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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

AGNEW, D. B. HOW BULK ASSEMBLY CHANGES MILK MARKETING COSTS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 190, 91 pp., illus. July 1957.

Report considers advantages and disadvantages of bulk assembly of milk; changes in customary tasks, changes in ownership and control of milk collection routes, and the accompanying changes in costs. Stresses the impact of bulk milk assembly on the structure of milk marketing and milk supply.

ANDERSON, D. L., and SHAFFER, P. F. IMPROVED METHODS OF TRIMMING PRODUCE IN RETAIL FOOD STORES. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Rept. 192, 46 pp., illus. August 1957.

Improved produce trimming methods, equipment, and work places developed and installed in 2 supermarkets with weekly produce sales of \$3,500 and \$5,000 saved, respectively, 8½ and 16½ man-hours a week. Report studies and evaluates improved hand methods of trimming produce, using minimum time and maintaining quality of the product.

ASKEW, W. R., VOSLOH, C. J., JR., and BRENSIKE, V. J. CASE STUDY OF LABOR COSTS AND EFFICIENCIES IN WAREHOUSING FORMULA FEEDS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 205, 27 pp., illus. November 1957.

Idle or delay time consumed about 29 percent of the average worker's time in a case study of 6 feed mills having a daily volume of 100 tons per day. Report analyzes the relative efficiencies in the use of warehouse labor and how this efficiency varies among mills using three basic warehouse materials handling methods.

BOWMAN, E. K., and JOHNSTON, E. F. METHODS OF RECEIVING POTATOES IN BARRELS AT MAINE TRACKSIDE STORAGES. A cooperative publication of the Maine Agr. Expt. Sta., Univ. of Maine, Orono, and the U. S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Mktg. Serv. Maine Bul. 560, 50 pp., illus. June 1957.

At Maine trackside storages, potatoes are typically received from the field in barrels and moved into storage by 3 or 4 men. Labor comprises 75 to 85 percent of the total cost of receiving. Maintaining proper crew size, therefore, is of primary importance. Greatest single factor in determining optimum crew size is the receiving rate. Three men can be expected to receive 1,040 barrels when hoisting barrels to attic levels but 1,800 barrels when filling cellar bins. At these rates it is more efficient and economical to employ 3 men when filling cellar bins and 4 when filling ground floor bins than to employ either 3 or 4 throughout the entire operation.

BRODELL, A. P., and PHILLIPS, H. C. SILAGE FROM 1955 CROPS. HARVESTING . . . STORING . . . PRESERVING. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 217, 22 pp. September 1957.

In 1955, about 73 million tons of silage was produced on more than 600,000 farms. On 60 percent of these

farms, corn silage only was produced. Other farms produced corn, grass, and sorghum silage. Field forage harvesters and stationary silo fillers were commonly found on farms, but numbers of row-crop binders had declined. Of the total tonnage of grass silage produced about a third was treated with preservatives. Preservatives used were sodium metabisulfite, other chemicals, molasses, and feed grains.

CASE, B. A. FARM-MORTGAGE LOANS HELD BY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES. U. S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. ARS 43-58, 39 pp., illus. October 1957.

This publication contains basic information from 17 life-insurance companies as to farm-mortgage loans outstanding on June 30, 1956, the average amount of which was \$10,800. On January 1, 1956, these companies held 87 percent of the amount of farm-mortgage loans held by such companies. It was found that life insurance companies make larger farm real estate loans than other lenders. The proportion of loans made for \$25,000 or more was 15 percent in 1955-56.

FOELSCH, G. G., and COOK, H. L. AN ANALYSIS OF FEDERAL COURT DECISIONS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF FLUID MILK. Wis. Agr. Expt. Sta. and U. S. Dept. Agr. Res. Bul. 200, 100 pp. illus. January 1957.

Report shows how Supreme Court decisions led to changes in the basic enabling legislation and sometimes to amendments in the provisions of milk orders. It indicates how essential approval and legal directions of the Court was, and is, to the attainment of orderly marketing under the milk order program.

