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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 Colleges

Botts, Ralph R. FARMERS' HANDBOOK OF FINANCIAL CALCULATIONS AND PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Handbook 230, 55 pp. Revised March 1964.

Modern American farming is a complex business operation. As farms get bigger and investments higher, more and more figuring is required to determine the costs and returns of the farm business and such things as depreciation, Social Security, credit, life insurance, retirement, and estate planning. This report presents calculations in question form with detailed solutions which county agents, State and Federal employees, and others can use to help farmers who ask them for advice.

Brown, Sidney E. RETAIL SALES OF BROILERS AND MEAT AS AFFECTED BY PRICE, DISPLAY AREA, AND NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-180, 12 pp. May 1964.

Sales data from a 6-week test in two Ohio cities were analyzed to determine the effects of week-to-week changes in prices and merchandising practices on broiler sales. Fluctuations in broiler tonnage in the 12 sample stores were found to be explainable chiefly by changes in broiler price, display area, and newspaper advertising.

Butz, William T. LONG-DISTANCE SHIPMENT OF MARKET MILK. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. No. 648, 12 pp. March 1964.

Between the midfifties and the early sixties, long-distance shipments of market milk declined. The main factors in this decrease were the general uptrend in marketings of milk even in deficit milk-producing areas and the development of surplus producing areas closer to these deficit markets.

Cable, C. Curtis, Jr., Harvin R. Smith, and Zolon M. Looney. COMPARISON OF MECHANICALLY DRAWN SAMPLES WITH CUT SAMPLES FOR EVALUATING COTTON QUALITY. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 654, 28 pp. April 1964.

A study of 800 bales of cotton showed that mechanical samples drawn during ginning were about as reliable and useful for merchandising purposes as cut samples taken immediately after ginning. The average bale value and average grade were slightly higher and average staple length was slightly lower for mechanical samples than for cut samples. However, average values differed by only 10 cents per bale, and none of the differences were statistically significant.

Christensen, Raymond P., William E. Hendrix, and Robert D. Stevens. HOW THE UNITED STATES IMPROVED ITS AGRICULTURE. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-76, 32 pp. March 1964.

This report was prepared at the request of AID to show less developed nations how the United States has been able to achieve rapid increases in farm productivity. The report emphasizes the need for information about price and other economic incentives, fertilizer production and distribution, and knowledge of other factors which are important in raising farm output.

Corkern, Ray. KENAF: A BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1950-62. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-153, 16 pp. January 1964.

Kenaf is a long-fibered annual pulp crop which is a potential source of raw material for the paper and pulping industry. This bibliography should aid market researchers and others appraising kenaf as a possible cash crop for the United States.

Coyner, Mary S. NICARAGUA: RECENT SHIFTS IN FARM OUTPUT AND TRADE. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-77, 15 pp. March 1964.

Nicaragua's economic situation has brightened considerably in the past 3 years, due largely to good crops—particularly the cotton crop. The estimated gross national product, of which about 40 percent is derived from agriculture, increased by almost 5 percent in 1962 over 1961 (at 1961 prices) and a comparable increase probably occurred in 1963. The United States in 1962 supplied 50.4 percent of Nicaragua's total imports. The outlook for the immediate future is for the United States to continue supplying at least half of the country's imports of farm products.

Davis, Jeanne M. FARM VACATION ENTERPRISES IN OHIO. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-164, 35 pp. May 1964.

Farmers face advantages and disadvantages in the vacation business. On the one side farmers have a chance to add to their income and meet people who bring new ideas and interests to the farm family. On the other side there is additional work in caring for guests, loss of privacy, and difficulty in spacing reservations over the entire summer. A few Ohio farmers grossed over \$2,000 from this seasonal business in 1963, but other farmers were unsuccessful and had no paying guests.

Dennis, C. C., B. A. Dominick, and B. W. Kelly. THE GREAT LAKES TART CHERRY INDUSTRY: PRODUCTION COSTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-171, 24 pp. May 1964. (N.Y., Pa., and Mich. Agr. Expt. Stations cooperating.)

If a producer of tart cherries is to break even, his trees must yield at least 2½ tons per acre when the farm sale price is 7½ cents per pound and production costs are \$200 per acre. Yield per acre is a leading factor in cost per pound. The report considers costs of growing and harvesting tart cherries in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Edman, Victor G. PRICES AND SPREADS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES SOLD IN SELECTED MARKETS, 1956-62. U.S. Dept. Agr., Statis. Bul. 340. February 1964.

