



The Clarkston News

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CLARKSTON, MICH., DEC. 26, 1930

FARM CROP PRICES DROPPED 18 PER CT.

Report Gives Two Causes That Contributed to the Result

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 22.—The total value of seventeen leading Michigan crops based on the December 1 and average seasonal farm prices is only 82 per cent of the corresponding values for last year. This decline in value was caused partly by the widespread decline in the general commodity price level since last year, and partly by a thirteen per cent reduction in the volume of crops harvested in the State this year as compared with 1929. The crops for which estimates have been made represent about 84 per cent of the total value of all crops grown in the State, according to the Michigan Co-operative Crop Reporting Service. On this basis the estimated value of all crops for 1930 is \$184,499,000 as compared with \$229,960,000 in 1929.

The early part of the 1930 season was very favorable and the planted acreage of all crops was nearly two per cent larger than for last year. The drought which extended over more than one-half of the United States this year prevailed in Michigan from the latter part of July until late September. Coming at this time, it reduced the yields of most late crops, thereby causing abandonment of acreages too poor to pay harvesting costs. As a result the total harvested acreage of all crops is practically the same as one year ago. Losses of acreage through abandonment as a per cent of the planted area were: buckwheat, 40 per cent; potatoes, 2 per cent; beans, 7 per cent; and tame hay, 1.6 per cent.

Winter wheat and oats were the only crops on which yields above the ten-year average were secured. While barley, rye and sugar beets made better returns than the poor yields of last year, the drought cut other late crops so severely that the composite yield of all crops for the State was only 84 per cent of the ten-year average. Potatoes and beans suffered especially, since the dry weather occurred at a critical period in the plant growth of these crops. The quality of the early grain crops was above average, while that of the late field crops and fruits, excepting grapes, was below average.

The estimates released at this time are for gross production, no deductions having been made for inferior or unmerchantable quality. Their chief use is in making comparisons with similar figures for other years and with those for other states. In the case of the potato crop this year in Michigan, the amount available for sale will be even smaller than a comparison of the total production figures this year and last would indicate. Field frost damage during October was serious in the central part of the State and in many localities a large percentage of the harvested crop has already been sorted out. Figures on this shrinkage will be given in the January 1 Potato Stocks and Utilization Report to be made next month.

Buying a good herd bull is an important step in growing better beef calves. In common or native herds, calves sired by purebred bulls weigh on an average 60 pounds a head more when sold as fat yearlings than calves of the same age sired by scrub bulls, and they will sell for 1 to 2 cents a pound more, according to experiments. The cost of feed for putting 100 pounds gain on the scrub calves was slightly more than the cost for the grade calves.

BOILER FLUES USED TO BUILD BULL PEN

Safety of Owners Assured if Safety Inclosure Plans Are Followed

East Lansing, Dec. 23.—A new use for discarded boiler flues has been found by the agricultural engineering department at Michigan State College who advise the use of such material for the construction of safety bull pens.

The two departments supervised the building of 52 pens in the State this year with the intention of showing how such an inclosure could be built at little cost and at the same time insure the owner of the bull against accidental death or injury from attacks by the animal.

The pens may be built of various sorts of material but it is recommended that the fencing be at least six feet high and that the pen be approximately 30 by 50 feet in size. An oblong pen is built to give the bull the greatest possible space for exercise with the least amount of fencing.

The use of such pens permits the owners of good herd sires to retain the animals when they would be dangerous if it was necessary to enter an inclosure with the bull. The safety pen makes it unnecessary to ever be on the same side of the fence as the bull.

Blue prints which give specifications for the pen may be obtained by writing to either of the College departments at East Lansing.

PRISMATIC GLASS FOR BETTER LIGHT

Summary of Reserches Made by Authorities at Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, Dec. 23.—A window without glass is a poorer light source than one containing glass, despite the fact that somewhat less light enters in the latter case, states Professor H. H. Higbie of the University of Michigan Engineering Research Department, whose studies show that distribution as well as total quantity of light is an important factor in proper illumination, and who has shown that prismatic glass used in windows may greatly improve the day lighting in modern buildings on modern skyscraper lined streets.

"Light rays entering a room through a glassless window opening would produce no illumination except on the exact spot upon which they fell if this point was totally light absorbent", states Professor Higbie. "As a matter of fact, the floors, walls and furniture do not absorb all the incoming light but reflect a considerable portion to other parts of the room. Thus a glassless room is lighted largely by direct rays or reflections of these. This may be satisfactory in some cases but it likely will make the areas close to the window space too bright and leave those in the rear with insufficient illumination."