GARLOCK, F. L. JONES, L. A., SCOFIELD, W. H., and others, under the direction of Norman J. Wall. THE BALANCE SHEET OF AGRICULTURE, 1957. U. S. Dept. Agr. Inform. Bul. 177, 30 pp., illus. October 1957.

On January 1, 1957, the value of farm assets reached a new peak of nearly \$177 billion, about 5 percent more than a year earlier. The equity of farm operators and other owners of farm properties amounted to more than \$157 billion at the beginning of 1957. Increases in the value of farm real estate account mainly for the increase in the value of farmers' assets.

GRAY, JAMES R., and PLATH, C. V. ECONOMICS OF ADJUSTING TO DROUGHT ON EASTERN OREGON CATTLE RANCHES. Oreg. Agr. Expt. Sta. Misc. Paper 48, 44 pp. September 1957.

The most effective of 5 drought actions taken on cattle ranches in eastern Oregon during 1955 was to increase the size of leases of both rangeland and meadowland. Adoption of new techniques could do much to accomplish the same results as increasing lease sizes, which could not be done by all ranchers. Chief among these techniques is fertilization of native meadows. Other measures carried out by ranchers included reducing the size of the breeding herd or buying more feed, the latter of which was more effective. Buying hay paid off better than buying concentrates.

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

GRUBBS, V. D., CLEMENT, W. E., and HUNTER, J. S. RESULTS OF A PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR LAMB IN SACRAMENTO, CALIF. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 200, 92 pp., illus. October 1957.

Report evaluates the consumption of lamb in relation to promotional efforts on the part of the American Sheep Producers' Council, Inc., in Sacramento. It studies consumer reaction to lamb, consumers' likes and dislikes, and the effect of the promotional campaign on lamb consumption.

HOCHSTIM, E. S. HOMEMAKERS APPRAISE CITRUS PRODUCTS, AVOCADOS, DATES, AND RAISINS. U. S. Dept. Agr. AMS-207, 18 pp., September 1957.

This preliminary report of an extensive study is based on more than 2,500 personal interviews with homemakers throughout the United States. Citrus fruits and other products were discussed with homemakers, their opinions presented, their attitudes tabulated.

HOLMAN, L. E. AERATION OF GRAIN IN COMMERCIAL STORAGE. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 178, 43 pp., illus. (Agr. Expt. Stas. of Ga., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Mich., and Tex. cooperating.) Sept. 1957.

Sixty percent of the normal costs of turning stored grain can be saved by using aeration systems developed through marketing research. This report analyzes and describes the aeration of grains, giving specific examples of savings, costs, and systems already in use. The new aeration system is bringing about significant changes in commercial grain storages.

JEFFREY, A. D. THE PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION BALANCE OF MILK IN THE NORTHEAST REGION. Dept. of Agr. Econ., Cornell Univ., Agr. Expt. Sta. Northeast Reg. Pub. 29, 97 pp., illus. June 1957.

Report gives an overall picture of the production and use of milk in the Northeastern States for the years 1947-54. Shows the quantities of milk produced on farms and its disposal by farmers in each State of the region, plant receipts and uses of milk, and prices paid by dealers.

MCGRATH, E. J. RESTAURANT ACCEPTANCE OF DEHYDROFROZEN PEAS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 198, 27 pp. October 1957.

This study indicates that dehydrofrozen peas possess excellent commercial marketing possibilities in restaurants. One hundred restaurants were supplied with the peas and, later, restaurant operators were questioned about their opinions of the peas. The operators spoke favorably of the freshness, flavor, and appearance of the dehydrofrozen peas.

MAGEE, A. C., MARION, P. T., FISHER, C. E., and HUGHES, W. F. ECONOMICS OF CATTLE FEEDING SYSTEMS FOR WEST TEXAS. Tex. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 880, 14 pp., illus. September 1957.

