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Selected Recent Research Publications in Agricultural Economics Issued by the U.S.
Department of Agriculture and Cooperatively by the State Universities and Colleges¹

BANKS, VERA J., CALVIN L. BEALE, and GLADYS K. BOWLES. FARM POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR 1910-62. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-130, 49 pp., illus. October 1963.

The farm population of the United States reached an estimated peak of 32.5 million in 1916, making up about a third of the total population. In 1962, farm people numbered 14.3 million, about one-thirteenth of the total. This bulletin shows all available annual estimates on the size, geographic distribution, net migration, and natural increase of the farm population.

BIRD, ALAN R. LEAST COST ORGANIZATION OF MASSACHUSETTS DAIRY FARMS FOR FOUR LEVELS OF GROSS INCOME. Mass. Agr. Expt. Sta., Amherst, Pub. 539, 29 pp., August 1963. (U.S. Dept. Agr. cooperating.)

The study used the electronic computer at the University of Massachusetts to budget the long-term least-cost organization of Massachusetts dairy farms. For annual levels of milk production of 2,400 cwt., 3,360 cwt., and 3,840 cwt., the estimated respective long-term annual operator earnings are \$2,500, \$3,500, \$4,500, and \$5,500. "Operator earnings" are the cash returns to the farmer for his labor and management after deducting annual expenses from gross sales.

BOHALL, ROBERT W., JOSEPH C. PODANY, and RAYMOND O. P. FARRISH. PACKING MATURE GREEN TOMATOES: QUALITY, COSTS, AND MARGINS IN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rept. 635, 28 pp., illus. November 1963.

Shipping point margins of tomatoes in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (the difference between the average price paid to growers and the f.o.b. price of all tomatoes sold) reflect rather closely the changes in packing costs caused by changes in quality of tomatoes. Researchers found that, in 1962, in a shed of average efficiency packing costs increased about 0.54 cent per pound when quality decreased from 60 to 40 percent U.S. No. 1 grade. For such a change in quality, the weekly average increase in margins was 0.38 cent per pound, or within 0.16 cent of the change in packing cost.

BURNS, ALFRED J., GEORGE R. ROCKWELL, JR., and ELTON THIGPEN. APPLE MARKETING—A REVIEW OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, 1945-1960. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-140, 36 pp. October 1963.

Current research information on three phases of apple marketing—demand-supply relationships, merchandising and promotion, and marketing costs and margins—is sum-

marized, and areas where additional research is needed are suggested. Research publications covered in this digest are included in *A Bibliography of Apple Marketing Research, 1945-60*, U.S. Dept. Agr., Misc. Pub. 866.

CLEMENT, WENDELL E. USE AND PROMOTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC EATING PLACES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 626, 25 pp. August 1963.

Per capita consumption of dairy products on a milk equivalent basis has declined from 768 pounds in 1947 to 640 pounds in 1962. This bulletin gives the results of a survey of public eating places in and around Hartford, Conn., and Indianapolis, Ind. It indicates that much improvement can be made in the merchandising of dairy products in restaurants.

COOKE, FRED T., JR. THE ECONOMICS OF SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION IN COTTON; YAZOO-MISSISSIPPI DELTA. Miss. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 669, 28 pp. July 1963. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Syphon tube systems are the cheapest method of irrigation for the Mississippi Delta. Where this method of irrigation is not possible, skip row planting could prove to be more profitable than irrigation. If this practice becomes more widespread it is doubtful that many more acres of cotton would be irrigated in the future.

COWHIG, JAMES D. AGE-GRADE SCHOOL PROGRESS OF FARM AND NONFARM YOUTH: 1960. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 40, 22 pp. August 1963.

Results of the 1950 and 1960 Censuses are used to compare the school progress of farm and nonfarm children and to describe changes that occurred over the decade. Highlights of the study show that between 1950 and 1960 the proportion of farm children enrolled in school increased substantially. During the same decade improvement took place in the proportion of farm and urban children enrolled in grades expected for their age.

COWHIG, JAMES D. SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES AMONG FARM AND NONFARM YOUTH: 1950 AND 1960. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 42, 30 pp., illus. September 1963.

Information from the 1950 and 1960 Censuses of Population is used to derive estimates of the number and proportion of farm and nonfarm youths who dropped out of school before finishing high school. Between 1950 and 1960 school dropouts among 14-to-24-year-olds declined. Dropout rates are shown by age and residence for the entire United States, and the South separately.

DAY, RICHARD H. SIMPLE METHODS OF ESTIMATING CERTAIN NONLINEAR FUNCTIONS WITH EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL DATA. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Handbook 256, 28 pp., illus. August 1963.

