

## Business Side of Farming.

### THE MODERATE WHEAT CROP

In the winter wheat territory from Pa and N.J. westward to Okla and Tex the new crop is moving with considerable freedom. Farmers as a rule, however, are somewhat indifferent about accepting present prices and many of them will hold hoping for an advance. Flour mills are buying freely in Md., the Ohio valley, Tenn., southern Ill., etc., and there is considerable talk to the effect that the big mills in the northwest will be obliged to buy largely of Kan winter wheat. The export trade in winter wheat and flour is moderate but not urgent, and the market lacks particular animation with recent trade largely on the basis of about 75c p bu for the contract grade at Chicago, choice red winter bringing a premium over this figure.

Serious damage to the spring wheat crop of the northwest is everywhere admitted; the extent of this is a matter of disagreement. Following the severe drouth of early summer generous rainfalls have taken place, some claiming these brought at least partial recovery to spring wheat, others that they come entirely too late to be of any substantial benefit. Reports show that considerable areas here and there will not be harvested while other counties show a much better rate of yield than earlier hoped. According to the American Agriculturist Aug crop report the general average condition of spring wheat for the U.S. was 55.8 against 53.1 in July and 55.9 one year ago. A fair gain during the month is noted in S.D. and Minn., but returns indicate a scant third of a crop for N.D. where the drouth conditions were worst. Popular estimates of a total spring and winter wheat crop of '00 are 500 to 525 millions compared with 565 in '99 and 715 in the bumper year '98, and 590 millions in '97. The wheat crop of '96 was only 470 millions.

### DEMAND FOR MEAT ANIMALS.

All classes of live stock are selling well at such big markets as Buffalo, Pittsburg, Chicago and the Missouri river. Cattle are about as high as at any time in months, and hogs and sheep are active with all classes of buyers represented. Since pastures have shown an improvement there is a little more willingness on the part of farmers to buy stock cattle and sheep to place on grass, and they are buying at figures which seem comparatively high. In many cases it will require the best of management on the part of the feeders to put this stock in such shape as to show a profit when sent to the butcher's block next winter. The dressed meat concerns have bought cattle freely, owing to the good domestic consumptive demand and the strength ruling in the English markets. In fact the latter has greatly aided the export trade in live cattle, with liberal numbers clearing each week from New York and Boston.

Little new can be said on the hog trade, usual classes of buyers operating freely, swine selling at a narrow range of prices well above 5c in the big cities, country dealers endeavoring to load at 24.50-47.5. A good many western sheep are being marketed at Kansas City and Chicago, and possessing good quality sell readily. One day recently 1400 70-lb western lambs sold at Chicago at 5.80-5.85 p 100 lbs. The lambs going to market from Ind., Mich., Pa., etc., are only fair in flesh, selling at Buffalo at 6-6.25, choice lots a premium.

### INTEREST IN CEREAL CROPS.

Has recently drifted to some extent into corn. Threatened disaster in the southwest during early July, by reason of hot, dry weather was modified by later thorough breaking of the drouth, yet damage in many counties was serious and permanent. Outside of section named, however, the corn crop has made splendid growth up to early August, and providing no disaster overtakes it the crop will unquestionably prove a liberal one. Conditions have been almost perfect in some of the big corn states such as Ia, Mo., Ill., Ind., O., etc. The August crop report of American Agriculturist placed the general condition at 84.1 against 82.4 in July and 86.5 a year ago.

The falling off of 8 point was due to



A Ten Acre Florida Tobacco Field Under Cheese Cloth.

The covering consists of posts with securely set scantling. Across the scantling wires are stretched and over these cheese cloth is laid and fastened. The frame is 9 ft high. Sumatra tobacco is raised under a covering of this kind has sold for \$4 p lb.

The lowering of condition in Kan., Neb. and a few other states affecting the general average, while Ia and O each stood 99, showing practically perfect condition. It is too early to definitely estimate total yield, but the heavy acreage this year of 86,000,000 acres warrants the expectation of a crop of at least 2100 million bu. The realization of these generally good crop conditions has had its effect upon the corn market, which has shown a tendency to weakness, contract grade selling a shade under 70c p bu at Chicago.

