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Selected Recent Research Publications in Agricultural Economics Issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and Cooperatively by the State Universities and Colleges¹

BERNITZ, ALEXANDER. A SURVEY OF CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURE. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-38, 48 pp., illus. Sept. 1962.

Before World War II, Czechoslovak agriculture was predominantly privately owned. Now about 80 percent of the agricultural land is socialized, either in collectives or state farms. Agricultural production accounts for a little over 10 percent of the national income today compared with about 23 percent prewar. Prewar Czechoslovakia was generally self-sufficient in the production of foodstuffs. At present it is importing bread and feed grains, animal products, and cotton. Sugar, hops, and malt continue to be the principal agricultural exports. Food consumption returned to the prewar level in 1953 due primarily to increased imports and a smaller post-war population. The quality of the diet has also improved slightly but the bulk of the caloric intake is still composed of grain and potatoes.

BERRY, BRIAN J. L. SAMPLING, CODING, AND STORING FLOOD PLAIN DATA. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Handb. 237, 27 pp., illus. Aug. 1962.

The report is concerned with methods of sampling, coding, and storing data relating to the agricultural occupancy of flood plains. It describes a unique field method for punched-card coding and storing of geographic sample data from other sources.

BEVAN, ROLAND, PAWSON, WALTER W., AND BROUGH, OWEN L., JR. A COMPARISON OF CROPPING SYSTEMS FOR THE WASHINGTON-IDAHO PALOUSE AREA. Idaho Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 390, 22 pp., illus. Sept. 1962. (Econ. Res. Serv. co-operating.)

The choice of a cropping system is one of the important farm management decisions on Palouse farms. The bulletin was prepared to aid farmers who are comparing possible cropping systems for their farms. It compares seven possible rotations both with and without Government wheat acreage restrictions. The net returns from the several rotations or cropping systems possible for the area will vary by several thousand dollars on a representative farm. Although the bulletin recognizes that farmers may have other goals than maximizing monetary returns, such other goals are ignored in this comparison.

BIEDERMANN, KONRAD, NACK, HERMAN, NEHER, M. B., AND WILHELMY, ODIN, JR. A TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF FOUR HIDE-CURING METHODS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 16, 76 pp., illus. Sept. 1962.

To provide economic data that might help the hide industry maintain and expand markets for their products, the USDA contracted with Batelle Memorial Institute, a private organization, to study and evaluate four hide cur-

ing processes. Data were obtained on the costs, labor, and equipment requirements from 21 hide firms curing hides by salt packing, agitated brine curing, brine curing of fleshed hides by the pit method, and agitated brine curing of flesh hides. An important conclusion of this study is that no single curing method is consistently the most efficient and that volume is important to the choice of method.

CHAPMAN, W. FRED, JR. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET IN SEATTLE-TACOMA, PORTLAND, AND SPOKANE. U.S. Dept. Agri., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 563, 44 pp., illus. Oct. 1962.

Report in a series describing wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in 50 U.S. cities.

CHRISTENSEN, RAYMOND P., AND AINES, RONALD O. ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ACREAGE CONTROL PROGRAMS IN THE 1950'S. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 18, 51 pp., illus. Oct. 1962.

This report reviews experience during the 1950's with Government programs designed to influence farm production and resource use through establishment of controls on land inputs. It presents information that should help in evaluating similar programs that may be put into effect in the future to help achieve a better balance of farm production with market outlets and to improve returns to resources used in farming.

CHUMNEY, W. T., AND VERMEER, JAMES. COSTS OF CROP PRODUCTION, BY SIZE OF FARM, CENTRAL COTTON-TOBACCO AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 14, 75 pp. Aug. 1962.

Costs per pound of producing tobacco on large farms in the central cotton-tobacco area of North Carolina were 16 percent lower than on small farms in the same area in 1956. For cotton, they were 20 percent lower; for corn, 40 percent lower; and for soybeans, oats, and wheat, 50 percent lower than on small farms. The conclusions were based on a study of 267 farms selected at random.

