

YEARBOOK, 1918

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OF THE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

1918



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[AN ACT Providing for the public printing and binding and the distribution of public documents.]

* * * * *

Section 73, paragraph 2:

The Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture shall hereafter be submitted and printed in two parts, as follows: Part One, which shall contain purely business and executive matter which it is necessary for the Secretary to submit to the President and Congress; Part Two, which shall contain such reports from the different Bureaus and Divisions, and such papers prepared by their special agents, accompanied by suitable illustrations, as shall, in the opinion of the Secretary, be specially suited to interest and instruct the farmers of the country, and to include a general report of the operations of the Department for their information. There shall be printed of Part One, one thousand copies for the Senate, two thousand copies for the House, and three thousand copies for the Department of Agriculture; and of Part Two, one hundred and ten thousand copies for the use of the Senate, three hundred and sixty thousand copies for the use of the House of Representatives, and thirty thousand copies for the use of the Department of Agriculture, the illustrations for the same to be executed under the supervision of the Public Printer, in accordance with directions of the Joint Committee on Printing, said illustrations to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture; and the title of each of the said parts shall be such as to show that such part is complete in itself.

ORGANIZATION OF U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

CORRECTED TO JULY 1, 1919.

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YEARBOOK OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 15, 1918.*

SIR: The part the millions of men, women, boys, and girls on the farms and the organized agricultural agencies assisting them, including the Federal Department of Agriculture, the State colleges and departments of agriculture, and farmers' organizations, played during the war in sustaining this Nation and those with which we are associated is striking but altogether too little known and appreciated. On them rested the responsibility for maintaining and increasing food production and for assisting in securing fuller conservation of food and feed stuffs. The satisfactory execution of their task was of supreme importance and difficulty.

The proper utilization of available foods is one thing; the increase of production along economic lines is quite a different thing. It is prerequisite and fundamental. It is one thing to ask a man to save; it is another to ask him, confronted as he is by the chances of the market and the risk of loss from disease, flood, and drouth, to put his labor and capital into the production of food, feeds, and the raw material for clothing.

The work of the agricultural agencies is not much in the public eye. There is little of the dramatic about it. The millions of people in the rural districts are directly affected by it and are in more or less intimate touch with it, but to the great urban population it is comparatively unknown. Usually people in cities devote very little thought to the rural districts; and many of them fortunately, in normal times, have to concern themselves little about the food sup-

ply and its sources. The daily press occupies itself largely with the news of the hour, and the magazines have their attention centered chiefly on other activities. Consequently, the people in large centers have slight opportunity to acquaint themselves with rural problems and agencies. Although the Nation has, in its Federal Department and the State colleges and departments, agricultural agencies for the improvement of farming which, in point of personnel, financial support, and effectiveness, excel those of any other three nations combined, very many urban people were unaware of the existence of such institutions, and not a few representations were made to the effect that an administration ought to be created to secure an increase of production. These people have seen the windows of cities placarded and papers filled with pleas for conservation, for investment in bonds, and for subscriptions to the Red Cross. They have wondered why they have not seen similar evidence of activity in the field of agriculture. They did not know of the thousands of men and women quietly working in every rural community of the Nation and of the millions of bulletins and circulars dealing with the problems from many angles. They overlooked the fact that the field of these workers lies outside of the city and did not recognize that both the problem and the methods were different.

Within the last year there has been a change. The attention of the world has been directed to its food supply, and agriculture has assumed a place of even greater importance in the world's thought. More space has been devoted to it by the daily press and weekly journals and magazines. This is gratifying. The towns and cities, all of them directly dependent upon agriculture for their existence and most of them for their growth and prosperity, must of necessity take an intelligent, constructive interest in rural problems and in the betterment of rural life. This they can do effectively only as they inform themselves and lend their support to

the carefully conceived plans of Federal and State organizations responsible for leadership and of the more thoughtful and successful farmers. For some time it has been part of the plans of this Department to enlist the more complete cooperation of bankers and other business men and of their associations in the effort to make agriculture more profitable and rural communities more healthful and attractive. Recent events have lent emphasis to the appeals and very marked responses have been made in every part of the Union.