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

In general, marketing margins in dollars increased from 1956 to 1962. In several instances, margins as a percentage of the retail price also increased. In some cases, price increases permitted both the margin and the grower's return to increase. The prices, margins, and grower's returns for 18 commodities are presented in 128 tables.

Gavett, Earle E. LABOR USED TO PRODUCE VEGETABLES, ESTIMATES BY STATES, 1959. U.S. Dept. Agr., Statist. Bul. 341, 37 pp. March 1964.

The report presents the amount of labor used by crops, by States, in the commercial production of vegetables in 1959, and draws some comparisons with labor usage 20 years earlier in 1939. It is part of a continuing nationwide research program centered on agricultural production.

Hagenstein, Perry R. FACTORS AFFECTING THE LOCATION OF WOOD-USING PLANTS IN THE NORTHERN APPALACHIANS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Forest Serv. Res. Paper NE-16, 36 pp. 1964.

The costs of wood, labor, and shipping the final product to markets are the most important factors affecting the plant-location decision in four wood-using industries—lumber, particle board, woodpulp, and furniture. The relative importance of these factors varies considerably among the four industries examined.

Hair, Dwight. THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF TIMBER IN THE UNITED STATES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Forest Serv., Misc. Pub. 941, 91 pp. July 1963.

This report presents estimates of the value added and employment in timber-based activities in the United States in 1958 and 1954. Data are also presented showing the value of stumpage cut, the value of logs and related products harvested, the value of shipments from timber-based primary and secondary manufacturing industries, the value of construction, freight revenues from shipments of timber products, and wholesale and retail sales of timber products.

Hall, William F. AGRICULTURE IN INDIA. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-64, 64 pp. January 1964.

Food production does not meet requirements in India although about half the land is used for agriculture and two-thirds of the people owe their living to farming. The land area of India is less than half that of the United States but the population is more than double. There is little more than one arable acre for each of the 300 million persons on farms in India. The Indian Government, with two 5-year plans, has had some success in initiating improvements in farming. India is now in its third 5-year plan.

Hanes, John K. THE ORGANIZATION OF WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKETS IN MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AND DULUTH-SUPERIOR. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. No. 647, 42 pp. March 1964. (Minn. Agr. Expt. Sta. cooperating.)

The Minneapolis-St. Paul market has changed from primarily a diversion and shipping point market to primarily a receiving market during the past 30 years. Nearby

production of potatoes, fruits, and other vegetables for fresh market has decreased sharply. The number of fresh fruit and vegetable wholesalers in Duluth-Superior declined by almost one-half between 1939 and 1958.

Hodges, Earl F. CONSUMPTION OF FEED BY LIVESTOCK, 1940-59. U.S. Dept. Agr., Prod. Res. Rpt. No. 79, 94 pp. March 1964.

This report revises and continues the data previously published in 1958. Among other items, the report presents data on the relative value of feeds for different kinds of livestock with various prices for corn, methods of estimating future feed needs, and the quantities of feed, including pasture, consumed by various kinds of livestock annually.

Holder, Shelby H., Jr., and Zolon M. Looney. RECLAIMING AND MARKETING COTTON GIN MOTES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-168, 14 pp. May 1964.

Cotton gin operators may be able to increase their income by reclaiming gin motes—a byproduct of cotton ginning consisting of any gin waste usable for its fiber content. The largest outlets for this substance are the bedding, automotive, and furniture industries.

Langsford, E. L. EXTENT AND COST OF USING CHEMICALS IN COTTON PRODUCTION: SELECTED AREAS, 1961. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-155, 15 pp. March 1964.

Insecticides, fertilizers, herbicides, and defoliants are becoming increasingly important in producing U.S. cotton. The estimated total costs of all specified chemicals for each acre of cotton averaged \$17.74 for the materials plus \$5.30 for their application. With an average yield of 410 pounds per acre planted to cotton, average costs for these chemicals were equivalent to 5.6 cents per pound of lint.

Manchester, Alden C. THE STRUCTURE OF WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 45, 128 pp. April 1964.

Last of a series of reports on the organization and operation of wholesale fruit and vegetable markets throughout the country. It describes competition in the fresh fruit and vegetable business, the structure and organization of produce markets, the behavior of firms in these markets, and the efficiency with which markets of various types perform their functions.

Mighell, Ronald L., Lawrence A. Jones, and Earle E. Gavett. CONTRACT PRODUCTION OF TRUCK CROPS, 12 SELECTED AREAS, UNITED STATES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-152, 31 pp. March 1964.

Modern technology has increased the need for close coordination in truck crop vegetable farming that ties together successive stages in production and marketing. The results of this study show that contracting is more prevalent in the production of vegetables for processing while vertical integration in production is more common in vegetables grown for fresh market.

