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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

Barlow, Frank D., Jr., and Susan A. Libbin. THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY ASSISTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL AID PROGRAMS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 118, 26 pp., March 1965.

Reviews some trends and highlights of U.S. agricultural commodity aid programs, particularly P.L. 480, and their relationship to commercial agricultural exports and other U.S. foreign economic aid programs. Bilateral food aid programs of other countries and the World Food Program are also discussed.

Bird, Ronald, and Buis T. Inman. INCOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL FAMILIES FROM OUTDOOR RECREATION ENTERPRISES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 68, 31 pp., March 1965.

Summarizes data obtained from studies on recreational enterprises in Arkansas, Missouri, New England, Ohio, Oregon, and South Carolina. Cash incomes exceeded cash expenses for 86 percent of the 254 enterprises analyzed. Most of the businesses returned less than \$10 a day to operator and family labor.

Brown, Lester R. INCREASING WORLD FOOD OUTPUT: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Foreign Agr. Econ. Rpt. 25, 140 pp., April 1965.

Higher yields per acre are the principal key to future increases in world food production. To meet food needs, underdeveloped countries must achieve a yield take-off--a rapid increase in yields sustained over a period of several years. To accomplish this, literacy in these countries needs to be increased, incomes must be high enough to permit accumulation of capital, subsistence farmers must become market-oriented, and the nonagricultural economy must be able to support farmers' efforts to raise yields.

Cable, C. Curtis, Jr., Zolon M. Looney, and Charles A. Wilmot. UTILIZATION AND COST OF LABOR FOR GINNING COTTON. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 70, 31 pp., April 1965.

Charges paid by cotton producers for ginning have closely paralleled the rising cost of ginning. Plant labor is one of the most costly inputs used by the ginning industry, accounting for 20 to 25 percent of total cost. The study was made in 1962-63 to develop standards which ginners may use for improving efficiency of plant labor.

Coltrane, R. I., and E. L. Baum. AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE APPALACHIAN REGION, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AGRICULTURE. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 69, 78 pp., April 1965. (W. Va. Agr. Expt. Sta. cooperating.)

Examines the direction and magnitude of changes that occurred in Appalachia's agriculture and other major industries between 1950 and 1960. Comparisons are made between Appalachia, the surrounding area, and the United States. The comparisons are made to present Appalachia's relative economic position. Intra-regional comparisons are also made.

Cooper, Maurice R., and William F. Harris. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TESTING AND PRICING COTTON FOR FINENESS AND STRENGTH. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 699, 33 pp., March 1965. (Univ. Tex. cooperating.)

About half of the cotton shippers operating in 4 Texas markets were interviewed. All of them were using one or more types of information on fineness as guides in buying and selling some of their cotton. Most of them favored including data on fineness for individual bales in USDA classification information, and including differentials for fineness in market quotations and Government loan rates.

Dawson, Robert H., and Robert H. Reed. SOME ASPECTS OF LABOR EFFICIENCY IN CANNING ASPARAGUS SPEARS. Calif. Agr. Expt. Sta., Giannini Found. Res. Rpt. 281, 42 pp., March 1965. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Labor utilization under conventional canning methods is compared with recently developed mechanical pre-sizing equipment. Economic and engineering research procedures were used in a synthesis of labor requirements for a single-product output of green and white asparagus spears.

Droge, John H. RADIATION-PASTEURIZING FRESH STRAWBERRIES AND OTHER FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: ESTIMATES OF COSTS AND BENEFITS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-225, 22 pp., March 1965.

Radiation-pasteurizing of strawberries would reduce spoilage loss by at least enough to pay the cost of treatment, according to preliminary estimates of costs. Additional savings might be realized because the shelf life would be increased, less in-store culling would be needed, and use of carbon dioxide gas as a mold inhibitor could be reduced or eliminated.