THE AGRICULTURAL EFFORT.

The efforts put forth by the farmers and the agricultural organizations to secure increased production can perhaps best be concretely indicated in terms of planting operations. The size of the harvest may not be the measure of the labors of the farmers. Adverse weather conditions and unusual ravages of insects or plant diseases may partly overcome and neutralize the most exceptional exertions.

ACREAGE.

The first year of our participation in the war, 1917, witnessed the Nation's record for acreage planted—283,000,000 of the leading cereals, potatoes, tobacco, and cotton, as against 261,000,000 for the preceding year, 251,000,000 for the year prior to the outbreak of the European war, and 248,000,000 for the five-year average, 1910–1914. This is a gain of 22,000,000 over the year preceding our entry into the war and of 35,000,000 over the five-year average indicated. Even this record was exceeded the second year of the war. There was planted in 1918 for the same crops 289,000,000 acres, an increase over the preceding record year of 5,600,000. It is especially noteworthy that, while the acreage planted in wheat in 1917 was slightly less than that for the record year of 1915, it exceeded the five-year average (1910–1914) by

7,000,000; that the acreage planted in 1918 exceeded the previous record by 3,500,000; and that the indications are that the acreage planted during the current fall season will considerably exceed that of any preceding fall planting.

YIELDS.

In each of the last two years climatic conditions over considerable sections of the Union were adverse—in 1917 especially for wheat and in 1918 for corn. Notwithstanding this fact, the aggregate yield of the leading cereals in each of these years exceeded that of any preceding year in the Nation's history except 1915. The estimated total for 1917 was 5,796,000,000 bushels and for 1918, 5,638,000,000 bushels, a decrease of approximately 160,000,000 bushels. But the conclusion would be unwarranted that the available supplies for human food or the aggregate nutritive value will be less in 1918 than in 1917. Fortunately, the wheat production for the current year—918,920,000 bushels—is greatly in excess of that for each of the preceding two years, 650,828,000 in 1917 and 636,318,000 in 1916, and is next to the record wheat crop of the Nation. The estimated corn crop, 2,749,000,000 bushels, exceeds the five-year prewar average by 17,000,000 bushels, is 3.4 per cent above the average in quality, and greatly superior to that of 1917. It has been estimated that of the large crop of last year, approximately 900,000,000 bushels were soft. This, of course, was valuable as feed for animals, but less so than corn of normal quality. It should be remembered, in thinking in terms of food nutritional value, that, on the average, only about 12 per cent of the corn crop is annually consumed by human beings and that not more than 26 per cent ever leaves the farm. It should be borne in mind also that the stocks of corn on the farms November 1, 1918, were 118,400,000 bushels, as against less than 35,000,000 bushels last year, and 93,340,000 bushels, the

average for the preceding five years. It is noteworthy that the quality of each of the four great cereals—barley, wheat, corn, and oats—ranges from 3 to 5.4 per cent above the average.

Equally striking are the results of efforts to secure an ampler supply of meat and dairy products. In spite of the large exportation of horses and mules, the number remaining on farms is estimated to be 26,400,000, compared with 25,400,000 for the year preceding the European war and 24,700,000, the annual average for 1910–1914. The other principal classes of live stock also show an increase in number—milch cows of 2,600,000, or from 20,700,000 in 1914 to 23,300,000 in 1918; other cattle of 7,600,000, or from 35,900,000 to 43,500,000; and swine of 12,500,000, or from 58,900,000 to 71,400,000. Within the last year, for the first time in many years, there was an increase in the number of sheep—1,300,000, or from 47,616,000 in 1917 to 48,900,000 in 1918.