Two elementary methods are presented for fitting three different nonlinear functions to empirical data by mean-

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

of simple linear regressions. Iterative least squares methods which have been developed for estimating parameters of nonlinear functions sometimes lead to certain difficulties in application. Because this is so, the methods developed in this handbook are useful tools for application.

DONALD, JAMES R., FRANK LOWENSTEIN, and MARTIN S. SIMON. THE DEMAND FOR TEXTILE FIBERS IN THE UNITED STATES U.S. Dept. Agr., Tech. Bul. 1301, 150 pp., illus. November 1963.

This bulletin identifies and measures the effects of the principal economic forces that cause variation in textile fiber consumption in the United States. It develops estimating equations which explain from 87 to 95 percent of the variation in fiber consumption. Fibers covered by the analyses are cotton, apparel wool, carpet wool, and man-made fibers. The first part of the report records trends in consumption and in the trade balance of textile fibers, and discusses the development of new statistical series. The second part is concerned with statistical analyses of the economic factors that affect domestic consumption of textile fibers.

DROGE, JOHN H. ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF RADIATION-PASTUERIZING FRESH STRAWBERRIES, PEACHES, TOMATOES, GRAPES, ORANGES, AND GRAPEFRUIT. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv. ERS-131, 24 pp. August 1963. (Prepared for U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.)

Fresh produce handlers were asked their opinions of radiation-pastuerizing, which might be used to extend the cold storage life of fresh fruits and vegetables. They thought the process would have two main advantages—it would reduce spoilage losses, and maintain quality. Among the disadvantages they expected is consumer resistance due to fear of the process.

GARLOCK, FRED L., PHILIP T. ALLEN, AND OTHERS. THE BALANCE SHEET OF AGRICULTURE, 1963. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Inf. Bul. 281, 25 pp., illus. September 1963.

This is the 19th in a series of annual estimates since 1940. It shows farm assets and farm debts at the beginning of 1963 and selected earlier years. It deals mainly with changes that occurred during 1962 in the financial situation of agriculture.

GAVETT, EARLE E. TRUCK CROP PRODUCTION PRACTICES, IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA—LABOR, POWER, AND MATERIALS BY OPERATION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-128, 42 pp., illus. September 1963.

California leads the Nation in the production of truck crops and Imperial County is the great winter vegetable producing area of the West. Truck crops, in general, require intensive labor. These requirements are highly seasonal with several labor peaks, the highest occurring at harvest. Thinning and weeding are two operations still performed largely by hand labor.

GAVETT, EARLE E. TRUCK CROP PRODUCTION PRACTICES, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA: LABOR, POWER, AND MATERIALS BY OPERATION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-129, 41 pp., illus. November 1963.

California leads the Nation in the production of truck crops. Fewer than 6 percent of the State's vegetable farms were located in Monterey County, but they accounted for over 14 percent of the harvested acreage of vegetables. Information in this report was obtained from 121 producers in Monterey County.

GOODWIN, JOHN W., JAMES S. PLAXICO, and WILLIAM F. LAGRONE. AGGREGATION OF NORMATIVE MICROSUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS FOR DRYLAND CROP FARMS IN THE ROLLING PLAINS OF OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS. Okla. Agr. Expt. Sta., Tech. Bul. T-103, 69 pp., illus. August 1963. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Linear programming techniques were employed to estimate normative microsupply relationships for each of 10 units under 30 possible combinations of cotton prices, feed grain and livestock prices, and capital costs. The resulting 300 microsupply estimates are shown in tables and charts.

HECHT, REUBEN W. LABOR USED TO PRODUCE LIVESTOCK; ESTIMATES BY STATES, 1959. U.S. Dept. Agr., Statis. Bul. 336, 21 pp. September 1963.

Contains State estimates of the man-hours of labor used in 1959 for producing the major kinds of livestock. Similar estimates are developed every fifth year after data from the agricultural census are available.

HEPP, RALPH E., SYDNEY D. STANFORTH, GUSTAF A. PETERSON, AND RUDOLPH A. CHRISTIANSEN. THE ROLE OF FARM AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS IN WISCONSIN. Wis. Agr. Expt. Sta., Bul. 565, 12 pp. June 1963. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Farm credit institutions base their loans to farmers on the farmers' repayment ability, managerial ability, and the amount of collateral available. Relative to the size of the loan, lower income farmers pledged more collateral than did higher income farmers. Some loans made to farmers with relatively low incomes involved continuous renewal problems, because farm income was not high enough to retire the debt.