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

Freeman, Billy G., R. H. Rogers, and D. S. Moore. PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS, COSTS AND EXPECTED RETURNS FOR CROP AND LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES, ROLLING BLACKLAND SOILS OF THE CENTRAL BLACKLAND PRAIRIE OF TEXAS. Texas Agr. Expt. Sta., College Station, MP-752, 78 pp., January 1965. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

One of a series of reports designed to help farmers select the most profitable combination of enterprises and practices. Budgets are developed setting forth detailed information on production requirements and expected costs and returns for alternative crop enterprises and rotations and for the major livestock systems in the area studied.

Fuller, Theodore E., and E. L. Baum. EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND LOW INCOMES IN APPALACHIA. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 73, 48 pp., May 1965. (Pa. State Univ. Agr. Expt. Sta. cooperating.)

Appalachia has a disproportionate share of the Nation's unemployed workers and low-income families. Rates of unemployment and percentages of families with low incomes are highest in the more rural subareas with small population centers. Development strategy for Appalachia ought to consider both the amounts of financial resources available for development and a determination of which subareas have growth potential.

Henderson, Peter L., and M. Elton Thigpen. EVALUATION OF A SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR FROZEN CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 693, 29 pp., February 1965.

A nationwide promotional campaign from September through November 1962 resulted in significantly higher sales of frozen concentrated orange juice during those months and until December 15, 1962. Estimated sales increases attributed to the promotion averaged 168,000 gallons per week. Increased sales were derived primarily from an increase in the number of new users attracted into the market.

Hutchinson, T. Q. PRIVATE MOTOR CARRIERS OF EXEMPT AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES: NUMBER, LENGTH OF TIME IN BUSINESS, TYPES, AND CAPACITY OF VEHICLES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 696, 31 pp., March 1965.

In 1961 the 701 private motor carriers in the study reported carrying more than 11 million tons of exempt agricultural commodities. Slightly more than half of their mileage was used in hauling exempt agricultural commodities. Average numbers of vehicles operated

per firm were 6 truck tractors, 8 semitrailers, 3 full trailers, and 9 straight trucks.

Irwin, George D. MILK PRODUCTION ALLOTMENT AND CLASS I BASE PLANS, MICHIGAN DAIRY FARMS. Mich. State Univ. Dept. Agr. Econ., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 3, 42 pp., March 1965. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

Describes four alternatives to blend milk pricing, and discusses producers' possible responses to each one.

Larsen, Marion R. AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY OF NORTH VIETNAM. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 123, 38 pp., April 1965.

Agriculture in North Vietnam accounts for about 50 percent of the national income, provides a livelihood for about 85 percent of the population, and employs almost 80 percent of the labor force. All farming activities and the disposition of production are carried on according to state plan. State farms are exclusively state property and peasants who are employed on them work for wages. Agriculture's disappointing output has increased the country's trade deficit. In 1961 the value of total exports was only 59 percent of total imports.

Mackie, Arthur B. FOREIGN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MARKET POTENTIALS FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Foreign Agr. Econ. Rpt. 24, 76 pp., April 1965.

U.S. farm exports, doubling in the last decade, reached \$6.1 billion in 1963-64. If past trends continue, U.S. farm exports may increase to \$9.5 billion by 1980. The largest market potential for U.S. farm exports is in the less developed countries, and rapid economic growth in these countries is important to steady expansion of U.S. agricultural trade. As income per person rises, consumers in these countries spend a large proportion of their additional income for food.

Manchester, Alden C. NATURE OF COMPETITION IN FLUID MILK MARKETS: MARKET ORGANIZATION AND CONCENTRATION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 67, 76 pp., February 1965.

The typical city milk market today has two important characteristics: A few firms make most of the sales, and small milk dealers are going out of business. Between 1950 and 1962, the number of handlers decreased nearly half in the 71 markets studied. Concentration--the share of the market held by the 4 largest firms--increased fairly rapidly in smaller markets in this period, and declined slightly in the largest ones.

McCoy, John L. **HOMEMAKERS' OPINIONS AND PREFERENCES FOR BROILER-FRYERS AND TURKEYS, A PRELIMINARY REPORT.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Statis. Rptg. Serv., SRS-7, 11 pp., May 1965.

