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

BRENSIKE, V. JOHN, and ASKEW, WILLIAM R.
COSTS OF OPERATING SELECTED FEED MILLS—AS INFLUENCED BY VOLUME, SERVICES, AND OTHER FACTORS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 79, 45 pp., illus. February 1955. (Agr. Expt. Stas. of Iowa, Oreg., and Tenn. cooperating.)

Feed-mixing plants with an annual volume of 30,000 tons or more operated at average costs per ton 50 percent less than plants mixing about 2,000 tons of feed a year. It was calculated that total operating costs per ton in 1952 were about \$10.40 in plants mixing 30,000 tons a year, \$12.90 in plants mixing 10,000 tons, and \$20.70 in plants mixing 2,000 tons.

BRODELL, ALBERT P., STRICKLER, PAUL E., and PHILLIPS, HAROLD C. EXTENT AND COSTS OF SPRAYING AND DUSTING ON FARMS—1952. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bull. 156, 25 pp. April 1955.

Spraying of field crops for weeds began about 50 years ago, but methods of application have undergone continuous change since the first traction sprayers appeared. Newer and more effective pesticides continually come into use. With these new developments, acreages of farm crops and farmland treated for pests have expanded markedly, and purchases of power sprayers and power dusters in recent years have been more than six times the average annual purchases of the prewar period.

BROOKER, MARVIN A., and GILBRAITH, KENNETH M. FACTORS INFLUENCING THE METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION USED IN MARKETING FRESH FLORIDA CITRUS. Univ. of Fla. Bull. 549, 80 pp., illus. (Under contract with U. S. Dept. Agr.) September 1954.

Problems of transporting fresh citrus to market have been caused more by changes in geographic distribution of the fresh fruit and by methods of selling than by increased production. Interstate shipments to the Northeast have decreased and those to the North Central and Southern regions have increased; the auction method of selling has declined, and the f. o. b. method has become more important; use of rail and water facilities has declined, and use of motor trucks has increased.

BROWNER, V. L., and PAULI, HANS. SPACE ALLOCATION FOR GROCERY ITEMS IN FOOD STORES. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 80, 22 pp., illus. February 1955. (RMA)

Approximately 30 percent of the grocery items studied in 11 retail food stores had average sales of one unit a week or less. Averages for 9 of the stores showed no sales for 6.5 percent of all items studied during the 4-week period; 1 to 5 unit sales for 23.4 percent of the

¹ Processed reports are indicated as such. All others are printed. State publications may be obtained from the issuing agencies of the respective States.

items; 6 to 10 units for 13.8 percent; 11 to 20 units for 18.3 percent; 21 to 30 units for 18.3 percent; and more than 30 units for 27.2 percent of all items.

CARLSEN, EARL, W., and HERRICK, JOSEPH F., JR. INNOVATIONS IN APPLE HANDLING METHODS AND EQUIPMENT. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 68, 89 pp., illus. January 1955.

One objective of research being conducted in Washington State apple houses on materials handling was to develop and test methods for using present equipment and to introduce and test some of the newer types of equipment. This report gives results of tests, under actual operating conditions, of eight innovations in handling apples.

CHRYST, WALTER E., and TIMMONS, JOHN F. ADJUSTING FARM RENTS TO CHANGES IN PRICES, COSTS, AND PRODUCTION. Iowa Agr. Expt. Sta. Spec. Rept. 9, 44 pp., illus. April 1955. (Iowa State College Agricultural Foundation and ARS cooperating.)

From the analysis of rents on the farms studied, two main deductions may be made as to why rents fail to keep pace with prices, costs, and production: (1) Wide fluctuations in the net rent ratios appeared for all kinds of rent. (2) The kind of rent apparently affects the direction of the trend in net return ratios. More flexible leasing provisions are needed.

CULPEPPER, C. W., HALLER, M. H., DEMAREE, K. D., and KOCH, E. J. EFFECT OF PICKING MATURITY AND RIPENING TEMPERATURE ON THE QUALITY OF CANNED AND FROZEN EASTERN-GROWN PEACHES. U. S. Dept. Agr. Tech. Bull. 1114, 32 pp., illus. April 1955.

Rate of ripening was about equally fast at 65°, 75°, and 85° F. At 95° it was slightly slower and the fruit softened less in ripening. Peaches ripened in 4 to 6 days at 85° or 2 days at 95° made a product that was rated about equally with that made from tree-ripened fruit. Cold storage for 2 weeks did not adversely affect the quality of the peaches if ripening occurred after storage.

