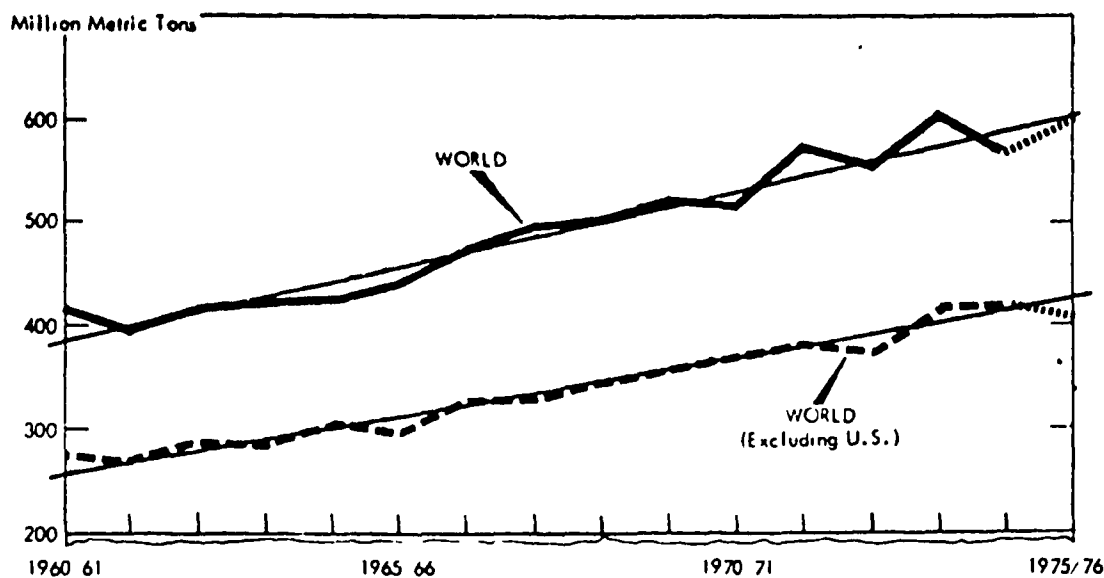


WORLD COARSE GRAIN PRODUCTION* (ACTUAL AND LINEAR TREND)

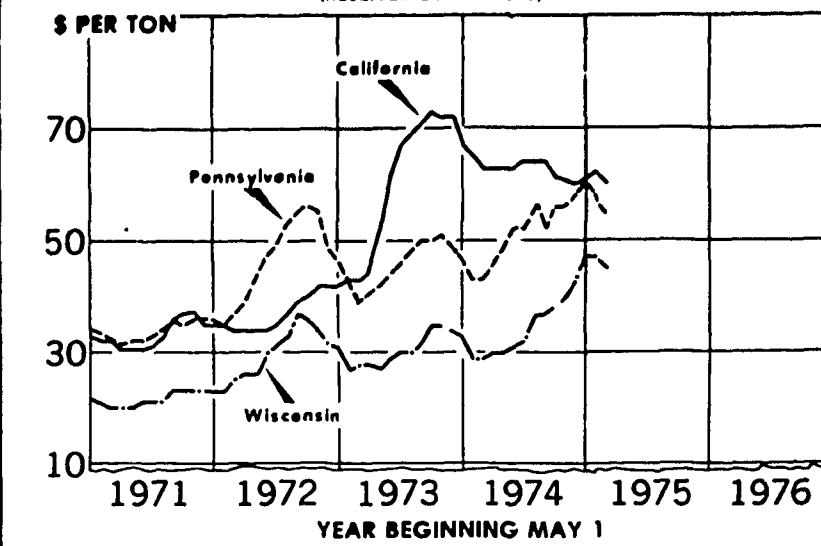


*Includes corn, barley, rye, oats and sorghum.

USDA

Economic Research Service

ALFALFA HAY PRICES (RECEIVED BY FARMERS)



USDA

NEG ERS 957-101

Longhorns Could Survive As Hardy Range Critters

Men who were legends rode the ranges of the Old West.

they stalked the dusty streets of cow towns and boom towns. They fought, shot, loved and rode their way into the pages of what is unique American folklore. But, had it not been for the Longhorn, the cowboys of the Old West might today be as unheralded as the early American cattlemen of the East.

The Longhorn was a rangy critter, descended from tough Andalusian cattle brought to the New World in the early 16th century by Cortez, the Spanish explorer. The Longhorns flourished in the sparse vegetation of the arid Southwest.

Where a Hereford or an Angus might starve to death, the Longhorn could find and eat enough to stay alive. Needless to say, the animals were more renowned for this survival ability than for the quality of their meat. While the meat could be eaten, the Longhorn's principal commercial value derived from their hides, horns, hooves and the tallow rendered from their carcasses.

