Selected Recent Research Publications in Agricultural Economics Issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and Cooperatively by the Universities and State Colleges [1]

ANDERSON, K. E. URBAN SCHOOL SYSTEMS WITHOUT LUNCH SERVICE AS A POTENTIAL MARKET FOR FOODS. U.S. Dept. Agr. AMS–443, 8 pp., illus. April 1961.

New lunchrooms in urban school systems now without lunch services are expected to expand food purchases by approximately $2.5 million annually by 1963. Greater availability of school lunch services and the rising school population could result in a market for food in schools approximating $1 billion by 1970 compared with $600 million in 1957–58.

BAILEY, W. R., AND AINES, R. O. HOW WHEAT FARMERS WOULD ADJUST TO DIFFERENT PROGRAMS. U.S. Dept. Agr. Prod. Res. Rpt. 52, 35 pp., illus. 1961.

Six different wheat programs were studied on representative farms in eight specialized wheat-producing areas in the Great Plains and the Pacific Northwest. Program features used include modifications of the present acreage-allotment and price-support program; marketing allotments and stratified wheat prices; and no controls or price support. When acreage allotments are in effect, operators of specialized wheat farms grow the allotted acreages even though wheat prices are supported at prices as low as 65 percent of parity. The best income-producing crop other than wheat are feed grains. Although the income is smaller than that from wheat on most farms, the income from feed grains is important to the specialized wheat farmer when wheat acreage is restricted.

BIRD, KERMIT. AN ANALYSIS OF EGG HANDLING COSTS AND EFFICIENCY. Okla. State Univ. Bul. B–568, 50 pp., illus. November 1960. (Agr. Mktg. Serv. cooperating.)

Presents results of a study of costs and efficiency in plants candling and packing shell eggs. The study is based on observations in existing plants and is directed toward improvements in such plants; it does not attempt to establish maximum efficiency, which would be obtained with newly constructed plants using only the latest equipment.

BIRD, R., AND MILLER, F. PROFITABLE ADJUSTMENTS ON FARMS IN EASTERN OZARKS OF MISSOURI. Mo. Agr. Expt. Sta. Res. Bul. 745, 67 pp., illus. 1960. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

In 1955, average net income of all farm households in the Eastern Ozark area was $2,042, of which only $658 came from the farm. Reasons for these low incomes were: (1) Number and type of workers on farms in the area; (2) small size of many farm businesses; and (3) choice of enterprises and levels of efficiency of management. By greater specialization in the most profitable enterprises, farmers could increase net income.

CHUMNEY, W. T., AND VERMEER, J. THE USE AND COST OF TRACTOR POWER AND EQUIPMENT, BY SIZE OF FARM, IN THE CENTRAL COTTON-TOBACCO AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA, 1956. N.C. Agr. Expt. Sta. A.E. Inform. Ser. 82, 47 pp., illus. 1961 (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

A summary of the cost of owning and operating tractors and tractor equipment on 267 farms selected at random in the central cotton-tobacco area in North Carolina in 1956. Costs of owning and operating tractors and related machinery per unit of use generally were more than twice as high on small farms as on large farms. All farms in the survey, however, were too small to obtain the most efficient use of tractors and related equipment.

CLARK, D. A., JR., AND HERRMANN, L. F. CLASS III MILK IN THE NEW YORK MILKSHED. VI—ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF CLASS III PRICING. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 466, 52 pp., illus. March 1961.

This is the last report in a group dealing with class III milk pricing in the New York-New Jersey milkshed. It discusses principles of effiicient pricing in fluid milk markets under perfect competition, and how these principles might be modified to fit conditions of seasonally fluctuating milk supplies and a system of pricing according to use. It also has a summary of principles advocated by witnesses at hearings on proposals for changes in the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Order.

DELOACH, D. B. CHANGES IN FOOD RETAILING—CAUSES, EFFECTS. Wash. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 619, 43 pp. Oct. 1960. (Agr. Mktg. Serv. and Western Regional Tech. Com. cooperating.)

Gradual attrition of unaffiliated, single-unit grocery store firms has been underway since 1939. In 1958, supermarkets and superettes accounted for 92 percent of all grocery store sales. An efficient marketing system should afford farmers some real advantages, if they are able and willing to avail themselves of the opportunities. Small farmers could correct some of the disadvantage of dealing with large buyers by cooperative marketing.