HILL, E. B. FARM RENTAL AGREEMENTS. Coop. Ext. Serv., Mich. State Univ., Ext. Bul. E-378, 28 pp. September 1963. (U.S. Dept. Agr. cooperating.)

Because of changing practices and economic conditions on Michigan farms, the traditional farm rental arrangement frequently needs adjustment to make it more equitable between landlord and tenant. The bulletin describes several types of farm leases and the different situations for which each type is appropriate.

HOLDER, SHELBY H., and OLIVER L. McCASKILL.
COSTS OF ELECTRIC POWER AND FUEL FOR DRIERS IN
COTTON GINS, ARKANSAS AND MISSOURI. U.S.
Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-138, 12 pp.
October 1963.

Power is one of the most important variable costs in a ginning operation. This item alone costs the Nation's ginner millions of dollars each year. The purpose of this study was to determine power costs for specified types of gins and the factors affecting these costs, and consumption of fuel for driers and its cost per bale ginned.

JOHNSON, ROBERT W. OPERATION OF THE P.L. 480 PROGRAM IN BRAZIL. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-59, 34 pp., illus. November 1963.

Wheat and flour accounted for 90 percent of P.L. 480 exports to Brazil from July 1955 to June 1962. From July 1945 to December 1961, agricultural commodity assistance under P.L. 480 comprised one-fourth of all U.S. assistance to Brazil. Declining domestic wheat production, prospects for continued shortage of foreign exchange earnings, and other factors will tend to increase reliance on concessional imports of wheat and thus the importance of the P.L. 480 program to Brazil.

KEEFER, JAMES F. SUMMARY AND EVALUATION OF "THE PHILIPPINES: LONG-TERM PROJECTION OF SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR SELECTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (ERS-FOREIGN-34)" WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. EXPORTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-58, 40 pp. November 1963.

Substantial growth and shifts are projected for the Philippine economy. The population is projected to increase at an annual rate of over 3 percent and there is to be a shift to the urban areas. The growth and growth rate of the general economy will have an important impact upon import requirements and import capability.

LARSEN, MARION R. THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AND CROP PROSPECTS IN COMMUNIST CHINA, 1963. U.S. Dept. Agr., Foreign Agr. Econ. Rpt. 10, 16 pp.

Prospects for the 1963 harvest in Mainland China are little if any better than in 1962. Production of summer-harvested grain crops was less than last year's poor harvest. The outlook for intermediate and late rice is only fair, and the output of miscellaneous grains probably will not offset early grain losses.

McELROY, ROBERT C., and JULES V. POWELL.
ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PECAN PRODUCTION AND
MARKETING: ARKANSAS, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSIS-
SIPPI, NEW MEXICO, AND SOUTH CAROLINA. U.S.
Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 41, 42 pp., illus.
September 1963.

Contains production and marketing data obtained from 576 pecan growers who owned 370,000 pecan trees, or 13 percent of the trees listed in the 1959 Census of Agriculture for the six States in the study. The most com-

mon cultural practice in pecan orchards was disking. Growers fertilized 78 percent of the survey acreage. Growers reported that 95 percent of their pecans were sold to dealers.

PRESS, CHARLES, and RODGER RICE. RURAL RESIDENTS AND URBAN EXPANSION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-132, 18 pp. September 1963. (Mich. State Univ. cooperating.)

This report deals with the opinions of nonfarm residents concerning urban expansion into farm areas. The study was made in a township lying on the fringe of a growing metropolitan area. An earlier study reported the opinions of farmers in the same area.

REED, ROBERT H., and L. L. SAMMET. MULTIPLE-PRODUCT PROCESSING OF CALIFORNIA FROZEN VEGETABLES. Calif. Agr. Expt. Sta., Giannini Found. of Agr. Econ., Giannini Found. Res. Rpt. 264, 203 pp., illus. July 1963. (U.S. Dept. Agr. cooperating.)

Economic and engineering research procedures are used in a synthesis of costs for a series of different plants designed for single-product output of six major frozen vegetables—broccoli, brussels sprouts, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, and spinach. The report is in two sections: (1) Analysis of Operations and Costs, and (2) Labor and Equipment Standards and Requirements for Preparation and Packaging.

ROGERS, GEORGE B., and EARL H. RINEAR. COSTS AND ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN TURKEY PROCESSING PLANTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 62, 61 pp., illus. September 1963.

Gains in turkey processing efficiency have occurred in recent years with the adoption of new technology, increases in plant size, and better use of capacity. According to data from 25 plants surveyed, average costs per pound decline when plant size increases. Plant managers can use these data to compare their present situations with similar plants and plan for the future.