CONLOGUE, ROBERT M. COSTS OF PROCUREMENT AND ASSEMBLY OF EGGS IN THREE MIDWESTERN STATES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-92, 18 pp., illus. Oct. 1962.

This study was designed to find more efficient ways to procure and assemble eggs. Procurement policies and assembly routes of seven Midwestern firms were studied during 1959 and 1960. The report shows that many Midwestern plants can realize savings of 15 to 45 percent in the cost of assembling eggs. These savings would result from a realignment of routes, the use of set-in stations, the payment of price differentials based on volume picked up, and more attention to procurement and assembly problems.

¹ State publications may be obtained from the issuing agencies of the respective States.

COOPER, MARTIN R. GETTING STARTED IN FARMING. U.S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bul. 1961, 34 pp., illus. Issued 1944, slightly revised Oct. 1962.

The problem of selecting a farm is treated chiefly from the farm-management viewpoint, which considers various influences that have a bearing on farming as a business. Considerations apply primarily to the family-sized farm, in which the home is thought to be as much a part of the farm as are the fields and cows. This bulletin is written for those who know little or nothing about farming and for those with farming experience who want to change their locations. It is intended to help the prospective buyer or renter decide on where he wants to farm, and on how to go about selecting a farm and get started in farming.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH. NIGERIA: DETERMINANTS OF PROJECTED LEVEL OF DEMAND, SUPPLY, AND IMPORTS OF FARM PRODUCTS IN 1965 AND 1975. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-32, 149 pp., illus. Aug. 1962. (For. Agr. Serv. cooperating.)

By 1965 demand for wheat and/or wheat flour imports may reach levels 25-30 percent above average 1957-60 rate, and by 1975 a doubling of the 1960 level. U.S. share of Nigerian wheat flour imports have been consistently around 60 to 90 percent. Nigerian gross domestic product is likely to advance and by 1965 reach \$3,500 millions (at 1957 prices), affording an average income per Nigerian of \$85. The tentative estimate for 1975 is \$4,500-\$5,000 millions with average income of \$90-95 per head.

GAVETT, EARLE E. TRUCK CROP PRODUCTION PRACTICES, BROWARD AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES, FLORIDA. LABOR, POWER, AND MATERIALS BY OPERATION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-79, 1962, 31 pp., illus. Oct. 1962.

Different kinds of data are needed for different purposes. Some persons need data on *average* labor, power, and material inputs, while others—particularly county agents and farm budgeters—prefer data for *usual* or *typical* labor, power, and material inputs. The data in this report are presented in such a way as to satisfy both these needs. Data on truck crop production in these two important Florida counties were obtained late in 1959. Information was obtained by personal interviews with 146 farm operators. It presents information on six vegetables grown for the fresh market—snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, eggplant, sweetpeppers, and squash.

HOOVER, HERBERT, AND CRECINK, JOHN C. RURAL NONFARM FAMILIES IN THE CLAY-HILLS OF MISSISSIPPI—INCOMES AND RESOURCES. Miss. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 648, 19 pp. July 1962. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

The number of rural nonfarm families in the Clay-Hills area of Mississippi is increasing rapidly while the number of farm families is declining. There are two distinct groups of rural nonfarm families: Those who depend primarily upon off-farm work income for their livelihood, and those who depend primarily upon income transfer payments, rents, and retirement payments for their livelihood. Members of the first group generally are younger, have more formal education, and have larger incomes than

the second group. Families with off-farm employment utilized almost three times as much of their available labor as the families depending on nonwork income.

MANCHESTER, ALDEN C. THE ORGANIZATION OF WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKETS IN DETROIT, ALBANY-SCHENECTADY-TROY, AND WEST VIRGINIA. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 562, 56 pp., illus. Oct. 1962.

Report in a series describing wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in 50 U.S. cities.