ESMAY, J. L. EFFICIENT RESOURCE COMBINATIONS ON DRYLAND FARMS IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO. Idaho Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 355, 22 pp., illus. 1961. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Three representative farm budgets based on present practices, yields, and sizes and performance rates of tractors and equipment illustrate the importance of combining machinery, land, and labor to yield the lowest average total costs. Adjustments to reduce costs on farms with acreages below or between the representative farm sizes are: (1) Keep farm at present size and make no changes in amounts of equipment and labor used in operation; (2) make more efficient use of labor and machinery resources by doing custom work for other farmers; (3) increase crop acreage by purchase or rental; (4) decrease cropland by selling or renting out part of the farm and reducing equipment inventory to fit the needs of the reduced farm size. Hire some farmwork done on a custom basis if customwork is available.

FELLOWS, I. F., ED. BUDGETING. TOOL OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS. Storrs (Conn.) Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 357, 45 pp., illus. 1960. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

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

The papers presented in this report cover five broad areas of budgeting: Basic theory and assumptions; sources of input-output data; sources of price data; typical problems in budgeting; and research and extension use.

GALE, H. F. SEASONAL VARIATION IN FARM FOOD PRICES AND PRICE SPREADS. U.S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Pub. 840, 47 pp., illus. Jan. 1961.

Of the major groups of foods studied during a 12-year period, fruits and vegetables showed the widest seasonal swings, dairy products the smallest; meats and poultry products were intermediate between the other groups. For most commodities seasonal and irregular factors were found to be the most important of the four major causes of price changes. Swings in farm value were larger, on a percentage basis, than changes in retail prices and marketing charges. In dollars per unit of food, changes in retail prices usually were the larger.

GAVETT, E. E. TRUCK CROP PRODUCTION PRACTICES, COLUMBIA COUNTY, WISCONSIN, LABOR, POWER, AND MATERIALS BY OPERATION. U.S. Agr. Res. Serv. ARS 43–132, 16 pp., illus. 1961.

Columbia County is one of the more important vegetable-producing counties in the State. In general, the farms in the area specialize in production of one truck crop. Green peas and sweet corn were the major truck crops grown. Tractors were the main source of power. For sweet corn and green peas for processing, most of the acreage was harvested by processors and local custom operators.

HANES, J. K. MARKETING MARGINS FOR FALL POTATOES. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 450, 24 pp., illus.

The marketing margin was higher for Idaho Burbank Russet potatoes than for other varieties of fall potatoes sold in 4 cities during a test period. Differences in wage rates, operating efficiency, cost of goods and services, and profits cause differences in the margin. Prices of four other varieties were also studied: At Atlanta, Round White potatoes from the Northeast; Chicago, Pontiac potatoes from North Dakota-Minnesota; Los Angeles, California Long Whites; New York, potatoes of the Katahdin-Chippewa type from Long Island and Maine.

HENDERSON, P. L., AND BROWN, S. E. EFFECTIVENESS OF A SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR FROZEN CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 457, 15 pp., illus. March 1961.

A $4-million nationwide promotional campaign for frozen orange concentrate increased sales sufficiently to bring the industry an estimated additional $18 million in gross income which it probably would not have received otherwise. From September 1959 through March 1960, dollar sales were 13 percent above the level that normally would be expected at the prevailing prices. Study shows that the sales increases were obtained from two sources: Both the percentage of families buying the product and the average size of family purchase increased, compared with periods of no promotion.

HERRMANN, L. F., AGNEW, D. B., AND CLARKE, D. A., JR. CLASS III MILK IN THE NEW YORK MILKSHED. V—PROCESSORS' DECISIONS ON UTILIZATION. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 462, 28 pp. March 1961.

This report is one of a group dealing with class III milk pricing in the New York-New Jersey milkshed. It deals with the extent to which changes in output of the major products of class III milk were associated with change in margins for these products in the 5 or 10 years ending with 1957. It also gives results of interviews with officials of many of the firms that handled class III milk. These officials were asked what considerations affected their decisions on how they use class III milk.

JONES, T. L., AND MILLER, F. NATURE AND EXTENT OF IRRIGATION IN MISSOURI. Mo. Agr. Expt. Sta. Res. Bul. 735, 44 pp., illus. 1960. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Most of the expansion in irrigation of field crops in Missouri has come since 1950. Field crops irrigated were corn, cotton, pasture and hay, grain sorghum, and small grain. Vegetables, orchards, nursery stock, flowers, strawberries, and tobacco were the specialty crops irrigated. From 1954 to 1958, corn was the major crop irrigated in terms of total number of acres irrigated; pasture and hay second; cotton third; and vegetable crops fourth. Vegetables were the only crops for which the total number of acres irrigated increased each year during the 5-year period.

