

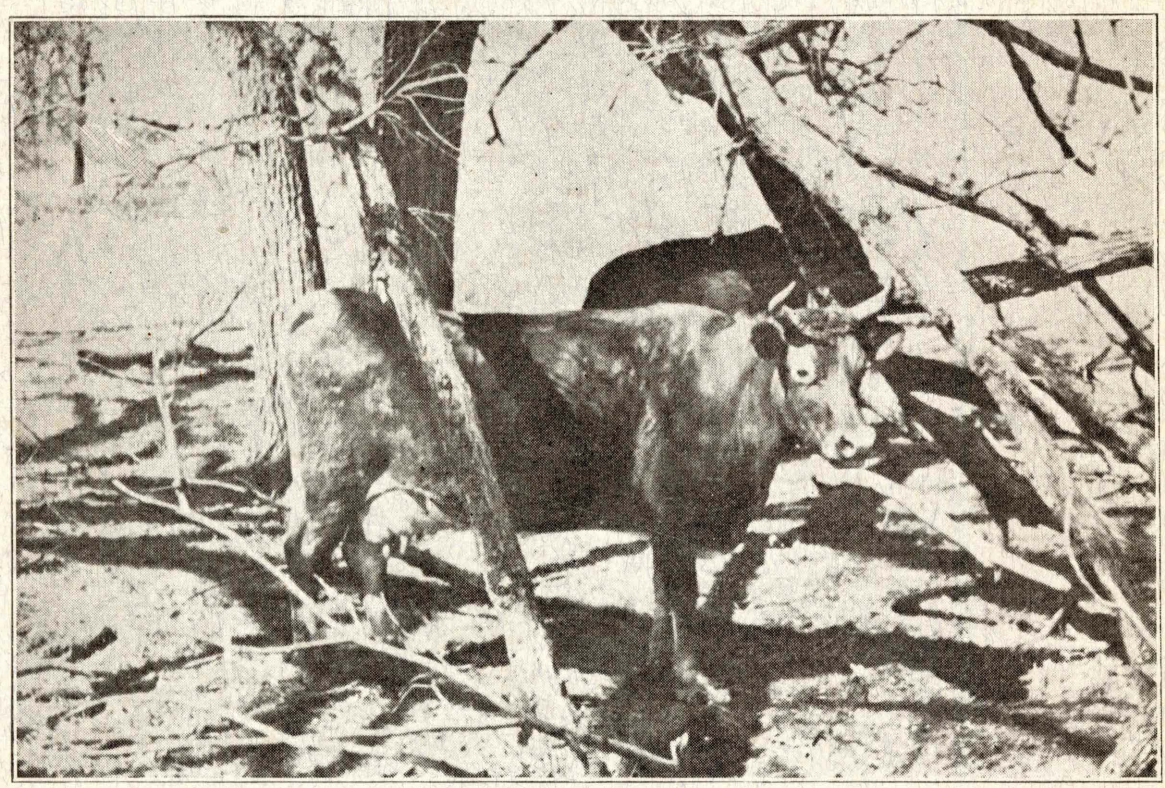
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THOMAS L. CURRAN, Secretary

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"Iowa Agriculture"

LARD

The swine industry is a most important part of Iowa's agricultural plant. Over a period of years, hogs alone account for about 40% of the total Iowa farm income. In fact, during the ten-year period, 1924-33, 41.4% of the cash farm income in Iowa is credited to hogs.

Because of the importance of hogs in our farm economy, circumstances or conditions that have a depressing effect upon the hog market are of vital concern to the Iowa farmer. For this reason, many people have been seriously concerned about the increase in the use of lard substitutes. Lard substitutes, composed in the main of cotton seed oil, have steadily displaced lard for use as shortening and cooking fat. In the early part of the 1920's less than one-half pound of lard substitutes was consumed for each pound of lard. This ratio increased during the latter half of the 1920's until two-thirds of a pound of lard substitutes was consumed for each pound of lard. This increase seems to be continuing, and it appears likely that the consumption of lard substitutes during 1938 may equal lard consumption.

A comparison of the wholesale price of lard at Chicago with live hog prices shows that lard, a finished product, is selling below the price of live hogs. Obviously under such circumstances, the portion of the hog processed into lard is tending to lower the value of the live animal. If the use of lard as a cooking fat and shortening continues to decrease as it has in the past, it is quite certain that live-hog values will be even further depressed.