This report is intended to assist West Texas farmers to appraise the opportunities for marketing sorghum grain through cattle at a profit. It was found that they would need to add facilities costing about \$4,800 in order

to feed 100 cattle. This would include the cost of a silage cutter. To feed 500 head would cost about \$18,000. At prices that prevailed during the fall of 1956 and the spring of 1957, cattle feeding was profitable as a way to market grain sorghum. Rations high in grain and low in roughage were most profitable with cheap grain but with high grain prices, high-forage rations are best.

MANNY, E. S., AND ROGERS, C. E. HOSPITALS FOR RURAL PEOPLE. U. S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bul. 2110, 23 pp., illus. June 1957.

This bulletin reports on nationwide progress in health facilities available to rural people—types of hospitals available, how various communities build hospitals, how they finance these, other community health resources available to rural people.

MARCH, R. W., ANDERSON, E. D., AND KLEIN, J. E. ANALYSIS OF SHORT-TIME CHANGES IN THE PRICE OF BUTTER AT CHICAGO. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 194, 67 pp., illus. August 1957.

Since World War II the price of butter has tended to fluctuate erratically when it was not being actively supported by Government purchases. It was found that relatively little of the day-to-day changes in price could be associated with published indicators of short-time changes in supply and demand. This study evaluates the fluctuations, relationship between price and demand, and analyzes factors affecting price.

METZLER, WILLIAM H., AND PORTER, WARD F. EMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT OF RURAL PEOPLE IN THE UPPER MONONOGAHELA VALLEY, WEST VIRGINIA. W. Va. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 404, 69 pp., illus. June 1957.

A continued slump in coal-mining employment has brought attention to the problem of inadequate work opportunities in coal-mining areas of the State, which have limited agricultural resources. Occupational adjustments must be largely along nonfarm lines.

MULLINS, TROY. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF SHORT-, MEDIUM-, AND LONG-GRAIN RICE IN NORTHEASTERN ARKANSAS. Ark. Agr. Expt. Sta. Spec. Rept. 3, 16 pp. illus. October 1957.

In this area, the risk factor is greatest with long-grain rice, but a balance in production of the three grain types is desirable, particularly in periods of excess supplies. In recent years, combine harvesting and artificial drying have encouraged production of the long-grain varieties, which are better adapted to these processes. But in variety tests, the leading short- and medium-grain varieties have produced about 10 percent higher yields than the long-grain strains of Bluebonnet and about the same as Century Patna, the early-maturing long-grain variety. Differences in costs of production for the various types of grain are comparatively negligible.

PODANY, J. C. MARKETING CHARGES FOR CALIFORNIA LONG WHITE POTATOES, SOLD IN LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO, AND NEW YORK CITY DURING THE 1956 SEASON. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 193, 10 pp., illus. November 1957.

Report presents the costs and margins for California Long White Potatoes marketed in 3 cities during the 1956 season. It covers packing and transportation costs, wholesale and retail margin, and return to growers.

RINEAR, E. H. MARKETING MARGINS AND PRACTICES FOR TURKEYS SOLD IN THREE EASTERN MARKETS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 191, 36 pp., illus. August 1957.

Studies farm-to-retail marketing margins on ready-to-cook turkeys. Includes costs of processing turkeys, gross margins of wholesalers and jobbers. It is designed to meet, in part, a need for information on farm-to-retail price spreads on food.

ROBERTS, J. B., WILLIAMS, S. W., AND WHITTED, S. F. MERCHANDISING MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS IN RETAIL GROCERY STORES. Univ. of Kentucky, Cir. 551, North Central Reg. Pub. 78, 52 pp., illus.

Reports the various methods of handling and merchandising milk in 235 stores—tells about effectiveness of various displays, handling margins and store sales, income and store margins.