STANSBERRY, ROBERT R., JR. THE RURAL FRINGE AND URBAN EXPANSION; A CASE STUDY OF PRINCE GEORGES AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES, MARYLAND. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 43, 34 pp. October 1963.

In 1960 suburbanization processes were studied in two Maryland counties adjacent to Washington, D.C. Here are some of the findings: Although 1 fringe family in 10 is living on a farm, more than half the household heads have a rural background. Fringe residents are oriented toward the rural, rather than the urban, side of living. All walks of life are represented among fringe residents: poor and rich, professional workers, and unskilled laborers.

TAVES, MARVIN J., and GARY D. HANSEN. MINNESOTA FARMERS AND SOCIAL SECURITY. Univ. Minn., Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 467, 44 pp., illus. June 1963. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Farmers were interviewed in three of Minnesota's five major farming areas. The study was designed to learn

what changes respondents may have made since 1954 when farmers were first included under the Social Security Act, and attitudes toward the program of those now paying social security taxes or receiving benefits. Many beneficiaries and nonbeneficiaries reported a desire for more information on social security, and for Government counseling on retirement preparation.

THORFINNSON, T. S., and A. W. EPP. COST OF OPERATING TILLAGE AND HARVESTING MACHINERY IN NEBRASKA. Nebr. Agr. Expt. Sta., Statis. Bul. 475, 22 pp., illus. March 1963. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Selected tillage, planting and harvesting machines were studied to determine the cost of operation and rate of performance for each kind and size. Information on costs for each machine includes purchase price, depreciation, repairs, grease, oil, and fuel. Information on performance includes total acres for which each machine was used and number of hours of use.

TSU, SHELDON. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE IN DENMARK. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-63, 10 pp. November 1963.

Farm profits in Denmark have deteriorated in recent years. Agricultural prices have declined considerably, while production costs increased. The report describes government assistance to farmers under the Agricultural Marketing Act of July 9, 1961, the first official agricultural subsidization program in recent Danish history. The Danish Government has attempted to limit increases in assistance to agriculture. However, until the Common Market situation and other related factors are clarified, agricultural assistance in Denmark is likely to continue.

VAN DRESS, MICHAEL G. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DAYS' SUPPLY OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN WAREHOUSES AT WHOLESALE, 1963—A CIVIL DEFENSE STUDY. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., Mktg. Res. Rept. 632, 24 pp., illus. October 1963.

For each person in the United States there is a 16.1-day supply of food and a 4-day supply of beverages in warehouses at the wholesale level of distribution. Canned, bottled, dried, and packaged products, which can be kept for a long time without refrigeration, represent more than 84 percent of total stocks. This study was made by the USDA at the request of the Office of Civil Defense.

YOUMANS, E. GRANT. THE RURAL SCHOOL DROP-OUT: A TEN-YEAR FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF EASTERN KENTUCKY YOUTH. Bul. Bur. School Serv., Univ. Ky., Vol. 36, No. 1, 31 pp., illus. September 1963. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

In 1950, a total of 757 boys were enrolled in the eighth grade of the public school in 11 eastern Kentucky counties. In 1960, 307 of these youths were interviewed. More than half the respondents had dropped out of school before completing the twelfth grade, and most of these had received only eight years of formal education. The report discusses the work life and community life of the young men who were interviewed.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. HANDBOOK OF AGRICULTURAL CHARTS. Agr. Handbook 258, 198 pp., illus. September 1963.

Contains information on the overall economic situation, commodities, foreign agricultural trade, marketing, farm population, and family living. The book is intended for use primarily by economists and agricultural businessmen. There are 178 charts, most of them accompanied by tables of detailed data.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION BY NONTARIFF TRADE BARRIERS. Econ. Res. Serv. and Foreign Agr. Serv., ERS-Foreign-60, 24 pp. September 1963.

The following nontariff controls were studied, for the United States and 17 other countries: Import quotas and embargoes, variable levies and gate price system, conditional imports, monopolies, advance deposits on imports, import discrimination and preferential treatment, import licensing, and bilateral agreements.

U.S. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE. DEVELOPMENTS IN MARKETING SPREADS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1962. U.S. Dept. Agr., ERS-14 (1963), 32 p., illus. August 1963. (Reprinted from Hearings Before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, United States House of Representatives, Eighty-eighth Congress, First Session.)

Shows spread between retail and farm prices of food products, farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar, hourly earnings of food marketing employees, and total profits of major food processing and distributing firms.

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