In terms of product the results are equally striking. The number of pounds of beef for 1918 is given at 8,500,000,000 pounds, as against 6,079,000,000 for 1914; of pork, at 10,500,000,000, as against 8,769,000,000; and of mutton, at 495,000,000, as against 739,000,000, a total of all these products of 19,495,000,000 for the last year and 15,587,000,000 for the year preceding the European war.

An increase is estimated in the number of gallons of milk produced, of 922,000,000, or from 7,507,000,000 to 8,429,000,000, and in the pounds of wool of 9,729,000, or from 290,192,000 to 299,921,000. The figures for poultry production have not been accurately ascertained, but it is roughly estimated that in 1918 we raised 589,000,000 head, compared with 544,000,000 in 1914 and 522,000,000, the five-year average, 1910–1914, while the number of dozens of eggs increased by 147,000,000, or from 1,774,000,000 in 1914 to 1,921,000,000 in 1918, and, in the last year exceeded the five-year average by 226,000,000.

The following tables may facilitate the examination of these essential facts:

Acreage of crops in the United States.

[Figures refer to planted acreage.]

Crop.	1918, subject to revision.	1917, subject to revision.	1916	1914	Annual average, 1910-1914.
CEREALS.					
Corn.....	113,835,000	119,755,000	105,296,000	103,435,000	105,240,000
Wheat.....	64,659,000	59,045,000	56,810,000	54,661,000	52,452,000
Oats.....	44,475,000	43,572,000	41,527,000	38,442,000	38,014,000
Barley.....	9,108,000	8,835,000	7,757,000	7,565,000	7,593,000
Rye.....	6,119,000	4,480,000	3,474,000	2,733,000	2,562,000
Buckwheat.....	1,045,000	1,006,000	828,000	792,000	826,000
Rice.....	1,120,400	964,000	869,000	694,000	733,000
Kafirs.....	5,114,000	5,153,000	3,944,000	.....	.....
Total.....	245,475,400	242,810,000	220,505,000	1208,322,000	1207,420,000
VEGETABLES.					
Potatoes.....	4,113,000	4,390,000	3,565,000	3,711,000	3,686,000
Sweet potatoes.....	959,000	953,000	774,000	603,000	611,000
Total.....	5,072,000	5,343,000	4,339,000	4,314,000	4,297,000
Tobacco.....	1,452,900	1,447,000	1,413,000	1,224,000	1,209,000
Cotton.....	37,073,000	33,841,000	34,985,000	36,832,000	35,330,000
Grand total.....	289,073,300	283,441,000	261,242,000	1250,692,000	1248,256,000

¹ Excluding kafirs.

Production in the United States.

[Figures are in round thousands; i. e., 000 omitted.]

Crops.	1918 (unrevised estimate, November, 1918).	1917, subject to revision.	1916	1914	Annual average, 1910-1914.
CEREALS.					
Corn.....bush..	2,749,198	3,159,494	2,566,927	2,672,804	2,732,457
Wheat.....do....	918,920	650,828	636,318	891,017	728,225
Oats.....do....	1,535,297	1,587,286	1,251,837	1,141,060	1,157,961
Barley.....do....	236,505	208,975	182,309	194,953	186,208
Rye.....do....	76,687	60,145	48,862	42,779	37,568
Buckwheat.....do..	18,370	17,460	11,662	16,881	17,022
Rice.....do....	41,918	36,278	40,861	23,649	24,378
Kafirs.....do....	61,182	75,866	53,858	.....	.....
Total.....do....	5,638,077	5,796,332	4,792,634	4,983,143	4,883,819

Production in the United States—Continued.