DREWNIAK, EDWIN E., BAUSH, EDWARD R., and DAVIS, LYLE L. CARBON DIOXIDE IMMOBILIZATION OF TURKEYS BEFORE SLAUGHTER. U. S. Dept. Agr. Cir. 958, 9 pp., illus. (RMA)

Putting turkeys to sleep with carbon dioxide gas could improve commercial slaughtering practices by reducing struggles of the bird and resultant bruises, broken bones, and similar injuries.

ELLIS, HAROLD, BARLOWE, RALEIGH, and HILL, E. B. HOW MICHIGAN INHERITANCE LAWS AFFECT FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION. Mich. Agr. Expt. Sta. Spec. Bull. 395, 35 pp. January 1955.

Reports what happened in the settlement of farm estates in a selected Michigan township over a 26-year period.

FRENCH, BURTON L. FARM RENTAL PRACTICES AND PROBLEMS, NORTH CENTRAL STATES—METHODOLOGICAL REPORT OF STUDY. U. S. Agr. Res. Serv. ARS 43-8, 53 pp., illus. March 1955. (Farm Foundation and State Agr. Expt. Stas. cooperating.)

In conducting the regional study on farm rental practices and problems, questions arose concerning various alternative procedures. Answers to many of the questions were not available in previous research. This situation led to the preparation of this report, which is intended to permit the sharing of experiences gained in the study and to present a systematic accounting of the procedures for technicians who use the results of the regional leasing study.

GERALD, JOHN O., and KAHLE, HUMBERT S. MARKETING GEORGIA BROILERS THROUGH COMMERCIAL PROCESSING PLANTS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 83, 53 pp., illus. March 1955. (RMA)

Broiler processing plants in north Georgia aided in the efficient marketing of the 100 million dollars worth of broilers produced in Georgia in 1953 and contributed about 30 million dollars to the nonfarm income of that State.

HEINZE, PETER H., KIRKPATRICK, MARY E., and DOCHTERMAN, ELSIE F. COOKING QUALITY AND COMPOSITIONAL FACTORS OF POTATOES OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES FROM SEVERAL COMMERCIAL LOCATIONS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Tech. Bull. 1106, 69 pp., illus. March 1955.

Results of tests indicated that the method of cooking made little difference in the mealiness, dryness, and flavor of potatoes, but that the color of boiled potatoes was poorer than that of mashed or baked potatoes. Dry matter, alcohol insoluble solids, starch, or specific gravity were found to be almost equally good measures for predicting the cooking quality, but specific gravity was the simplest and most practical measure.

HOOFNAGLE, WILLIAM S., DWOSKIN, PHILIP B., and BAYTON, JAMES A. THE MARKET FOR FOOD IN SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 84, 38 pp. March 1955. (RMA)

Penal, charitable, and mental institutions comprise an outlet that has received little attention in market analysis. According to the 1950 census, more than 1½ million persons were living in public or private institutions. Mental institutions and homes for the aged may be important outlets for surplus foods.

JENNINGS, R. D. RELATIVE USE OF FEEDS FOR LIVESTOCK, INCLUDING PASTURE, BY STATES. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bull. 153, 59 pp., illus. February 1955.

Corn, excluding silage but including corn in formula feeds, accounted for about 26 percent of all feed nutrients, including pasture, consumed by all livestock in 1949-50. All other grains and byproduct feeds added to about 18 percent. Hay was about half as important as corn, but pasture grazing amounted to about 37 percent. Thus roughage and forage were more important in the national feed supply than were grains and other concentrates.

JENSEN, HARALD R., HEADY, EARL O., and BAUMANN, ROSS V. COSTS, RETURNS AND CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SOIL-CONSERVING FARMING ON RENTED FARMS IN WESTERN IOWA. Iowa Agr. Expt. Sta. Res. Bull. 423, pp. 267-287. March 1955. (ARS, SCS, and ACPS cooperating.)

This study was designed to determine the conditions under which tenant and landlord net incomes can be increased by shifting from a soil-exploitive cash-grain farming system to soil-conserving farming systems that will involve different degrees of adjustment in terms of capital and cost outlays.

JOHNSON, DEHARD. FROZEN FOOD MOVEMENT INTO RETAIL OUTLETS. A TEST OF THE FEASIBILITY OF MEASURING FROZEN FOOD MOVEMENT AT THE WHOLESALE LEVEL. U. S. Agr. Mktg. Serv. AMS-19, 9 pp., illus. March 1955. (Processed.) (RMA)

Gives results of a pilot study conducted in Washington, D. C., and Philadelphia to provide the frozen food industry with information on how it might carry out a reporting program and what might be expected of such a program.