The Summer Demand for Butter is normal and the market is healthy without particular animation. Early Aug found moderate quantities going into cold storage, but demand chiefly for consumptive purposes. Our export trade continues indifferent, having little or no appreciable effect upon values. Drouth conditions hurt the pasturage in portions of the northwest also eastern N.Y. and northern N.E., restricting the flow of milk and preventing the accumulation of butter. The output is nearly normal now, however, and dealers are enjoying a good trade. Markets without particular firmness.

The Off Season in Barley is nearly over, and with the coming of cooler weather millsters will show more interest. New crop is beginning to appear, the cheaper grades going for feed purposes with good malting barley quotable in Chicago at 40-45c p bu and at N.Y. 50c or better.

Low Prices for Oats—Recent transactions at Chicago around 20c p bu caused traders to ask if the market will work down as low as it did in '96 and '97 when No 2 mixed sold at 14-16c. The crop now being harvested is a liberal one, approximating 850,000,000 bu against 870 one year ago and 800 millions two years ago. In the Ohio valley and in Ia and Mo the crop is almost perfect, but in Kan and Neb earlier promise was followed by drouth damage in July.

Interest in Hops is looking up and growers are a little more encouraged over the price prospect. The belief is general that the crop will not prove a heavy one either in N.Y. or the Pacific coast, and buyers are showing

more interest without making any particular advance in bids. In Ore some sales have been made, to be delivered after the crop is harvested at 10c p lb, and the few transactions in the Mohawk valley have been made at 19-21c.

Flax Growers are very much in the dark over the future of prices, and much will depend upon the manner in which the new crop turns out. For weeks speculators in control held the market at \$1.80 p bu for No 1 at Chicago, owing to the paucity of offerings. But since new seed has appeared quotations have been lowered materially to 1.40-1.42 and Sept delivery 1.35. The acreage for the crop of '00 is large, but the harvest returns in the northwest where drouth was so severe in July are quite uncertain.

A Better Demand for Wool is reported in some of the big trade centers. Prices have shown no appreciable gain since the decline in the early part of the summer. The present hardening, however, may develop into possible advances a little later.

New Timothy Seed is appearing on the markets, the first lot received at Chicago coming from Ia and selling at \$3.60 p 100 lbs. A year ago the market for new seed opened at about \$2.50, thus indicating the present higher range of prices.

A Long Guess—Transactions are noted in year corn at 34c per bu. In other words speculators have contracted to deliver No 2 mixed corn in Chicago at any time between now and Dec 31 at the figure named.

Reduced Yield of Hay—Harvest is completed except for a second growth, and some of the alfalfa and wild hay returns indicating a yield probably much under that of two years ago and something less than last year. Preliminary estimates place the hay crop of the U.S. around 50,000,000 tons compared with nearly 60 in '99 and 65 in '97. Offerings of choice old timothy hay have been rather light, resulting in firmness, while the new crop has not begun to move in earnest. The harvest returns are more satisfactory in the Ohio valley, Ind., Ill., Ia, Kan and Neb than in

some of the older middle and eastern states, including Pa., N.Y. and N.E. Fairly well distributed rainfall throughout much of the northern half of the country during July served to help out the second crop and this may make it necessary to modify earlier estimates.

New Crop Pea Beans have been contracted at \$1.50 per bu for hand picked, Oct delivery, and 1.45 for Nov delivery for a b Mich shipping points. These prices are 50-60c below present market for old beans.

Manitoba Wheat Fields will have some surplus beyond local requirements in spite of weather vicissitudes. The minister of agriculture estimates the total yield at 11,000,000 bu.

July Receipts of Hogs at Chicago were the smallest since '96 when Aug arrivals were scant 500,000 head.

The Chinese Troubles and Cotton—Exporting annually to China cotton goods to the value of \$10,000,000, the cessation of this business owing to the fighting is serious. The outlet for this staple is curtailed, affecting the mills not only in the south but in N.E. At Hildeford, Me., cotton mills shipping largely to China have closed temporarily affecting about 3000 operatives.

The Bucket Shops are having a hard time of it this summer. A large number of them located in Chicago have been raided by the police and numerous arrests made. To add to their discomfort the Chicago board of trade has shut off the quotations, making many of the bucket shops dependent upon the figures sent out from the N.Y. produce exchange.