KOTTKE, M., MCALEXANDER, R., RORHOLM, N., AND STANTON, B. F. EVALUATING THE PROFITABILITY OF IRRIGATION ON NORTHEASTERN DAIRY FARMS. N.H. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 469, 26 pp. 1960. (Northeast Regional Publication.) (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Before buying an irrigation system, a dairyman must consider: (1) Capital investment and costs of operating typical irrigation systems; (2) kinds of increases in yields that may result over a period of years from irrigation; (3) how irrigation compares with other methods of providing more forage for more milking cows. Feeding green chop; buying replacement heifers instead of raising them; applying a higher level of fertilizer; replacing corn grain with corn silage; buying additional hay, renting additional hay and pastureland; and feeding additional grain to replace forage can help the farmer increase the size of his operation, as can irrigation. In evaluating several production alternatives, the farmer will base his final decision on the profitability prospects, on his capital and labor situation, and on the amount of risk he is willing to take.

KRENZ, R. D., HEADY, E. O., AND BAUMANN, R. V. PROFIT-MAXIMIZING PLANS AND STATIC SUPPLY SCHEDULES FOR FLUID MILK IN THE DES MOINES MILKSHED. Iowa Agr. and Home Econ. Expt. Sta. Res. Bul. 486, pp. [931]–951, illus. 1960. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Dairy farms in the area were classified into 24 categories on the basis of acreage, soil type, tenure, and dairy-building resources. Optimum plans were developed for

an average farm in each category at two levels of production per cow. Plans were developed for short-run and two long-run planning periods. In the first, buildings and supply of operating capital are considered fixed at about current levels; in the latter, buildings are considered variable, and operating capital is limited only by the requirement that it earn at least a 5-percent return on investments. In the short-run plans, dairy expansion is limited by building space. In the long-run plans, fall labor and forage become limiting factors.

LIFQUIST, ROSALIND C. EXPENDITURES FOR PROCESSED FOODS BY EMPLOYEE FOOD SERVICES IN MANUFACTURING PLANTS. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 458, 54 pp., illus. March 1961.

This is the third report dealing with employee food services in manufacturing plants with 250 or more persons on their payrolls. This report presents the major findings on the form in which foods were purchased. It gives special attention to expenditures for services provided by marketing agencies that reduce the amount of kitchen preparation of food required by these institutional consumers.

MACPHERSON, D. D., AND MALDONADO, JESÚS L. COSTS, NET MARGINS, AND SELLING PRICES OF BEVERAGES SOLD IN AN EMPLOYEE FOOD SERVICE. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 464, 27 pp., illus. April 1961.

Describes the relation of costs and margins to prices for beverages in a cafeteria operated for employees in an office building in Washington, D.C. During a 2-week period, 56 percent of the 106,000 beverage sales were coffee, 17 percent tea, 14 percent milk, and 13 percent other beverages. Major components of beverage cost were 40 percent for raw materials, 37 percent for labor, 18 percent for containers, and 5 percent other.

MARTIN, J. R., AND SOUTHERN, J. H. PART-TIME FARMING IN NORTHEAST TEXAS. Tex. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 970, 23 pp., illus. 1961. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

A major farm adjustment in the area has been an increase in part-time farming, or greater dependence on nonfarm sources of income by farm families. Part-time operators controlled 40 percent of the farm and land resources, marketed 28 percent of all farm products sold, but received only 16 percent of the net money return from farming in the area. Major economic employment activity reported by part-time farm operators was wage or salary work. Returns to family labor in off-farm work were much higher than returns to family labor from farming.

PINE, W. H. LAND OWNERSHIP IN KANSAS, 1958. Kans. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 430, 24 pp., illus. 1961. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Kansas consists of 52½ million acres, of which all except 1 million acres is in farms and ranches. About half the owners are active farmers. Many other owners are retired farmers or have had some farm experience. A third of the owners farm none of their lands. A third of all owners have two or more farms. Concentration of ownership has increased slightly since 1945. Except for North Dakota, the concentration in Kansas is less than in other Great Plains States.

STEWART, C. E. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT IN ESTABLISHED DRYLAND FARMING AREAS: LOWER MARIAS, MONTANA. Mont. Agr. Expt. Sta. Res. Rpt. 14, 70 pp., illus. 1961. (Mimeographed.) (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Accelerated development of irrigated farms is desirable over the customary slow development. Increased incomes, more adequate public services, and a resource base for credit programs are among the advantages. Accelerated development is further supported by the apparent efficiencies of (1) greater use of technical knowledge and large-scale equipment, (2) release of the managerial resources of farmers for farm production, and (3) early use and productivity of irrigation water supplies. However, most settlers do not have sufficient resources or access to enough credit to develop land and acquire buildings for a fully irrigated farm within 1 or 2 years. This is a main point of emphasis in the study.

