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REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles in the field of agricultural economics, suitable for publication in the journal, will be welcomed.

Articles should have a maximum length of 10 folio pages (including tables, graphs, etc.), typed in double spacing. Contributions, in the language preferred by the writer, should be submitted in triplicate to the Editor, c/o Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Pretoria, and should reach him at least one month prior to date of publication.

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Economic Tendencies in the South African Agriculture

The movements of prices in the agricultural sector are shown in the accompanying graphs. These may be briefly summarised as follows:

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

For the year ending June 1968 producers' prices of agricultural products were in total about 1 per cent lower than during the previous year. This decline follows increases of 3 per cent and 4 per cent respectively during 1965/66 and 1966/67. For field crops the 1967/68 prices show a decline of about 4 per cent. Prices of summer cereals which are an important factor in the price index for field crops, declined by about 5 per cent. Prices of several other field crops like sugar- cane, hay and dry beans were also lower than during 1966/67.

Prices of horticultural products were 8 per cent lower than during the previous year when prices increased by about 6 per cent. Prices of citrus and deciduous fruits on export markets declined during 1967/68 in comparison with the previous year while greater quantities of fruit and vegetables on the domestic markets also resulted in lower prices.

For livestock products prices were, however, during 1967/68 3.6 per cent higher than during the previous year. This increase is almost entirely due to a rise of about 8 per cent in producers' prices of slaughter-stock. Prices of pastoral, dairy and poultry products registered slight declines.

BUTTER-FAT, CHEESMILK, CONDENSING MILK AND EGGS

The index of producers' prices of dairy products showed a decline of 1.4 per cent during 1967/68. Prices of fresh milk remained unchanged, while those of both butter-fat and cheesemilk declined by 3.3 per cent. Condensing milk was 3.7 per cent cheaper. Producers' prices of eggs declined further mainly as a result of the surplus. The price level was the lowest since 1950/51.

MAIZE AND WHEAT

Producers' prices of maize for the year ending June 1968 showed a decline of 5 per cent. For the 1968/69 marketing season the net producers' prices for the best grades of white and yellow maize amounted to R3.30 a bag. The wheat price for 1967/68 was about 4 per cent higher than during the previous year. The net producers'

price for wheat of the 1968/69 marketing year is however slightly lower.

CATTLE, SHEEP AND PIGS

During the 1967/68 season producers' prices of slaughter-stock increased by 7.9 per cent. The biggest increase occurred in respect of slaughter-cattle - 12.4 per cent. Prices of slaughter-pigs increased by 10.2 per cent while prices of slaughter-sheep declined by 3.1 per cent.

For the past five years the price indexes for slaughter-stock were as follows:

Producers' price indexes 1947/48 - 1949/50 = 100				
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1963/64	210.6	230.4	174.7	214.1
1964/65	270.1	231.5	178.9	250.5
1965/66	282.8	220.3	157.9	252.8
1966/67	306.1	244.6	164.4	275.1
1967/68	344.0	237.0	181.1	296.7

FARMING REQUISITES

Prices of all farming requisites showed during 1967/68 an increase of about 1.2 per cent. Prices of machinery, tools and implements increased by 2.5 per cent, while materials for fixed improvements showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. On account of a decline in the prices of animal feeds and packing materials, the prices of short-term requisites were about 1 per cent lower than in 1966/67.

CONSUMERS' AND WHOLESALE PRICES

Consumers' prices for all items increased by 1.7 per cent during 1968 in comparison with 3.3 per cent during the previous year. Food prices rose by 1.6 per cent and here sugar and sugar products showed an increase of 4.4 per cent. Consumers paid 3.7 per cent more for meat and 3.3 per cent more for fruit. Vegetables, milk products and eggs were however cheaper.

Wholesale prices of commodities increased by 1.2 per cent during 1968. Prices of South African goods were 1.4 per cent higher and those of imported goods 1.1 per cent.

EKONOMIESE TENDENSE IN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE LANDBOU/
ECONOMIC TENDENCIES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURE
1947/48 - 1949/50 = 100

