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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

ANDERSON, D. E., LOFTSGARD, L. D., ERICKSON, L. E. CHARACTERISTICS AND CHANGES OF LAND OWNERSHIP IN NORTH DAKOTA 1945 TO 1958. N. Dak. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 438, 28 pp., illus. Jan. 1962. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

In 1958, nearly three-fourths of North Dakota's farm and ranch land was owned by active farmers, the State and Federal governments owned 6.7 percent, and non-operator landlords owned approximately one-fifth. The active farmers had mortgages on 31 percent of the farmland they owned and this mortgage debt was 6.3 percent of the total value of land. In 1945 to 1958 the average size of ownership units increased from 488 acres in 1945 to 622 acres in 1958. The concentration of land—referring to distribution of acreage and value among persons who are owners—changed very little from 1945 to 1958.

BIRD, RONALD, AND MILLER, FRANK. CONTRIBUTIONS OF TOURIST TRADE TO INCOMES OF PEOPLE IN MISSOURI OZARKS. Mo. Agr. Expt. Sta. Res. Bul. 799, 69 pp., illus. Mar. 1962. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

This is an evaluation of opportunities for enlarging the economic base in the Missouri Ozarks, an area of low farm incomes, by using resources for recreation. Of the total volume of business of retail and service firms in the Missouri Ozarks in 1959, more than 21 percent was obtained from tourists. Though population has decreased since 1950, the number of retail and personal service firms has increased 32 percent mainly due to the tourist trade.

BROWN, W. HERBERT. PEANUT-COTTON FARMS: ORGANIZATION, COSTS, AND RETURNS; SOUTHERN COASTAL PLAINS, 1944-60. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 7, 31 pp., illus. Apr. 1962.

Net farm income on peanut-cotton farms in the Southern Coastal Plains rose from \$1,500 per farm in 1946 to \$3,500 in 1958, but remained low in comparison with income on other major types of farms. A major factor in the income boost was increased output. From 1944 to 1960, estimated normal yields of peanuts, cotton and corn increased 51, 75, and 129 percent, respectively.

BUCK, R. C., AND BIBLE, B. L. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AMONG PENNSYLVANIA RURAL YOUTH. Pa. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 686, 25 pp. Nov. 1961. (Agr. Mktg. Serv. cooperating.)

Sample selected in 1947 consisted of members of sophomore classes from 74 rural high schools. Students were studied until 1957. Fifteen percent of the males and 20

percent of the females not finishing high school had intelligence quotient scores of 105 and over. Fifteen percent of the sample of more than 2,000 young people did not finish high school. Thirty-nine percent terminated their formal educations with high school graduation. Thirty-one percent engaged in some post high school training of less than college level. Fifteen percent attended or graduated from colleges or universities.

FRYE, R. E. EFFECT OF THE PILOT FOOD STAMP PROGRAM ON RETAIL FOOD STORE SALES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 8, 13 pp., illus. Apr. 1962.

Retail food sales increased 8 percent in sample stores used to test the Food Stamp Program. Launched last spring on a trial basis in eight pilot areas, the program has two main purposes: To improve diets of needy families and utilize more of the Nation's abundant food resources.

GAARDER, R. O., ENGLEMAN, GERALD, AND KIMBRELL, E. F. GRADES OF HOGS SLAUGHTERED IN THE UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1960 THROUGH AUGUST 1961. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv. and Agr. Mktg. Serv., ERS-57, 16 pp. Apr. 1962.

Based on carcasses graded by a USDA hog grading specialist at a sample of 56 packing plants, about 33 percent of all barrows and gilts and 34 percent of sow carcasses were estimated to have been U.S. No. 1. Estimates of the proportion of hogs coming to market in each U.S. grade will help provide a benchmark by which to measure progress in hog quality improvement.

GRAY, L. R., AND WILLIS, R. J. PRICES AND PRICE SPREADS FOR EGGS, FRYING CHICKENS, AND TURKEYS IN SELECTED CITIES, 1956-61. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-60, 18 pp., illus. Apr. 1962.

Price spreads for eggs and poultry differed considerably among 10 cities due to directness of marketing channels, retail store pricing policies, and sources of supply. Farm-to-retail price spreads among the cities ranged from 15.4 to 30.1 cents a dozen for grade A large eggs, 15.5 to 37.8 cents a pound for frying chickens, and 15.1 to 27.8 cents a pound for medium turkeys.

HARTMAN, L. M., AND TOLLEY, G. S. EFFECTS OF FEDERAL ACREAGE CONTROLS ON COST AND TECHNIQUES OF PRODUCING FLUE-CURED TOBACCO. N.C. Agr. Expt. Sta. Tech. Bul. 146, 34 pp., illus. June 1961. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

This study attempts to find the most profitable production practices under input prices expected *with* and *without* acreage controls. Practices of major concern are levels of nitrogen and number of plants per acre. The

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

study indicated that in the absence of a program, a reduction in number of plants per acre would be profitable. Present levels of nitrogen are found to be most profitable with or without the program.

HENDERSON, P. L., HIND, J. F., AND BROWN, S. E.

PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS FOR LAMB AND THEIR EFFECTS ON SALES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 522, 22 pp., illus. Jan. 1962.

Two techniques for promoting sales of lamb are described: (1) Advertising and education programs sponsored by the American Sheep Producers Council to create greater consumer awareness of lamb and to obtain support of the trade; (2) cooperative advertising arrangements between the Council and retailers in which the Council reimbursed retailers for a portion of the cost of advertising lamb in newspapers. Taking into account both the lower cost and the greater increase in sales, the cooperative advertising was about six times as effective as the regular promotion when measured in terms of the average increase obtained for a dollar's worth of promotional expense.