MOORE, D. S., TEFERTILLER, K. R., HUGHES, W. F., AND ROGERS, R. H. PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS, COSTS AND EXPECTED RETURNS FOR CROP ENTERPRISES, HARDLANDS SOILS, HIGH PLAINS OF TEXAS. Tex. Agr. Expt. Sta. MP-601, 57 pp. Aug. 1962. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Purpose of this report is to present information that will be helpful in selecting the most profitable crop enterprises on the hardland soils of the Texas High Plains. Budgets are developed showing potential production levels and costs and returns on a per-acre basis for major crop enterprises at different levels of irrigation. Production levels and costs vary somewhat from farm to farm because of differences in management, climate, irrigation facilities, and size of farm unit.

PODANY, JOSEPH C. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET IN PHILADELPHIA. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 559, 25 pp., illus. Aug. 1962.

Report in a series describing wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in 50 U.S. cities.

POWELL, JULES V., AND REIMUND, DONN A. THE PECAN SHELLING AND PROCESSING INDUSTRY—PRACTICES, PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 15, 27 pp., illus. Sept. 1962.

The pecan shelling industry has grown from small, largely hand-operated, side-line enterprises to large, highly automated businesses. This report is based on a survey of 74 firms that had net sales of 164 million pounds of pecans in 1960-61. The eight largest firms accounted for 48 percent of the industry sales, and the 37 largest accounted for 90 percent of the industry sales.

SPEARS, MCGEEHEE, AND VINING, DALE K. IMPORTANCE OF U.S. FARM EXPORTS TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., For. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 7, 16 pp., illus. Oct. 1962. (For. Agr. Serv. cooperating.)

Investigates significance of farm exports to the agricultural sector of the U.S. economy, examines the U.S. Government farm export program, and explores the importance of exports to the U.S. balance of international payments. The percentage of farm originating gross product that was exported rose from 12 percent in 1951 to 14 percent in 1960. All farm exports are recorded in the Nation's balance of payments as dollar earnings. In the

final year ending June 30, 1961, almost a third of farm exports—\$1.5 billion of a total of \$4.9 billion—was sold in foreign currencies, donated, or bartered. In fiscal 1961, farm exports produced 15 percent of total farm cash receipts.

SPURLOCK, HUGHES H. TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNIST CHINA'S WORLD TRADE IN FARM PRODUCTS, 1955-60. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., For. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 6, 44 pp. Sept. 1962.

China became a large supplier of farm products sold in world markets during the first 11 years of communist rule. Exported farm products paid for imported machinery and industrial supplies; but by 1961, hunger, malnutrition, and famine forced a cutback in exports and required emergency purchases in food grains, mostly from Canada and Australia. As U.S. and communist China are the world's largest producers of farm products, and both are major exporters, the two areas are competitors in world agricultural markets.

STAFF OF EAST EUROPEAN ANALYSIS BRANCH, REGIONAL ANALYSIS DIVISION. THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN 1961-62 IN THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-29, 50 pp. Sept. 1962.

Agricultural output in the Soviet Union and most other European countries declined or fell short of the high official goals last year. Serious food shortages developed in many of these countries. Prices paid to farmers for certain commodities were increased in the Soviet Union and some other Eastern European countries, but prospects for the 1962 harvest make it unlikely that the agricultural and food difficulties will be over soon. Besides the Soviet Union, the report discusses the situation in Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. RURAL RECREATION—A NEW FAMILY-FARM BUSINESS. REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON INCOME-PRODUCING RECREATION ENTERPRISES ON FARM LAND. U.S. Dept. Agr., 56 pp. Sept. 1962.

This report points to the pressing need for increased recreation areas and facilities. The Nation's farm and ranch land can provide a large part of that need, with income to owners and satisfaction to users. The annual recreation expenditure has increased from less than \$4 billion in 1939 to well over \$20 billion today, and evidence indicates that this trend will continue. The report discusses the kinds of recreation enterprise adapted to farms and factors affecting development of these facilities.

U.S. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE. CHANGES IN FARM PRODUCTION AND EFFICIENCY—A SUMMARY REPORT, 1962. U.S. Dept. Agr., Stat. Bul. 233, 54 pp. Revised Sept. 1962.