Moore, E. J., E. L. Baum, and R. B. Glasgow. ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF FARM

YOUTH. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 51, 43 pp. April 1964.

Enrollment in college in 1960 was 33 percent among college-age rural farm youth and 34 percent among rural nonfarm youth. But among urban youth, enrollment was 48 percent. Rural education and services have not shared fully in national growth because of smaller school districts, low population density, and comparatively low incomes.

Patty, Gordon. CHILE: RECENT TRENDS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-84, 12 pp. May 1964.

Chile is likely to be a good market for American wheat, dairy products, cotton, vegetable oils, tobacco, and rice for the next few years. Production of farm commodities in Chile has not kept pace with demand. Chile imported an average of \$23 million worth of U.S. agricultural products yearly from 1959 through 1962.

Pavlick, Anthony L., and Robert I. Coltrane. QUALITY OF RURAL HOUSING IN THE APPALACHIAN REGION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 52, 25 pp. April 1964.

The quality of housing in the Appalachian region is generally inferior to housing in other nearby areas and to the U.S. average. For every 100 housing units in the Appalachian region, 8 are dilapidated and 19 are deteriorating, while in the United States as a whole 5 are dilapidated and 14 are deteriorating. The Appalachian area includes 322 counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Reutlinger, Shlomo. EVALUATION OF SOME UNCERTAINTY HYPOTHESES FOR PREDICTING SUPPLY. N.C. Agr. Expt. Sta. Tech. Bul. 160, 59 pp. March 1964. (U.S. Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Two supply models—a maximum expected profit model and a minimax model—were studied with the use of annual acreage and price data for cotton, wheat, and corn for the period 1909-32. By both models output was found to depend on a measure of central tendency as well as a measure of variability of the considered prices. The study presents some evidence that supply predictions are essentially the same regardless of which uncertainty hypothesis is assumed in specifying the supply model.

Richards, Stanley I. TRENDS IN INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE. U.S. Dept. Agr., Foreign Agr. Econ. Rpt. No. 15, 40 pp. February 1964.

India's agricultural exports, averaging over \$500 million per year, account for about 40 percent of total foreign exchange earnings. Tea, the leading export commodity, accounts for half of all agricultural exports. The United Kingdom is India's leading export market, taking about half of its agricultural exports. The United States ranks second, importing an average of \$84 million worth of farm products per year from India.

Sanderson, Agnes. FRENCH WEST INDIES: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE. U.S. Dept. Agr. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-80, 26 pp. April 1964.

The French West Indies, though its chief trading partner is France, is a small but growing market for U.S. commodities. French West Indies imports from the United States amounted to \$4 million in 1961 and \$5 million in 1962; exports to the United States in the 2 years amounted to \$8 million and \$6 million. Exports are mainly sugar and bananas. Imports comprise foodstuffs, almost all its manufactured goods, and all its petroleum products.

Skinner, Snider W. THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY OF THE IVORY COAST. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-69, 40 pp. April 1964.

Over 90 percent of the Ivory Coast population of about 3,400,000 is engaged in agriculture (including livestock raising) and forestry. In 1961, farm products made up 75 percent of all exports. Coffee is the Ivory Coast's most valuable commodity, and also its biggest economic problem. The Government is attempting to diversify agriculture by increasing production of such commodities as rubber and cotton.

Speel, H. C., and F. J. Poats. ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SOAPS, DETERGENTS, AND SURFACTANTS MADE FROM FATS AND OILS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 53, 18 pp. April 1964.

"Soft" detergents that can be broken down in sewage disposal systems are expected to be generally available in 1965. Soaps and many of the surfactants made from farm-produced fats and oils are "soft," whereas petroleum-source surfactants do not break down rapidly in sewage. The petroleum industry is planning to synthesize surfactants that decompose more like those now obtained only from natural fats and oils.

Stewart, Clyde E. THE DESERT LAND ACT IN MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY: ISSUES AND PROBLEMS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-151, 30 pp. March 1964.

Whether the Desert Land Act of 1877 is operational for the future is a critical question in the minds of 20th century legislators. This report sets forth some of the recent events and conditions that need to be considered if the act and the present machinery for administering it are to be revised.

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Agitated brine curing of hides can mean appreciable savings for processors. The report describes costs for two model plants, one using the conventional pack-salt curing method for processing a minimum of 500 hides daily, the other using agitated brine for processing and fleshing a daily minimum of 1,000 hides. The agitated brine method saved 5 cents a hide, even though fleshing was included in the costs.