The study was designed to provide data on some of the factors influencing the demand for poultry. It contains up-to-date information on consumers' opinions, wants, and criticisms, and can be used in planning efforts for maintaining or improving market positions.

Moede, Herbert H., and Betty Burnside. **MARKET POTENTIAL FOR LOW-FAT MILK.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 709, 84 pp., May 1965.

Before 1949, the sale of low-fat milk was apparently limited to the Midwest, but by 1953 this milk was available in each of the major geographic regions. Industrywide sales of low-fat milk totaled an estimated 620 million quarts by the end of 1963. If present trends continue, sales of low-fat milk could reach 1.8 billion quarts by 1970.

Moore, D. S., and R. H. Rogers. **PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS, COSTS AND EXPECTED RETURNS FOR CROP PRODUCTION ON WELL-DRAINED CLAY AND CLAY LOAM SOILS, COASTAL PRAIRIE OF TEXAS.** Texas Agr. Expt. Sta. (College Station), MP-756, 49 pp., February 1965. (Econ. Res. Serv. cooperating.)

One of a series of reports designed to help farmers select the most profitable combination of enterprises and practices. Budgets are developed setting forth detailed information on production requirements and expected costs and returns for the major field crops and cropping systems that are most suitable for the area studied.

Nelson, Paul E., Jr. **MARKET NEWS DISSEMINATION IN THE SOUTHWEST: HOW THE FEED GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES OBTAIN AND EVALUATE MARKET INFORMATION.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 71, 19 pp., April 1965.

Summarizes and analyzes the use and evaluation of market information by 201 farmers and 205 tradesmen in the feed grain and livestock industries of Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The farmers and tradesmen reported their use of specific information media including daily and trade newspapers, TV, newsletters, and others.

Pike, Clarence E. **SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR SELECTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN INDIA: PROJECTIONS TO 1975-76.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 100, 27 pp.

Summarizes a report published in India in 1962 by the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

Some overall conclusions regarding the prospective future supply of and demand for selected agricultural commodities, and their implications for U.S. agriculture, are given.

Potter, Joseph R., Jr. **THE TRAFFIC PATTERN OF AMERICAN RAW COTTON SHIPMENTS, SEASON 1961-62.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 705, 35 pp., April 1965.

Of the total 1961-62 movement of cotton, 47 percent went to mills in Southeastern States, 29 percent to ports for export or reconcentration, and 13 percent was intrastate traffic. About 4 percent was shipped to interior concentration points and 3 percent to Canada. Trucks handled about one-quarter of the raw cotton moved; the rest was transported by railroads.

Powell, Jules V., and Victor G. Edman. **MARKETING FLOWERS: CREDIT AND FINANCING PROBLEMS OF RETAIL AND WHOLESALE FLORISTS IN FOUR IOWA CITIES.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 704, 28 pp., April 1965.

Operating practices and credit policies of high- and low-loss firms were compared to determine factors affecting losses from noncollectible accounts. The authors conclude that losses from bad debts are not as high as had been supposed. Firms with flexible bill-collecting procedures tended to have lower losses from bad debts than firms with rigid billing procedures.

Reese, Robert B. **ESTABLISHING CENTRAL SCHOOL LUNCH KITCHENS IN URBAN AREAS: PROBLEMS AND COSTS.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 72, 61 pp., May 1965.

Reports findings of a study of ways to extend availability of the National School Lunch Program to urban children in old school buildings lacking kitchens or means for installing them--particularly schools in low-income neighborhoods where the need is greatest. Procedures developed may also be applicable to rural schools in economically depressed areas.

Skinner, Snider W. **THE CONGO'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN BRIEF.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 121, 8 pp., April 1965.

Describes current agricultural and trade practices in the Congo (Leopoldville) and cites the damper put on agriculture by unsettled conditions since attainment of independence in 1960. Only 2 percent of the land is used for farming.

