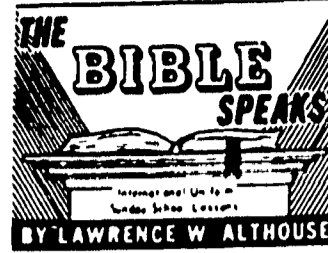
Though May placements, at 1,532,000 head, were up 20 pct. from a year earlier, May marketings in the 7 States totaled only 1,172,000 head, down 24 pct. from a year earlier.

Lagging economies, both in the U.S. and overseas, have caused both exports and domestic use of U.S. tobacco for the 1974-75 marketing year to slip below last season's record high level. Still, total disappearance is exceeding 1974's output. As a result, tobacco carryover will fall below last year's 2.95 billion lbs. - to the smallest level since 1947.

Editor's Quote Book

A true friend never gets in the way unless you happen to be going down.

Arnold Glasow



"IT IS WRITTEN"

Lesson for June 22, 1975

Background Scripture: Psalms 19: 7-14; 119: 9-11, 105, 130; Matthew 4: 1-11.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55: 18-11.

The Bible is credited with being the best-seller of all time. There seems to be no dispute about that.

What is considerably less unanimous is the question as to whether it is also the world's "best-read" book. There seems to be a considerable gap between "Bible sold" and "Bibles read."

Is It Relevant?

I once heard the Bible described by a teenager who was considerably more candid in expressing his opinion of the Bible because he didn't know I was overbearing him: "It's just a lot of dusty old stories about a lot of far-out 'has-beens' who lived 'once-upon-a-time' in some 'never-never' land!"

Apart from being somewhat dazzled by the artistry of his expression, I was hardly surprised, for this young man's impression of the Bible is shared by many young people and adults alike. One of the big reasons why the Bible is more bought than read is that many people assume that, though sacred in some way, it is largely irrelevant to life in our world today.

The Bible, however, was intended to be read rather than revered. It is not irrelevant, for the most part, and in fact, is one of the most contemporary pieces of literature in the world.

The story of Adam and Eve, for example, is our story, not just history. The chronicles of Israel in the Old Testament are concerned with religious, social, economic, and political issues that are very much with us today. The personal problems and concerns of which the psalmists and sages of the proverbs write are those that we face in our lives. The teachings of Jesus in the gospels are concerned with issues and realities that never become obsolete. The story of the early church in Acts and the counsel of the apostles in the New Testament epistles find many, many significant parallels in our own experiences.

More desired than gold

The Bible is relevant because it speaks to our needs today if we will take the time and effort to listen. The writer of the Psalms spoke of the scriptures, saying: "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalms 19: 10). What many people do not realize is just how valuable the Bible can be to each of us.

A significant illustration of this fact comes from the Bible itself: the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. What is it that sees him through this time of trial and temptation? Again and again in the midst of some of Satan's craftiest challenges,



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 391-6851

To Prepare Grain Bins

The winter barley and wheat crops are maturing and storage bins should be well prepared. All of the old grain should be removed before any new grain is added. The bins should be well cleaned and then sprayed with an insecticide such as Malathion to eliminate all grain insects. If this is not done, there may be a carry-over of the insects from the old grain and the new crop will be infected. Cleaning is not sufficient; the bins should be thoroughly sprayed to protect the new grain.

To Beware of Manure Pits

We repeat this word of caution about the possibility of poisonous gases developing and above liquid manure pits. The recent tragedy in Berks County reminds all of us of this potential danger with this system of handling manure. Farmers should warn all of their employees and their family of the danger of these gases and manage the pits accordingly. Also, good ventilation in closed buildings over these slatted manure pits should also get special attention. It is possible for both humans and animals to be killed from the gas formation over slatted floors, if ventilation is not sufficient; this is especially true when the manure is being agitated or removed. Careful management of manure pits to prevent additional fatalities is suggested.

To Remove Wild Cherry Trees

Wilting or wilted wild cherry leaves are poisonous to livestock; fresh cherry leaves are not toxic. Therefore, all livestock producers with pastures should be certain of any wild cherry trees and either remove them from the area, or inspect under them after each wind storm. When the limbs are blown off, or the tree blown down, animals seem to crave the leaves and will eat them in preference to other good forage crops. If the limbs are not removed within a few hours after they are blown off, they become poisonous to livestock. Producers are urged to recognize this possible danger in their pastures and woodlots.

To Combat Leaf Hoppers

One of the worst insects on the alfalfa crop during the summer is the potato leaf hopper. Growers are urged to make some sweeps over their second growth and if hoppers are found, the field should be sprayed. Normally, we have more trouble later in the summer with the third or fourth cuttings. Leaf hoppers attack the plant and cause it to turn yellow and be stunted. The suggested insecticide is dimethoate (Cygon) sprayed when the new growth is 4 to 6 inches high. One application on either the second or the third cutting should protect the field for the balance of the summer. Frequent checks on the field for hoppers should determine the need for this spray application.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, June 21
Reading Fair running through the 28th at the Fairgrounds in Reading - Berks Co.

Chester County Dairy Princess Contest at 7:30 p.m. in the Honey Brook Grange Hall, Honeybrook.

Lancaster County Dairy Princess Contest at the Farm and Home Center. Berks County Dairy Princess Contest and activities at the Berkshire Mall in Reading.

Tuesday, June 24
4-H dairy judging practice at the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown. Leave the Farm and Home Center at 8:30 a.m.

Jesus searches his memory and says, "It is written..." Fortified with the wisdom and guidance of the scriptures, Jesus is victorious in this great trial.

So too we may prevail in trials of life when, equipped with the riches of the Bible we may say, "It is written..."

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Thursday, June 27
4-H Regional Dairy Judging Practice in York County. Leave Farm and Home Center at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch.

Saturday, June 28
Lebanon County Dairy Princess Contest and activities to be held throughout the day at Boscov's in Lebanon. York County Dairy Princess Contest to be held at the 4-H Center.

Farm Youth Calendar

Tuesday, June 24
Mt. Joy 4-H Cooking Club meeting 11 a.m. Wm. Church Mt. Joy Thomasville 4-H Community Club, 7:30 p.m. Annual ice cream party

Friday, June 27
York 4-H Demonstration Day 4-H Center in Bair, Pa.

Saturday, June 28
Lancaster 4-H-Exchange trip to Colorado

TRY A CLASSIFIED AD!