KRIESBERG, MARTIN. IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF RETAIL GROCERY CLERKS BY BETTER TRAINING. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 82, 38 pp., illus. March 1955. (RMA)

Emphasis on employee participation in work improvement programs was followed by increased sales of \$4.96 per clerk hour. In two other methods of introducing the same work practices, the gains in sales per clerk hour were \$3.47 and \$1.33.

LEE, W. A., and CARROLL, W. M. EFFECTS OF METHODS OF PACKAGING APPLES ON RETURNS TO PENNSYLVANIA GROWERS, 1953. Pa. Agr. Expt. Sta., State College, Pa. 62 pp., illus. (AMS and Pa. Agr. Ext. Serv. cooperating.) (Processed.)

Methods of packaging have changed considerably in the apple industry in recent decades. A few years ago it was common to characterize eastern apples as bushel packs, whereas western apples were largely packed in boxes. In recent years, the wrap-and-count box pack has become common with Pennsylvania growers. More recently, packers have been experimenting with newer containers, such as the fiberboard containers and consumer packages in film or mesh bags. The variety of containers available complicates the choice and emphasizes the need for cost and return information that will aid the packer in choosing a container.

MASTERS, B. M., WINTER, J. C., and ROSANOFF, B. P. POTENTIAL SAVINGS BY SHIPPING CAULIFLOWER IN DOUBLE-LAYER PACKS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 78, 16 pp., illus. March 1955. (RMA)

Through methods used in the study, freight charges on the experimental containers, projected to a carlot basis, would be reduced from 8.7 to 5.1 cents a head, refrigeration charges from 2.6 to 1.5 cents, and container costs from 3.9 to 2.4 cents. Although packing labor costs would be increased from 0.6 cent to 1.1 cents a head, the overall reduction would amount to 5.7 cents, 36 percent of the 15.8 cents currently paid by the industry.

NICHOLS, RALPH R. DIRECTORY OF PERSONNEL IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY: TEACHERS, RESEARCH WORKERS, EXTENSION WORKERS. U. S. Agr. Mktg. Serv. AMS-24, 31 pp. April 1955. (Processed.)

REUSS, L. A. FLORIDA'S LAND RESOURCES AND LAND USE. Fla. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bull. 555, 52 pp., illus. November 1954. (ARS cooperating.)

Contains many basic facts concerning the land resource base of Florida's agriculture, the present uses of the land, and the changes taking place in land use.

ROSS, JOHN E., JR. SOME ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS IN STORING SEED COTTON AT GINS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 87, 28 pp., illus. April 1955.

Costs for hauling and storing seed cotton at gins can be reduced, and more storage facilities made available, by using low-bed trailers towed by tractor or truck for hauling and temporary storage. This report analyzes the operating costs of selected gins in the San Joaquin Valley and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta area, with different types of storage facilities, and discusses the effects of seed cotton storage on the quality and value of ginned lint.

SLUSHER, M. W. ENTERPRISE COSTS AND RETURNS ON RICE FARMS. Ark. Agr. Expt. Stat. Bull. 549, 34 pp. February 1955. (ARS cooperating.)

This bulletin is intended to supply farmers with information concerning profitable uses for land taken out of rice, in order to offset the reduced income from the rice enterprise. Production items, costs, and returns from oats, soybeans, lespedeza, corn, cotton, beef cattle, and other livestock are compared with those from rice.

SMITH, HUGH M. MERCHANDISING STUDIES IN SUPERMARKETS—APPLES, LETTUCE, AND TOMATOES. (A preliminary report.) U. S. Agr. Mktg. Serv. AMS-18, 9 pp. March 1955. (Cornell Univ. Agr. Expt. Sta. and Pa. Agr. Expt. Sta. cooperating.) (Processed.)

Alternative methods of merchandising were evaluated by measuring consumer purchases using application of rotational type experimental designs to eliminate time and store differences.

STANTON, JANET R. FARM-OPERATOR FAMILY LEVEL-OF-LIVING INDEXES, BY STATES, 1950 TO 1954. U. S. Agr. Mktg. Serv. AMS-26, 10 pp., illus. May 1955.

The index of level of living of farm-operator families in 1954 was 34 percent above the index for 1945. With 1945 used as a base of 100, the average county had an index of 75 in 1930, 79 in 1940, 122 in 1950, and 134 in 1954. The increase between 1940 and 1954 was 70 percent. The rate of increase has slackened somewhat since 1950.

SWANTZ, ALEXANDER. PRICES AND OTHER PAYMENTS FOR MILK BY MANUFACTURERS IN KANSAS, MISSOURI, AND OKLAHOMA MARKETS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 81, 40 pp., illus. March 1955. (RMA)

This study covers the practices of 33 unregulated milk processing plants to determine how accurately the announced paying prices reflect prices actually paid and the composition, size, characteristics, and effects of supplemental payments made in the form of premiums for quality and volume, patronage refunds, bonuses, and hauling subsidies.