Crops.	1918 (unrevised estimate, November, 1918).	1917, subject to revision.	1916	1914	Annual average, 1910-1914.
VEGETABLES.					
Potatoes.....bush..	390,101	442,536	286,953	409,921	360,772
Sweet potatoes.....do....	88,114	87,141	70,955	56,574	57,117
Beans (commercial).....do....	17,802	14,967	10,715	11,585	.....
Onions, fall commercial crop..do....	13,438	12,309	7,833	(¹)	.....
Cabbage (commercial).....tons..	565	475	252	(¹)	.....
FRUITS.					
Peaches.....bush..	40,185	45,066	37,505	54,109	43,752
Pears.....do....	10,342	13,281	11,874	12,086	11,184
Apples.....do....	197,360	174,608	204,582	253,200	197,898
Cranberries, 3 States.....bbls..	374	255	471	644	.....
MISCELLANEOUS.					
Flaxseed.....bush..	14,646	8,473	14,296	13,749	18,353
Sugar beets.....tons..	6,549	5,980	6,228	5,585	5,391
Tobacco.....lbs..	1,266,686	1,196,451	1,153,278	1,034,679	991,958
All hay.....tons..	86,254	94,930	110,992	88,686	81,640
Cotton.....bales..	11,818	11,302	11,450	16,135	14,259
Sorghum sirup.....galls..	29,757	34,175	13,668	.....	.....
Peanuts.....bush..	52,617	56,104	35,324	.....	.....
Broom corn, 5 States.....tons..	52	52	39	.....	.....
Clover seed.....bush..	1,248	1,439	1,706	.....	.....

¹ No estimate.

Number of live stock on farms on Jan. 1, 1910-1918.

[Figures are in round thousands; i. e., 000 omitted.]

Kind.	1918	1917	1916	1914	Annual average, 1910-1914.
Horses.....	21,563	21,210	21,159	20,962	20,430
Mules.....	4,824	4,723	4,593	4,449	4,346
Milch cows.....	23,284	22,894	22,108	20,737	20,676
Other cattle.....	43,546	41,689	39,812	35,855	38,000
Sheep.....	48,900	47,616	48,625	49,719	51,929
Swine.....	71,374	67,503	67,766	58,933	61,865

Estimated production of meat, milk, and wool.

[Figures are in round thousands; i. e., 300 omitted.]

Product.	1918	1917	1916	1914	1909
Beef ¹.....pounds..	8,500,000	7,384,007	6,670,938	6,078,908	8,138,000
Pork ¹.....do.....	10,500,000	8,450,148	10,587,765	8,768,532	8,199,000
Mutton and goat ¹.....do.....	495,000	491,205	633,969	739,401	615,000
Total.....do.....	19,495,000	16,325,360	17,892,672	15,586,841	16,952,000
Milk ².....gallons..	8,429,000	8,288,000	8,003,000	7,507,000	7,466,406
Wool (including pulled wool) pounds.....	299,921	281,892	288,490	290,192	289,420
Eggs produced ².....dozens..	1,921,000	1,884,000	1,848,000	1,774,000	² 1,591,000
Poultry raised ².....number..	589,000	578,000	567,000	544,000	² 488,000

¹ Estimated, for 1914-1917, by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Figures for meat production for 1918 are tentative estimates based upon 1917 production and a comparison of slaughter under Federal inspection for nine months of 1918 with the corresponding nine months in 1917.

² Rough estimate.

³ Annual averages for 1910-1914: Eggs, 1,695,000,000 dozen; poultry, 522,000,000.

VALUES.

On the basis of prices that have recently prevailed, the value of all crops produced in 1918 and of live stock on farms on January 1, including horses, mules, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry, is estimated to be \$24,700,000,000, compared with \$21,325,000,000 for 1917, \$15,800,000,000 for 1916, \$12,650,000,000 for 1914, and \$11,700,000,000 for the five-year average. Of course, this greatly increased financial showing does not mean that the Nation is better off to that extent or that its real wealth has advanced in that proportion. Considering merely the domestic relations, the true state is indicated rather in terms of real commodities, comparative statements of which are given in foregoing paragraphs. The increased values, however, do reveal that the monetary returns to the farmers have increased proportionately with those of other groups of producers in the Nation and that their purchasing power has kept pace in the rising scale of prices.