Smith, Helen V. **RAILROAD FREIGHT RATE INDEXES FOR FARM PRODUCTS, 1957-63.** U.S. Dept. Agr., Statis. Bul. 358, 22 pp., April 1965.

Freight rate indexes of 33 farm commodities are updated and brought into line with other Government

indexes. These indexes, used to measure the average yearly changes in prices paid for transporting farm commodities from the origin of shipments to marketing destination, are revised every decade by USDA.

Spiegelman, Robert F., E. L. Baum, and L. E. Talbert. APPLICATION OF ACTIVITY ANALYSIS TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: A CASE STUDY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING IN RURAL SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY. U.S. Dept. Agr., Tech. Bul. 1339, 89 pp., March 1965.

The report is concerned with the development and utilization of an econometric model for planning economic development in small rural areas. The model is a highly disaggregated form of linear programming. It contains a pricing mechanism that tends to make the optimal solution conform to a competitive solution for the area. The methodology used in the study permits an internal check as to whether the proposed development area is a satisfactory size for analysis and planning.

Stevens, Robert D. ELASTICITY OF FOOD CONSUMPTION ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGES IN INCOME IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Foreign Agr. Econ. Rpt. 23, 85 pp., March 1965.

Six measures of food used, covering the various levels of consumption and flow of food from the farm to the consumer, were chosen for analysis. An Engel Curve for food was derived from consumption data for many countries. The analysis provides evidence that the income elasticity of total food consumption per capita must range between 0.9 and 0.4 over the long term.

Waldorf, William H., and Hazen F. Gale. OUTPUT PER MAN-HOUR IN DISTRIBUTING FOODS OF FARM ORIGIN. U.S. Dept. Agr., Tech. Bul. 1335, 24 pp., April 1965.

Output per man-hour employed in distributing foods of domestic farm origin increased at an average rate of 2.5 percent per year from 1929 to 1958. The most important factor in the rise in labor productivity was the shift from clerk to self-service stores. Productivity estimates in the report were developed as part of an investigation by USDA of factors affecting the demand, the supply, and the productivity of farm food marketing services.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. FARM-RETAIL SPREADS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS 1947-64. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-226, 45 pp., April 1965.

Presents revised farm-food market basket statistics, with changes in the products in the market basket, in weights assigned to individual products, in retail prices, and in methods and data used in calculating

farm values. The weights used were calculated from a consumer expenditures survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1960-61.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. FOOD BALANCES FOR 30 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND WEST ASIA, 1959-61. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 119, 33 pp., March 1965.

Agriculture in the area studied is mainly of the subsistence type, although oil palm products, cocoa, long-staple cotton, dates, and other products are exported. Food consumption per person, in terms of calories, is generally low. Average per capita income is about \$100 for Africa and about \$200 for West Asia.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, LEEWARD ISLANDS, WINDWARD ISLANDS, BARBADOS, AND BRITISH GUIANA, PROJECTED LEVELS OF DEMAND, SUPPLY, AND IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO 1975. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 94, 221 pp.

The study was made under contract between USDA and the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University College of the West Indies, Jamaica. The area studied represents a small but important and rapidly growing market for U.S. agricultural exports. Such exports totaled \$20.7 million in 1958 and reached \$30.5 million in 1962. U.S. agricultural exports to the area in 1962 represented 7 percent of the total for Latin America.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION NEEDS: A NATIONAL INVENTORY. Conservation Needs Inventory Committee, U.S. Dept. Agr., Misc. Pub. 971, 94 pp., 1965.

Soil erosion is still the dominant conservation problem on the non-Federal rural land of the United States. Nearly two-thirds of the land covered by the inventory still needs conservation treatment of some kind. The publication is a narrative interpretation of the statistical summary of the inventory released by the Department in 1962. In it, experts of the eight agencies that make up the Conservation Needs Inventory Committee of the Department evaluate the findings of the study based on field work conducted in 3,000 counties from 1957 to 1959.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. SOVIET FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE 1962-63. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 120, 22 pp., March 1965.