Immense herds of these animals accumulated on the plains and in the riverbeds of the American Southwest during the Civil War. In Texas alone hundreds and hundreds of thousands of Longhorns, as wild and skittish as deer, abounded on the open range. As the East and Midwest became more and more urbanized the growing population developed an appetite for meat and other animal products that far outstripped the production ability of local farmers.

Many ex soldiers, from the North as well as the South, drifted westward to capture the Longhorns and drive them to railheads in Kansas or Oklahoma for shipment to market. It was not an easy way to make a living, but many Texas moguls got their start by putting a hat on Longhorns. In the hot dry climate of the Southwest, the Longhorns hid from the heat of the day and the insects by taking refuge in the almost impenetrable thickets of mesquite and palo verde. A man on horseback could not possibly follow the creatures into those thickets. But the Longhorn, whose horns commonly spanned ten feet from tip to tip, moved with uncanny grace through brush, ducking, swinging and weaving his horns with a fluid motion that destroys the old cliché about the bull in a china shop.

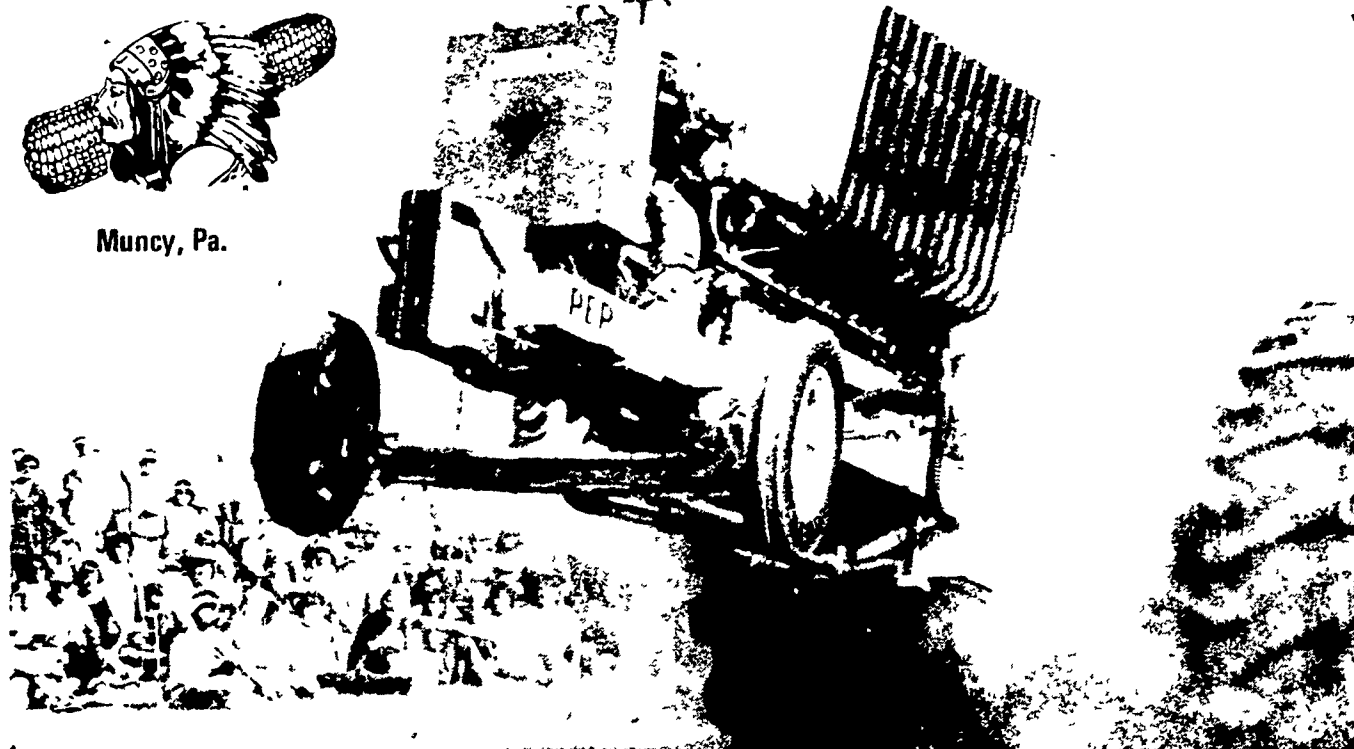
Longhorns vanished from the cattle markets as homesteaders fenced in the open range. Homesteaders brought barbed wire with them and they brought English cattle breeds. These cattle were more domesticated and they produced far superior beef. But they were not the stuff of legends.

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| 3. 7000 Super Stock | |
| 4. 9000 Modified | |
| Session III | 1:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, January 24 | |
| 5. 5000 Modified | |
| 6. 12,000 Open | |
| Session IV | 7:30 p.m. |
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