This is an annual publication designed to present the major statistical series on farm production, production inputs, and efficiency. The data will help the user to get a historical perspective of what has happened and to measure current changes.

U.S. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE. DEVELOPMENTS IN MARKETING SPREADS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1961. REPRINTED FROM HEARINGS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, UNITED STATES SENATE, EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-14, 1962, 24 pp., illus. Oct. 1962.

Shows spread between retail and farm prices of food products, farmer's share of retail food dollar, hourly earnings of food marketing employees, total profits of major food processing and distributing firms. Consumer prices for food have risen substantially less than other goods and services in the last 10 years.

VOELKER, STANLEY W., AND NORDBO, MARVIN T. STATISTICS ON FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION IN NORTH DAKOTA. N.D. Agr. Expt. Sta. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 25, 49 pp., illus. Sept. 1962. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

An important technological development in North Dakota agriculture during the past decade has been the substitution of fertilizer for land and other capital. Consumption of fertilizer increased about tenfold from 1951 to 1961. Different kinds of fertilizer-consumption statistics are available from several sources. This report consolidates data from these sources into a more complete summary of trends in fertilizer usage in North Dakota.

VOSLOH, CARL J., JR. LABOR AND CAPITAL FOR MIXING FORMULA FEEDS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 564, 28 pp., illus. Oct. 1962.

Second in a group of research studies designed to analyze important phases of the overall feed manufacturing process, this publication is concerned with the heart of the entire process—the mixing center. It provides information on standards for costs, labor, and equipment in two models of mixing centers with capacities of 80 and 200 tons per shift per day. Models were developed from records of feed manufacturers in 34 States.

Statistical Compilations

CROP REPORTING BOARD, U.S. STATIS. RPTG. SERV. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS: CITRUS FRUITS, NONCITRUS FRUITS, TREE NUTS, 1944-58; SEASON AVERAGE PRICES OR EQUIVALENT RETURNS BY TYPE OF SALE AND UTILIZATION GROUPS, UNITED STATES AND BY STATES, PARITY PRICES, FRUIT PRICE INDEX. U.S. Dept. Agr., Stat. Bul. 322, 76 pp., illus. Sept. 1962.

U.S. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE. SUPPLEMENT FOR 1961 TO CONSUMPTION OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES, 1909-52. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Handb. 62, supplement for 1961, 119 pp. Sept. 1962.

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Contributors

(Continued from inside front cover)

JOHN M. BREWSTER of the Farm Production Economics Division, Economic Research Service, has gained a wide reputation for his papers on conflicting beliefs and values involved in policy struggles.

RONALD L. MIGHELL is Leader of the Pioneering Research Group in the Farm Production Economics Division, Economic Research Service. His interest in land economics goes back to an early period of service as a State land use planning specialist in the former Resettlement Administration.

In a move to step up and streamline information going to U.S. producers and traders about world export markets, the Foreign Agricultural Service has merged two periodicals into a new weekly. The new publication, *Foreign Agriculture*, replaces the 26-year-old monthly of that name and the 43-year-old weekly commodity report, *Foreign Crops and Markets*. The new weekly reports and interprets news of foreign agricultural production and markets, U.S. market development activities abroad, and international government policies and programs affecting U.S. farm trade. Persons or organizations now on mailing lists of *Foreign Agriculture* or *Foreign Crops and Markets* will receive the new magazine. Others may subscribe by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. The subscription rate for *Foreign Agriculture* is \$5.50 a year domestic, \$8.00 foreign.

The Farm Index, a new monthly magazine of the Economic Research Service, began publication in October. The magazine reports in nontechnical language the results of the broad research program of the Economic Research Service. Material is grouped according to the special interests of farming, marketing, the foreign market, and the consumer. Regular features are a 2-page digest of the agricultural outlook; a table presenting the latest figures for 50 leading indicators of economic developments in agriculture, marketing, and the general economy; and abstracts of current ERS research publications. You can obtain single copies of *The Farm Index* by writing: Division of Information, Management Operations Staff, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. Subscriptions are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. for \$2 a year domestic, \$2.75 foreign.

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