Vosloh, Carl J., Jr. OPERATING COSTS IN PACKING MIXED FEEDS WITH EMPHASIS ON LABOR AND CAPITAL. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 658, 20 pp. May 1964.

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packaging costs for two sizes of mixed feed plants packing 65 tons and 160 tons per 8-hour shift. Study models of these sizes were developed from records kept by feed plants in 35 States.

Webster, Henry H. **TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS: A CASE STUDY.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Forest Serv. Res. Paper NE-14, 26 pp. 1963.

An economic analysis of timber-production possibilities in Elk State Forest in north central Pennsylvania. Analysis proved efficient for ranking management opportunities and for setting priorities within a given budget, but proved of little use in determining how large the budget should be.

Wesson, William T. **TAXES PAID BY FIRMS MARKETING FARM FOOD PRODUCTS.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 50, 52 pp. February 1964.

The report measures the amount of Federal income tax and business taxes paid by both corporate and non-corporate food processors, wholesalers, and retailers during 1947-60. The data are adjusted to reflect taxes paid on food originating on U.S. farms only. Analyses are made to show the relation between size of firms and taxes paid per dollar of sales. Methodology used to estimate taxes for noncorporate firms, adjustments of the data, and related material are included in an appendix.

Wilmot, Charles A., and David M. Alberson. **INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF POWER USED FOR MATERIALS HANDLING IN SOUTHWESTERN COTTON GINS.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-154, 18 pp. March 1964.

This report indicates that substantial savings in operating costs could be realized in most cotton ginning operations by peaking efficiency of individual air systems used for materials handling and by rearranging gin machinery to eliminate unnecessary fans, motors, and piping.

Wright, Bruce H. **FOR-HIRE TRUCKING OF EX-EMPT FARM PRODUCTS: OPERATING PRACTICES AND NATURE OF COMPETITION.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 649, 38 pp. March 1964.

During 1962, 137 interstate for-hire truckers of agricultural commodities not subject to Interstate Commerce Commission economic regulations were asked about sources of business, principal competition, methods of establishing rates, operating costs, trip-leasing, and equipment used. Fifty-six percent of them named other truckers in the same business as among their chief competitors. Railroads were mentioned as important competitors by 12 percent, private truckers by 10 percent, and ICC-regulated trucks by 8 percent.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. **AGRICULTURAL POLICIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING TRADE POLICIES AFFECTING AGRICULTURE.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Handbook 132, 266 pp. Revised March 1964.

This new report updates a 1957 study of agricultural policies of foreign governments. It deals with some of the economic changes in foreign countries from 1957 to 1963, the new regional economic integration movements

in Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, and adds to the list of countries surveyed the newly independent countries which have emerged in the past 5 years.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. **THE 1964 WESTERN HEMISPHERE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.** Suppl. 1 to The 1964 World Agricultural Situation. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 71, 63 pp. February 1964.

Increased agricultural production expected in the Western Hemisphere in 1963-64 will result in larger supplies for consumption and trade. The region should continue as the world's major agricultural supplier with exports of most agricultural commodities approaching record levels in 1964.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. **THE 1964 WESTERN EUROPE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.** Suppl. 2 to The 1964 World Agricultural Situation. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-72, 85 pp. February 1964.

Western Europe continues as the region having the highest growth rate in the free world. Growth in the gross domestic product in the European Economic Community during 1964 may approximate 4 to 4.5 percent in real terms. Economic activity is expanding in the United Kingdom and Spain and continuing at a high level in most other European countries.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. **THE 1964 EASTERN EUROPE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.** Suppl. 3 to The 1964 World Agricultural Situation. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-73, 62 pp. March 1964.

The most significant feature of the agricultural situation in Eastern Europe during 1963 was the very poor grain crop in the Soviet Union. This, coupled with mediocre crops in most of Eastern Europe, resulted in a decline in total agricultural output in the area.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. **THE 1964 FAR EAST, COMMUNIST CHINA, OCEANIA AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.** Suppl. No. 4 to The 1964 World Agricultural Situation. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-74, 57 pp. March 1964.

The economies of most countries in the Far East continued to move ahead in 1963. Industrial output showed significant, although generally moderate, gains in almost all countries. In contrast, agriculture, which continues as the dominant force in the economies of most countries of the region, was practically stagnant.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. **THE 1964 AFRICA AND WEST ASIA AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.** Suppl. 5 to The 1964 World Agricultural Situation. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-75, 81 pp. March 1964.

Agricultural production in West Asia last year rose 5 percent above the 1962 level and was 37 percent above the 1952-54 base period average. For the area as a whole, however, per capita farm production has not made rapid gains and is only 5 percent over the 1952-54 base period.

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