ST. CLAIR, J. S., AND ROBERTS, A. L. QUALITY AND COST OF GINNING AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN COTTON, SEASONS 1952-53 AND 1953-54. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Rept. 199, 29 pp., illus. October 1957.

This studies and compares the quality and costs of ginning services at 13 of the 21 roller gins located in central Arizona, the Trans-Pecos area of Texas, and the Mesilla Valley of New Mexico. It shows differences between the quality and cost of services performed by gins with simple, moderate, or elaborate equipment.

STEIN, FRED, MATHIS, A. G., AND HERRMANN, L. F. COSTS OF BUTTERFAT SAMPLING AND TESTING PROGRAMS. U. S. Dept. Agr. AMS-212, 19 pp., illus. October 1957.

This study estimates the relative costs of limited testing programs for finding the average monthly butterfat content of producer milk shipments. Analyzes costs of sampling and testing for butterfat, and indicates the best testing program.

TAYLOR, C. C., AND AULL, G. H. A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO IMPROVING FARM REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA. S. C. (Clemson) Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 450, 46 pp., illus. June 1957. (Southeast Land Tenure Com. Pub. 27).

The focal weakness of present assessment procedure, as shown by this study and previous ones, lies in the fact that assessments of farm real estate are not based on a systematic evaluation of the major characteristics that contribute to the value of the property. Methods that provide for a reasonably accurate evaluation of quality of land, number and quality of buildings and other improvements, and site value attributable to location of the property, can significantly improve assessment. This bulletin includes no specific formula for general use.

U. S. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE. FARM COSTS AND RETURNS, 1956 (*with comparisons*) COMMERCIAL FAMILY-OPERATED FARMS BY TYPE AND LOCATION. U. S. Dept. Agr. Agr. Inform. Bul. 176, 66 pp., illus. June 1957.

Summary results of farm operations in 1956 on 29 types of commercial farms in major farming areas in the United States are presented in this bulletin.

U. S. Department of Agriculture. MAJOR STATISTICAL SERIES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. HOW THEY ARE CONSTRUCTED AND USED. Agr. Handb. 118, vols. 1-9.

STAUBER, B. R. and MOATS, R. H. AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND PARITY. Agr. Handb. 118, vol. 1, 87 pp. Aug. 1957.

ANDERSON, J. R., WOOTEN, H. H., COOPER, M. R. and BURKHEAD, C. E. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EFFICIENCY. Agr. Handb. 118, vol. 2, 74 pp. Sept. 1957.

OGREN, K. E., and PARR, KATHRYN. AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COST AND CHARGES. Agr. Handb. 118, vol. 4, 35 pp. 1957.

SCOFIELD, W. H., and HOLM, P. L. LAND VALUES AND FARM FINANCE. Agr. Handb. 118, vol. 6, 56 pp. Oct. 1957.

HAGOOD, M. J. and BOWLES, G. K. FARM POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND LEVELS OF LIVING. Agr. Handb. 118, vol. 7, 25 pp. Sept. 1957.

GESSNER, A. L. FARMER COOPERATIVES. Agr. Handb. 118, vol. 9, 7 pp. Sept. 1957.

This series of reports is designed as a reference on statistics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It describes the major statistical series, discusses their uses, and compares them with related series published by the USDA or other agencies of the U. S. Government. (Volumes 3, 5, and 8 are in press.)

Statistical Compilations

U. S. AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CHARTS, 1958. U. S. Dept. Agr. 100 pp., illus. November 1957.

U. S. AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. DAIRY STATISTICS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 218, 377 pp. October 1957. Supersedes Statis. Bul. 134, Dairy Statistics and Related Series.

U. S. AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. NUMBER OF FARMS BY STATES, 1910-56, REVISED ESTIMATES. U. S. Dept. Agr. SPSY 3 (57), 11 pp., November 1957.

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
RESEARCH**

Is published quarterly by the Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The printing of this publication has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget, Feb. 8, 1956.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 20 cents a single copy, 75 cents a year, domestic, \$1 foreign.