Best Variety of Wheat—The O experiment for 7 yrs has planted 63 varieties on tenth-acre plots and manured each exactly alike. Penquite's Velvet Chaff was planted on every third plot as a standard variety. The general results of the test for 7 yrs show the following sorts to exceed Velvet Chaff in yield: Poole and Mealy by an average of more than 4 bu p a each, Red Russian by nearly 4 bu, Nigger, Early-Ripe, Currell's Prolific, Gypsy and Egyptian by 2 to 3, Mediterranean, New Monarch and Democrat by 1 to 2, Bearded Monarch, Valley, Deltz, Lebanon and Hickman by less than 1 bu each. These tests have been made on a rather thin, somewhat sandy clay. On gravely loams the Valley has made a relatively larger yield than that quoted above. No variety has proved exempt from attack by Hessian fly, but Mealy, Mediterranean, Fulcaster and Clawson seem to suffer less from the fall attack of this insect than most other sorts. The Ohio station has never succeeded in growing spring wheat.

American Farm Machines are in high favor in Europe. At a trial of various styles of reapers near Dollbergen, Hanover, in Germany, of local and foreign make, the Walter A. Wood machine company of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., were awarded first prize gold medal on the work of their light reaper and two-horse tubular mower of 4 1/2 ft cut. This is indeed a high honor for the Walter A. Wood company. The machinery and implements of this enterprising firm stand equally as high at home as abroad and we take pleasure in commending them to our readers. Their catalog will be sent free to all F & H readers who write for it.

### THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS AT A GLANCE

The highest quotations of wholesale prices for standard grades of farm produce in the leading markets of the world on the dates named, poorer stuff lower

	Boston	New York	Chicago	Cincinnati	N. Orleans	Memphis	St. Louis	San Francisco	Monterey	Liverpool
August	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Wheat, p bu,	—	50 1/2	54 1/2	77	—	—	11.10	8.1 1/2	30	—
Corn, p bu,	47 1/2	43	37	42 1/2	52	54	11.18	46 1/2	52 1/2	—
Oats, p bu,	30 1/2	25 1/2	21	21	31 1/2	32	1.20	30 1/2	45	—
Rye, p bu,	64	51	43	60	—	—	1.20	56	—	—
Barley, p bu,	53	50	45	—	—	—	1.20	53	—	—
Flour, p bbl,	4.50	4.75	4.20	4.20	4.15	4.60	3.75	4.75	4.50	—
Cotton, mid upland, p lb,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cattle, p 100 lbs 1 w,	6.50	5.75	6.00	5.60	4.50	3.75	4.00	—	1.13	—
Sheep, p 100 lbs 1 w,	4.50	4.85	4.50	4.25	4.00	4.00	4.50	—	1.11	—
Hogs, p 100 lbs 1 w,	5.75	5.75	5.25	5.45	5.00	4.50	6.10	5.85	—	—
Veal calves, p 100 lbs 1 w,	6.00	7.00	6.75	7.25	5.00	5.00	6.00	—	—	—
Poultry, p lb, d w,	12	11 1/2	10	10 1/2	9.00	8.75	9.00	—	—	—
Butter, creamery, p lb,	20 1/2	20	19	21	21	23	23 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	—
Cheese, factory, p lb,	10 1/2	10 1/2	10	11 1/2	12 1/2	13	10	10	11	—
Eggs, p dz,	22	19	12	12	12	11	23	14	15	—
Apples, p bbl,	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.00	4.00	—	11.00	—	—	—
Hay, p ton,	18.00	13.50	13.50	15.25	17.00	16.00	12.00	10.50	—	—
Straw, rye, p ton,	15.00	15.00	6.50	7.00	—	—	—	5.00	—	—
Hops, p lb,	14	14	13 1/2	—	—	—	12	13	16 1/2	—
Onions, p bu,	75	75	50	30	55	60	80	—	—	—
Potatoes, p bu,	70	60	25	45	45	50	1.70	55	—	—
Beef, p lb d w,	0.08 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	0.06 1/2	—	—	—
Pork, p lb d w,	0.08 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	0.09	—	—	—
Lard, p lb,	0.08 1/2	0.07 1/2	0.07	0.07	0.07 1/2	0.06 1/2	0.09 1/2	0.08 1/2	—	—
Hides, p lb,	0.07	0.04 1/2	0.06 1/2	0.07 1/2	0.06 1/2	0.08 1/2	0.02	0.04	—	—

† Cental. \* Pus. † P box. † Estimated d w.