To obtain the best all over even illumination the light should be redirected as it enters, the experiments showed. This happens to some extent with ordinary glass, but may be greatly aided by prismatic glasses. This latter type is not perfectly smooth, but contains a large number of small prisms or irregularities which do not allow light rays to come straight thru but bend a portion of them so that they reach directly the rear parts of the room or the ceiling. In this way there is less glare at the front of the room and better illumination at the back. Thus, although the glass does not allow quite so much light to enter as an unglazed opening would, that which does enter is utilized to much better advantage.

Use of such glass may be expected to aid in better daylighting of the lower stories of buildings on our modern skyscraper lined streets, because, although direct rays do not reach such windows, the diffusing glass can make efficient use of that which is available, says Professor Higbie. On a smaller scale prismatic glass might be of use in dwellings, and the principle of diffusion applies to artificial illumination as well.

More than 4000 airplanes from other countries were inspected by the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture during the fiscal year 1930.

GOOD METHODS MAKE GOOD ALFALFA CROP

Tuscola County Farmer Takes Prize at Chicago with Sample of Hardigan

East Lansing, Dec. 23.—The use of the latest methods in seeding and growing alfalfa proved profitable for Dorr Perry, a Tuscola county farmer, who harvested 262 bushels of Hardigan alfalfa seed from 34 acres this year and then won first place in the Eastern States class for alfalfa seed at the Chicago Hay and Grain Show.

The seed was harvested from three fields, in one of which the stand is five years old. Mr. Perry uses Hardigan, a winter-hardy variety originated at Michigan State College, and he applies lime and fertilizer in preparation for seeding the alfalfa with oats.

Michigan harvested an exceptionally good crop of alfalfa seed this year and samples submitted for certification show that the quality is excellent. The use of home grown seed is recommended by the farm crops department at Michigan State College and Michigan farmers will be able to follow these recommendations this year.

The sample of seed which won the Chicago prize for Mr. Perry will be given a place of honor at the grain show to be held at Michigan State College during Farmers Week, Feb. 2 to 6.

MANY MORE FOLKS SEEK HOMESTEADS

Economic Depression Leads to Increase in Applications

Lansing, Dec. 24.—The State Lands Division of the Conservation Department reports that homestead applications have increased three to four times that of normal during the present so-called economic depression.

The present demand is not from the centers of population alone, but is spread generally over the State. Most of the applications are for homesteads previously abandoned, which generally contain some cleared land and buildings of some sort.

It is not the policy of the Conservation Commission to grant homestead entry unless this body has been reasonably assured that the applicant has a fair chance of proving his homestead. This involves an examination of the lands applied for, to determine their suitability for homestead, and also some consideration of the qualifications of the prospective homesteader.

Michigan law permits homesteading a minimum of forty acres and a maximum of one hundred sixty. The applicant must furnish proof of settlement within three months after his application has been approved and he has paid the stipulated ten cents per acre. To obtain title to the land the applicant must reside on the homestead for five years.

According to the U. S. Weather Bureau there is less likelihood of heavy floods of the big rivers this winter than for a number of years past.

Chestnut trees killed by blight can be utilized for poles, posts, cordwood, lumber and extract wood, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The fungus that causes the blight disease does not lessen the strength of the wood. The department is searching for native or foreign chestnuts resistant to blight, in the hope of finding a variety to replace the rapidly disappearing stands of chestnuts.

Florida produces about 87 percent of the grapefruit grown in the U. S.

The farmer who buys his alfalfa or red-clover seed can tell whether it is domestic or imported, since the Federal seed act requires the coloring of all imported seed. Ten per cent red coloring (orange red for Argentine alfalfa seed) indicates general unadaptability to conditions in the United States. All other alfalfa and red-clover seed is colored 1 per cent green with the exception of Canadian seed which is colored 1 per cent violet.

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AIDING FARMERS BY COOPERATIVES

Federal Farm Board in Bulletin Shows What Is Being Done

What farmers are doing with government assistance to set up cooperative machinery, owned and controlled by themselves, to market in their interest the crops they produce, is described in a bulletin just issued by the Federal Farm Board.

This new publication, Bulletin No. 3, entitled "Farmers Build Their Marketing Machinery", explains the national program of commodity cooperative marketing being developed under the Agricultural Marketing Act; gives detailed information of the progress made to December 1, 1930, and tells how the individual farmer may participate in the program and what benefits will come to him from such participation. Maps and charts are used to show how the various commodity cooperatives operate and the territory they serve.