STIPPLER, H. H., AND CASTLE, E. N. WHEAT FARMING IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN OF OREGON. PART 1. MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURE. Oreg. Agr. Expt. Sta. Sta. Bul. 577, 23 pp., illus. 1961. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Cash grain farming with or without range livestock remains the major type of agriculture in the wheat area. Barley production has become important only since initiation of the acreage allotment program, as an alternative crop on land diverted from wheat. New technology in farming, mainly improved practices, weed control, fertilization, and better varieties have contributed to rapidly rising yields. In the face of rising costs without substantial price increases for wheat and barley, the acreage-allotment program has permitted some wheat farmers, who were able to enlarge the size of their operations, to maintain satisfactory incomes.

STIPPLER, H. H., AND CASTLE, E. N. WHEAT FARMING IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN OF OREGON. PART 2. COSTS AND RETURNS ON SPECIALIZED WHEAT SUMMER-FALLOW FARMS. Oreg. Agr. Expt. Sta. Sta. Bul. 578, 22 pp., illus. 1961. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Presents income and expense data on specialized wheat summer-fallow farms with respect to (1) tillage practices; (2) farm sizes; (3) productivity levels; and (4) product prices. Budgets for moldboard plow and stubble mulch fallow operations are included. Gross farm income increases for the moldboard-fallow operation at a constant rate as acreage of cropland increases. Budgets for the stubble mulch fallow farms show income and cost relationships similar to those for the moldboard fallow farms.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE. FOOD COSTS. RETAIL PRICES; FARM PRICES; MARKETING SPREADS. U.S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Pub. 856, 16 pp., illus. April 1961.

Retail prices of food have risen less than most other items in the consumer's budget. In 1960, retail food prices were about a sixth higher than their 1947–49 average, but

the Consumer Price Index rose more than a fourth. The total bill for marketing food has more than quadrupled in the last 20 years.

VOSLOH, C. J., JR. LABOR AND CAPITAL FOR PELLETING FORMULA FEEDS. U.S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rpt. 463, 22 pp., illus.

Describes pelleting costs and income in mixed-feed mills with an annual capacity of about 12,000 tons and discusses initial investment, equipment required, depreciation, interest, and labor costs for two model pelleting systems.

Statistical Compilations

BUTLER, C. P., AND BURCH, T. A. PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS AND ESTIMATED RETURNS FROM SELECTED CROP AND LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES IN THE PIEDMONT AREA OF SOUTH CAROLINA. S.C. Agr. Expt. Sta. AE 202, 133 pp. 1960. (Mimeographed.) (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

CONNOR, L. J., LAGRONE, W. F., AND PLAXICO, J. S. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS, COSTS, AND EXPECTED RETURNS; ALTERNATIVE CROP AND LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES; LOAM SOILS OF THE ROLLING PLAINS OF SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA. Okla. Agr. Expt. Sta. Processed Ser. P–368, 59 pp., illus., 1961. (Mimeographed.) (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

ELLIS, T. H., AND PARTENHEIMER, E. J. COSTS AND RETURNS FROM LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN THE LIMESTONE VALLEY AREAS OF ALABAMA. Ala. Agr. Expt. Sta. Mimeo. Rpt., [83 pp.], illus. 1960. (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

LAGRONE, W. F., STRICKLAND, P. L., JR., AND PLAXICO, J. S. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS, COSTS, AND EXPECTED RETURNS; ALTERNATIVE CROP AND LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES: SANDY SOILS OF THE ROLLING PLAINS OF SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA. Okla. Agr. Expt. Sta. Process Ser. P–369, 55 pp., illus. 1961. (Mimeographed.) (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

PARSONS, M . S. FARM MACHINERY: A SURVEY OF OWNERSHIP AND CUSTOM WORK. U.S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 279, 26 pp. 1961.

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION. PRODUCTION COSTS AND EXPECTED RETURNS; ALTERNATIVE CROP AND LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES; CLAY SOILS IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE ROLLING PLAINS OF TEXAS. Tex. Agr. Expt. Sta. MP–445, 54 pp., illus. 1960. (Mimeographed.) (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

THORFINNSON, T. S., AND EPP, A. W. COST AND PERFORMANCE OF SELECTED HARVESTING MACHINES IN NEBRASKA. Nebr. Agr. Expt. Sta. Dept. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 19, 24 pp., illus. [1961.] (Mimeographed.) (Agr. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Contributors

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