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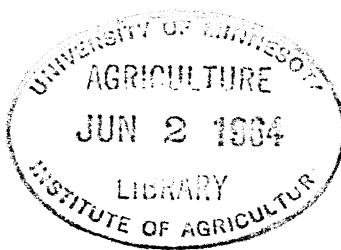
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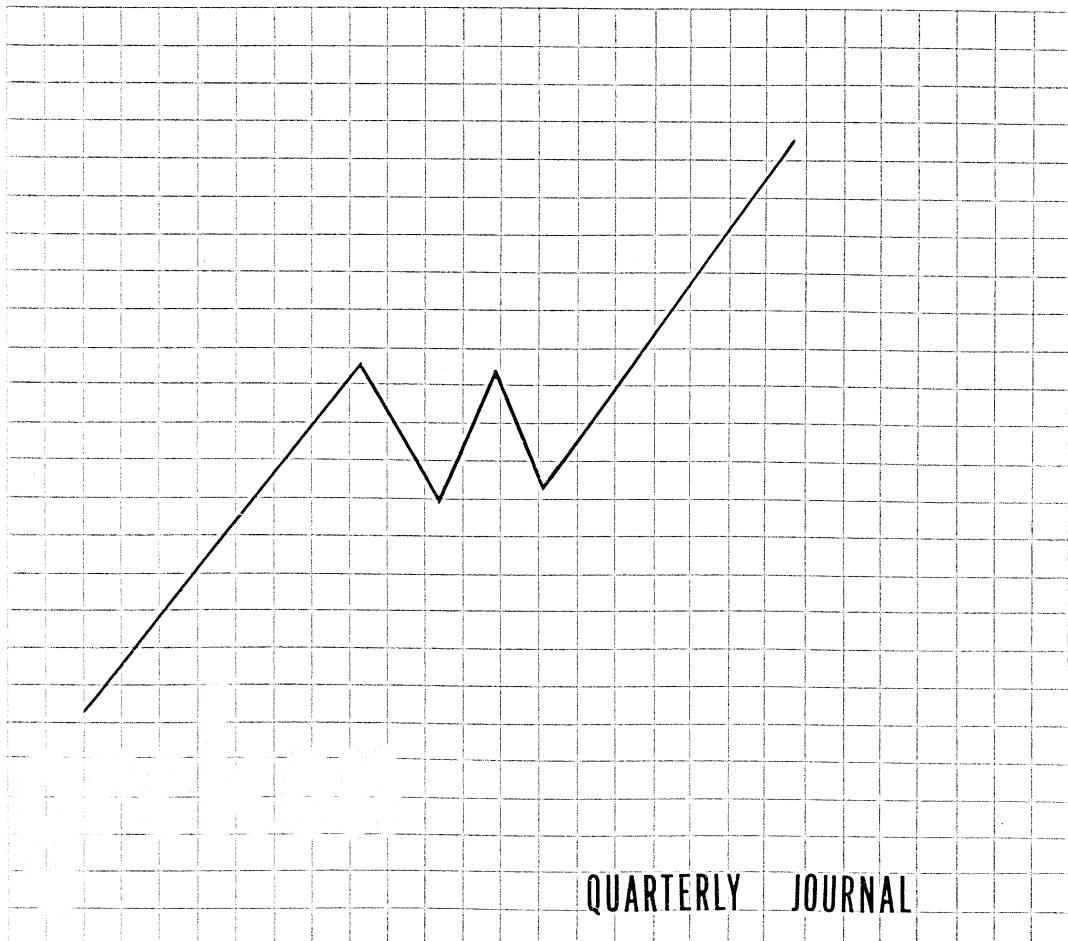
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Editorial committee: Dr. C. van der Merwe (chairman),
A.J. du Plessis (vice-chairman), Dr. F.R. Tomlinson, Dr. A.P. Scholtz
Editors: O.E. Burger and H.J. van Rensburg
Technical editing: Q. Momberg

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Deserving articles in the field of agricultural economics, for publication in this journal, will be welcomed.

These articles should have a maximum length of 10 folio pages (including tables, graphs, etc.), typed in double spacing. All contributions should be submitted in triplicate (preferably in both languages) to the editors, c.o. Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Pretoria, and should be received by the editors at least one month prior to publication date.

The journal is being distributed by and is obtainable from the distributors: "Agrekon", Private Bag 144, Pretoria.

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Dates of issue, on a quarterly basis, are the following: January, April, July and October.

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General, Comments and Announcements

Higher Production and trade in Grains Expected in 1963/64

The Group on Grains of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in its review of the current situation and outlook, estimates that the production and trade in grains (wheat and coarse grains) in 1963/64 will be a little higher than in 1962/63. World carryover stocks of grains might drop somewhat for the third year in succession.

In its assessment of the main problems of the world grain economy, the Group, of which South Africa is a member, said that "the basic factors responsible for the continuing imbalance in world grain markets in recent years, i.e. a large degree of government intervention and conflicting objectives of national grain policies, accompanied by steady technical progress in agriculture, have in the main continued in operation". The resulting effect of these basic factors had been obscured particularly by climatic conditions and to some extent also by the emergence of Mainland China as a major importing country.

Regarding production, the Group in its report said that "present prospects for world grain production in 1963/64 indicate a moderate decline in the production of wheat and some increase in coarse grains, with the prospect for total production of all grains to be slightly larger than in 1962/63".

The report said that most of the prospective decline in wheat production was expected to occur in Western Europe; the wheat crop in the United States was likely to show little change, but in most other regions prospects were for larger wheat crops. World production of maize is expected to increase.

Note: Wool Commission

The 1962/63 season had in many ways been a difficult one. Drought conditions plagued many districts and the resultant decrease in the clip was larger than expected. But on the credit side there was an improvement in quality, and prices can be considered as most satisfactory.

The outlook for the 1963/64 season is brightened by two factors:

- (a) Prices are at their highest point for many years; and
- (b) stocks of wool are lower than for some years past.

Beware of Complacency in Farming

The time is gone forever that the farmer can rely on his own experience only and contend that he does not require advice and guidance from other quarters. The person, whose knowledge is restricted to his own experience, normally disposes of relatively inferior knowledge - subject moreover to all kinds of false notions.

The human being can develop fully, spiritually and intellectually, only where and when he has access to ideas, etc. beyond himself; in other words, where he is placed in a position to benefit also from the experience of others. This inexhaustible fountain of knowledge is made available to him, in the first instance, through the written word. The good habit of reading should therefore be cultivated with devotion.

Any person who contends that he "has no time" to read (and comprehend!) those things put at his disposal for self-improvement, acknowledges therewith that he "has also no time" to perform his life-work properly; half-heartedness is good enough for him. This is very serious deceit, affecting himself. All that is required is some measure of organisation of the time which everyone has at his disposal. It will surprise the average person to find out how much time he will then have available for purposes of acquiring knowledge and self-improvement.

The circumstances under which the farmer, especially, must find his way at present are so complicated and strange that only a fool will rely on his own knowledge and experience. Developments nowadays, in both technological in economic fields, occur at such speed that the man who isolates himself (with his own ideas on his own farm) falls hopelessly behind and lands on a false track.

Only the man who "organises his time", and finds or makes time to absorb the advice made available by his Department, will in future be able to keep his head above water.

- Submitted by O.E. Burger,
Division of Agricultural Economic Research.