The bulletin emphasizes that the marketing activities of cooperative associations handling a particular commodity are being centralized in a single cooperative sales agency. The territory covered by the central agency depends upon the commodity to be marketed, and may be local, regional or national in scope. All are built from the local association up and not from the top, or central agency, down. The services of all cooperatives receiving financial assistance from the Board are open to all farmers on an equitable basis. Once a central cooperative sales agency is recognized, the Board has established the policy of extending aid through the central rather than dealing with the individual associations handling that particular commodity.

The bulletin is being widely circulated through educational agencies such as the U. S. Department of Agriculture, agricultural colleges, experiment stations, extension workers, vocational agricultural schools, cooperatives, general farm organizations and state departments of agriculture. Copies may be obtained free by writing to the Director of Information, Federal Farm Board, Washington, D. C.

Hunting migratory game birds from an automobile or an airplane is forbidden by Federal law.

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The Clarkston News

TROPICAL WOODS TESTED AT U. OF M.

Brought to Ann Arbor from the Valley of the Amazon

Ann Arbor, Dec. 23.—Eleven tons of South American hardwoods of variegated natural colors, ranging from bright lemon yellow through red, light and chocolate brown, lavender and purple, have been received by the Wood Utilization Laboratory of the School of Forestry and Conservation in the University of Michigan, where they will be tested for various qualities needed in industrial hardwoods to determine their fitness to supplement the supply of native woods.

The logs in the South American shipment were obtained from the Amazon valley. Some of the mahogany coming from the headwaters region in Peru, and is thought to be the same species used centuries ago by the ancient Incas. In addition to the varied colors and the aromatic nature of some pieces, the wood is remarkable for its weight, the eleven ton total being made up of only one hundred logs.

The value and use of these woods to industry have never been studied, states Professor William Kynock of the School of Forestry and Conservation, who is supervising their examination. They are not expected to take the place of native hardwoods, he points out, but may prove useful supplements while the native supply is being redeveloped in forest stands. Perhaps their natural color will give them a special decorative value in furniture in the modern style.

Twenty-six species of tropical woods from West Africa, the Philippines and South America are being studied at present in the Michigan Wood Utilization Laboratory. Cooperating with the University in obtaining the Amazon valley woods were the Tropical Plant Research Foundation, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and an importer.

BETTER MILK COWS ARE NEEDED, SAYS U. S. DEPT.

The present low average of the Nation's dairy cows is a serious handicap to consumers as well as to producers of dairy products, says the Bureau of Dairy Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. Because of the low production per cow, many dairy farmers are working for a very low wage and are actually feeding their cows at a loss. With fewer cows and a higher average production per cow the net profits of the

average dairy farm could be greatly increased. It is estimated that the average yearly production per cow of the 22,500,000 milk cows in the United States is 4,600 pounds of milk containing 180 pounds of butterfat.

Prevention of tuberculosis in swine lies chiefly in pasteurizing milk fed to hogs (especially that from creameries), in allowing hogs to feed only behind adult cattle that have passed the tuberculin test, and in thoroughly cooking all offal and carcasses before they are fed to hogs. Disposal of tuberculous poultry flocks is also an important preventive measure. Tu-

berculous cattle and fowls are considered the principal sources of tuberculosis in hogs. When tuberculosis already exists in a drove of hogs, all affected animals on the farm should be removed. Send all hogs to market for slaughter at an abattoir under Federal inspection. Apply the tuberculin test to cattle and dispose of the reactors. Clean and disinfect pens and stables before restocking.

You can prepare good paint for metal surfaces by mixing red lead—or sublimated blue lead ground in oil—with linseed oil and drier, say chemists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Follow directions on the containers in which the pigments are sold. Mix paint from dry red lead in

the following proportions just before it is used: Red lead, dry, 50 pounds; raw linseed oil, 1 1/4 gallons; oil drier, 1 pint. This makes 2 1/2 gallons of paint. To make a cheaper paint, mix red or brown metallic pigment, linseed oil and drier. Finishing coats for oil tanks and other structures that need protection from the sun should be white or light colored. Mix them like outside house paints. Prepare aluminum paint by mixing aluminum bronzing powder, preferably polished, with good outside spar varnish in the proportion of 2 pounds to a gallon. Add the varnish to the dry pigment a little at a time, stirring well.

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