THAIR, PHILIP J. MEETING THE IMPACT OF CROP-YIELD RISKS IN GREAT PLAINS FARMING. N. Dak. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bull. 392, 34 pp., illus. June 1954. (ARS cooperating.)

The focus of the study was on the variability and uncertainty of farm income in North Dakota. The specific problem investigated had to do with the significant part of income variability that is caused by annual variations in crop yields and to the part of the impact of this variability that constitutes the danger of bankruptcy. The vulnerability of farmers in high-risk farming areas, the degree to which farmers are sensitive to the risk of bankruptcy, and the ways in which farmers try to protect themselves against this risk were investigated.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. COTTON TESTING SERVICE: TESTS AVAILABLE, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES, AND BASIS FOR INTERPRETING REPORTS. U. S. Agr. Mktg. Serv. AMS-16, 29 pp., illus. February 1955.

Describes various cotton fiber and manufacturing tests available on a fee basis under the Cotton Testing Service Act, the methods employed in making the tests, and the significance of the test results.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S HUMAN RESOURCES. A REPORT ON PROBLEMS OF LOW-INCOME FARMERS. 44 pp., illus. April 1955.

General recommendations as to the changes needed in connection with these low-income farmers include expanded technical assistance and extension work, both Federal and State, among them; more intermediate term credit; more Farmers Home Administration funds; State-Federal research program; improvement in State employment services; additional programs for rural industries;

more educational and vocational training opportunities for these families; improved health programs in rural areas; and establishment of trade area and community development programs in these areas.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESEARCH, EDUCATIONAL AND SERVICE WORK OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. U. S. Agr. Mktg. Serv. AMS-37, 26 pp. May 1955. (Processed.)

This report furnishes a brief but comprehensive statement on the research, educational, and service work currently underway in the Department on food distribution.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. SUMMARY OF FIBER AND SPINNING TEST RESULTS FOR SOME VARIETIES OF COTTON GROWN BY SELECTED COTTON IMPROVEMENT GROUPS, CROP OF 1954. U. S. Dept. Agr. Agr. Inform. Bull. 137, 43 pp., illus. February 1955.

The general trend indicates that cotton quality has improved during the last 9 years. American farmers are growing cotton that is longer, stronger, and finer fibered than that produced a few years ago. Changes in fiber quality, which have been reflected by an increase in average yarn strength, are due to the work of cotton breeders, to improved production practices, and to increased use of one-variety programs by communities and States.

VOEGELI, LAWRENCE J., WHITE, EDGAR F., MASTERS, BRYCE, and BREAKIRON, P. L. PACKING AND SHIPPING LETTUCE IN FIBERBOARD CARTONS AND WOODEN CRATES—A COMPARISON. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 86, 30 pp., illus. (RMA)

Substantial savings are being realized by shippers by dry-packing lettuce in fiberboard cartons in the field or packing sheds and vacuum-cooling it for shipment, as compared with ice-packing in WGA wooden crates in packing sheds. Net savings amounted to \$80 per car on lettuce vacuum-precooled and shipped from the Imperial Valley to New York City. When cartons drypacked in the field were cooled in the refrigerator car with car fans and bunker ice, comparable savings were \$150 per car.

WEBB, ROBERT W. IMPROVED EQUATIONS FOR PREDICTING SKEIN STRENGTH OF CARDED YARN WITH

SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CURRENT COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF AMERICAN COTTON. U. S. Dept. Agr. AMS-13, 18 pp. April 1955. (Processed.)

Presents two new count-strength-product equations for predicting skein strength of carded warp singles yarn of any size over a wide range. The new equations are better adapted for predicting strength of yarn processed from the general run of American upland cottons than are similar count-strength-product equations published previously by the Cotton Division.

Statistical Compilations

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. BROOMCORN: ACREAGE, YIELD, PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE OF PRODUCTION, BY STATES, 1915-52. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bull. 155, 14 pp. February 1955.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET—USUAL PLANTING DATES; USUAL HARVESTING DATES; PRINCIPAL PRODUCING AREAS, BY SEASONAL GROUPS AND STATES. U. S. Dept. Agr. Handb. 80, 120 pp., illus. December 1954.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. GRAIN AND FEED STATISTICS THROUGH 1954. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bull. 159, 99 pp. March 1955.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. SPACE, SERVICE REQUIREMENTS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR A SMALL SEED-TESTING LABORATORY. U. S. Dept. Agr. AMS-21. 8 pp. March 1955. (Processed.)

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. WHEAT: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, BY STATES, 1866-1943. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bull. 158, 69 pp. February 1955.

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