Soviet agricultural trade in 1962 and 1963 was marked by declining imports of sugar from Cuba and a sharp cutback in grain exports. The Soviet Union sends about 75 percent of its farm exports to Communist countries. Less than half of Soviet agricultural imports came from Communist countries in 1962 and 1963.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. THE 1965 AFRICA AND WEST ASIA AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 117, 91 pp., March 1965.

Farm output in West Asia for 1965 was about 1½ percent below the relatively high level of 1963. Output of all principal crops and most livestock products remained above the drought-depressed levels of 1959-61. Total agricultural output in northern Africa for 1964/65 showed a modest increase over that of 1963/64; agricultural production in Africa south of the Sahara for 1964/65 is expected to be about 4 percent over 1963/64.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. THE 1965 EASTERN EUROPE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 115, 54 pp., March 1965.

The report describes the production and Government procurements of farm products in Eastern Europe in 1964-65 compared with earlier seasons. With

considerably better weather in many important regions, agriculture in the Soviet Union recovered from the unusually low output of 1963-64. Throughout Eastern Europe, agricultural production increased slightly. Czechoslovakia was the exception. Agricultural output there continued to decline for the third consecutive year.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. THE 1965 FAR EAST, COMMUNIST CHINA, OCEANIA AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 116, 68 pp., February 1965.

Total agricultural production in the Far East made limited gains in 1964. Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, and South Vietnam made a good gain over 1964 but the Philippines showed no change. Reduced yields and possible harvest losses due to bad weather may have spoiled an otherwise successful agricultural year for Mainland China. In Australia, total farm output in 1964/65 is expected to increase 1.7 percent over 1963/64.

Statistical Compilations

Crop Reporting Board, Statis. Rptg. Serv. MEAT ANIMALS: FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME, BY STATES, 1963-1964. U.S. Dept. Agr., MtAn 1-1(65), 15 pp., April 1965.

Crop Reporting Board, Statis. Rptg. Serv. FIELD AND SEED CROPS, USUAL PLANTING AND HARVESTING DATES, BY STATES IN PRINCIPAL PRODUCING AREAS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Handb. 283, 84 pp., March 1965.

Crop Reporting Board, Statis. Rptg. Serv. PLANTS MANUFACTURING DAIRY PRODUCTS, BY PRODUCTION-SIZE GROUPS AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, 1963. U.S. Dept. Agr., SRS-5, 20 pp., March 1965.

Crop Reporting Board, Statis. Rptg. Serv. MILK PRODUCTION AND DAIRY PRODUCTS: ANNUAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1964. U.S. Dept. Agr., Da 3(65), 32 pp., February 1965.

Crop Reporting Board, Statis. Rptg. Serv. FIELD AND SEED CROPS: PRODUCTION, FARM USE, SALES, VALUE, BY STATES, 1963-1964. U.S. Dept. Agr., CrPr 1(65), 39 pp., May 1965.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. FARM-RETAIL SPREADS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS 1947-64: ASSEMBLY, TRANSPORTATION, WHOLESALING, RETAILING. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-226, 45 pp., March 1965.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. FOOD BALANCES FOR 24 COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, 1959-61. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-86, 29 pp., August 1964.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. FOOD BALANCES FOR 16 COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE, 1959-61. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 87, 17 pp., August 1964.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. FOOD BALANCES FOR 12 COUNTRIES IN THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA, 1959-61. Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign 88, 14 pp., August 1964.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. SUPPLEMENT FOR 1964 TO GRAIN AND FEED STATISTICS. Statis. Bul. 159 Suppl., 65 pp., March 1965.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. THE GRAIN-LIVESTOCK ECONOMY OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY: A COMPENDIUM OF BASIC STATISTICS. Statis. Bul. 351, 88 pp., November 1964.

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Economic Research Service
Washington, D.C. 20250

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**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
RESEARCH**

Is published quarterly by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (July 31, 1964).

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. 25 cents a single copy, \$1 a year domestic, \$1.25 foreign.