JACKSON, DONALD. ECONOMICS OF SUGARBEET MARKETING. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-49, 36 pp., illus. Mar. 1962.

Possible changes in contracts between growers and processors of sugarbeets are examined. The net returns to all processors from sugar sale might be averaged to arrive at growers' payments. Also, the grower-processor relationship might be modified by contracts providing fixed prices for sugarbeets; division of processed products instead of income; beet production by the processors; custom processing for the growers; or operation of the factories by growers.

JOHNSON, RALPH D. THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA. Nebr. Agr. Expt. Sta., SB-470; 31 pp., illus. Feb. 1961. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

About 5 percent of the total Nebraska cropland acreage reported by the 1954 Census of Agriculture was in the conservation reserve in 1960. Present plans of owners for future use of land now in conservation reserve suggest that the long-run effects of the program in Nebraska will be more beef and dairy cattle, fewer crop acres, and a more stable agriculture.

LOFTSGARD, L. D., ANDERSON, D. O., AND NORDBO, M. T. OWNING AND OPERATING COSTS FOR FARM MACHINERY. N. Dak. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 436, 24 pp., illus. Sept. 1961.

This report provides information on maximum acreage that can be handled efficiently by typical machinery combinations; the fixed costs, variable costs, and total costs of owning and operating farm machinery; and a guide to aid individual farm operators in determining whether a machine should be purchased or if its services should be custom hired.

MANCHESTER, A. C. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET IN WASHINGTON, D.C. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 524, 27 pp., illus. Feb. 1962.

The Washington wholesale produce market received 23,700 carlots of fresh fruits and vegetables in 1958. Total volume received increased about 50 percent between 1936 and 1958, largely due to the increase in population in the area. During this same period, direct receipts of wholesale handlers increased about 10 percent while those of chains and the one retailer cooperative more than doubled.

MEARS, LEON G. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SITUATION IN CUBA. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-28, 22 pp., illus. May 1962.

Food supplies now inadequate. Food consumption has dropped over 15 percent in the last 2 years. Prevailing food shortages and rationing are the product of agricultural output at less than 1957-58 levels, reduced food imports, and gross mismanagement in food marketing and distribution.

MICHEEL, C. C., AND NAUHEIM, C. W. ECONOMICS OF SOIL CONSERVATION, NORTHEASTERN KANSAS. Kans. Agr. Expt. Sta., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 101, 69 pp., illus. Dec. 1961. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Analyzes costs and benefits of conservation practices and systems of farming of major soils in the Walnut Creek Watershed in Northeastern Kansas. The unproductive area now ranges from 2 to 7 percent of all cropland, depending upon soil situation and system of farming. Conservation practices considered in the report are terraces, waterways, rotations, grade stabilization structures, retired cropland, contour farming, and use of fertilizer and lime.

SIMMONS, WILL M. AN ECONOMIC STUDY OF THE U.S. POTATO INDUSTRY. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 6, 83 pp., illus. Mar. 1962.

Serious instability in price and income results from year-to-year variations in production, and from the inelastic demand for potatoes. Between 1920-24 and 1960-61, yield per acre almost tripled, while acreage declined almost 60 percent. Meanwhile, total production increased less than a fourth, from 223 million to 274 million cwt. Processing took a fourth of all 1960 crop potatoes used for food, compared with a negligible quantity in 1940.

U.S. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE. PROCEEDINGS OF NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROMOTION OF FARM PRODUCTS: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN, OCTOBER 26-27, 1961. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-58, 82 pp., illus. Apr. 1962.

Specific objectives of the workshop were: To focus on some of the basic issues surrounding the development, execution, and evaluation of promotional programs sponsored by agricultural commodity organization; and to summarize information from recent research which could be used as guidelines by commodity groups in improving promotional efforts.

YOUMANS, E. GRANT. LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN SELECTED RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF KENTUCKY. Ky. Agr. Expt. Sta. Prog. Rpt. 115, 42 pp. Mar. 1962. (Econ Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Leisure-time activities of 1,236 men and women aged 60 and over were examined. Interviews were held in 1959 with older persons, almost half of whom lived in the same household with one or more of their children. Listening to the radio or watching television programs held first place for a hobby or pastime, reading was second, visiting was third, and gardening and sewing tied for fourth place. Church activity was the most common (and usually only) community activity for the older people.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD, U.S. STATIS. RPTG. SERV. STOCKS OF GRAINS, OILSEEDS, AND HAY: FARM AND OFF-FARM STOCKS, BY STATES, 1954-60, REVISED ESTIMATES. U.S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 304, 76 pp. 1962.

CROP REPORTING BOARD, U.S. STATIS. RPTG. SERV. FIELD AND SEED CROPS: PRODUCTION, FARM USE, SALES, VALUE; UNITED STATES, 1949-59, BY STATES, 1954-59; REVISED ESTIMATES. U.S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 311, 104 pp. 1962.

CROP REPORTING BOARD, U.S. STATIS. RPTG. SERV. WOOL AND MOHAIR; PRODUCTION AND VALUE, UNITED STATES AND BY STATES, 1909-59. U.S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 309, 35 pp. 1962.

U.S. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE. DAIRY STATISTICS THROUGH 1960. U.S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 303, 410 pp. 1962.

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(Continued from inside front cover.)

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