The continued loss of the market for lard as a shortening and cooking fat is a serious economic problem in so far as corn-belt agriculture is concerned. Recognizing that corn is the principal grain crop in a number of north-central states, we must also recognize the fact that fat hogs provide the largest single market medium for this corn. If a substantial portion of the products from these hogs is to be permanently lowered in value, the result will be a loss to corn-belt agriculture of a sizeable percentage of farm income.

There are two solutions to the problem:

1. Develop strains of hogs that produce a larger percentage of lean meat cuts. In other words, produce less lard.
2. Regain our lard markets, both at home and abroad.

There seem to be definite limits as to how far we can go in the development of hog types that produce less lard, particularly when corn furnishes the major part of the feeding ration. The second solution would appear to be the more practical of the two. Lack of standardization has placed lard in a poor competitive position, and consequently consumption and price have decreased. At the present time, with the exception of a few brands, consumers have no assurance of a constant quality in the lard they purchase. Impartial tests indicate that the better grades of lard have certain consumer preferences that enable them to compete with lard substitutes. Obviously, a lard standardization program that would insure the production and distribution of a constant, high quality product would help materially in increasing lard consumption.

INCOME FROM BUTTER SALES SHOWS INCREASE

A tabulation of the annual creamery reports made by the State Department of Agriculture show an increase of nearly 2% over 1936 in the total value of butter manufactured by Iowa creameries, according to Thomas L. Curran, State Secretary of Agriculture.

The reports show that the total value of the butter manufactured by Iowa creameries in 1937 was \$66,555,698.31 as compared with \$65,291,451.31 in 1936. An analysis of the reports shows that the increase in value was brought about by an increase in the price of butter, since the number of pounds of butter manufactured in 1937 showed a drop of nearly 4.5%, to 198,656,814 pounds as compared with 207,826,088 pounds in 1936.

The decrease in the butter make was general in all sections of the state, with the north-east Iowa creameries showing the largest drop. Butter production by sections in the state is shown by the following table:

<u>Pounds of Butter Manufactured</u>		
	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>
Northeast 25 counties	86,252,408 lbs.	81,646,763 lbs.
Northwest 24 counties	62,938,664 lbs.	60,218,275 lbs.
South 50 counties	58,635,016 lbs.	56,791,776 lbs.
TOTAL	<u>207,826,088 lbs.</u>	<u>198,656,814 lbs.</u>

Butter prices during 1937 averaged above those of 1936. The average yearly price of 92-score butter in New York was 33.4¢ per pound during 1937 as compared with the yearly average of 33.1¢ in 1936.

The increase in butter prices enabled creameries in all sections of the state to increase the price paid for butterfat over 1936. Highest average prices were paid by creameries operated in the north-east section of the state. The following table shows the average butterfat price last year as compared with 1936:

<u>Average Prices Paid for Butterfat</u>		
	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>
Northeast 25 counties	35.29¢	36.43¢
Northwest 24 counties	33.84¢	34.60¢
South 50 counties	32.33¢	33.50¢

In commenting on the report, Dr. Curran pointed out that only 53,677,493 pounds, or about 27% of the 198,656,814 pounds of butter manufactured by Iowa creameries were sold in the state.

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SURVEY SHOWS POSSIBILITY OF HEAVY CHINCH BUG DAMAGE

The chinch bug survey completed in April shows that only 50% of the hibernating bugs were destroyed during the past winter. The winter mortality during the 1937-38 season is considerably below the average of the last few years, according to Harold Gunderson, Assistant Extension Entomologist.

Mr. Gunderson reported that the survey shows the infestation to be spotted and irregular, with the winter kill running from zero to 98% of the hibernating bugs. The number of over-wintering live bugs compares favorably with the number in the spring of 1934 when there was considerable chinch bug damage in southern Iowa.

According to entomologists, weather conditions at hatching time and during late spring and early summer immediately after the hatching will largely determine the amount of damage to field crops. If weather conditions are favorable for the bugs, serious damage is to be expected in the areas listed as "medium", "heavy" and "very heavy", with oil barriers needed to protect the corn.

Heavy rains and wet weather during the latter part of May and early June are needed if damage is to be averted, according to Mr. Gunderson.

Results of recent field inspections show that the bugs have not as yet left their hibernating ground and moved into small grain fields. Entomologists state that there are no control practices that will protect small grain fields. Corn can, however, be saved by the construction of oil barriers.

Reporting the result of the survey, Mr. Gunderson urged farmers in the infested areas to watch their small grain fields and report heavy infestations to their county agent.

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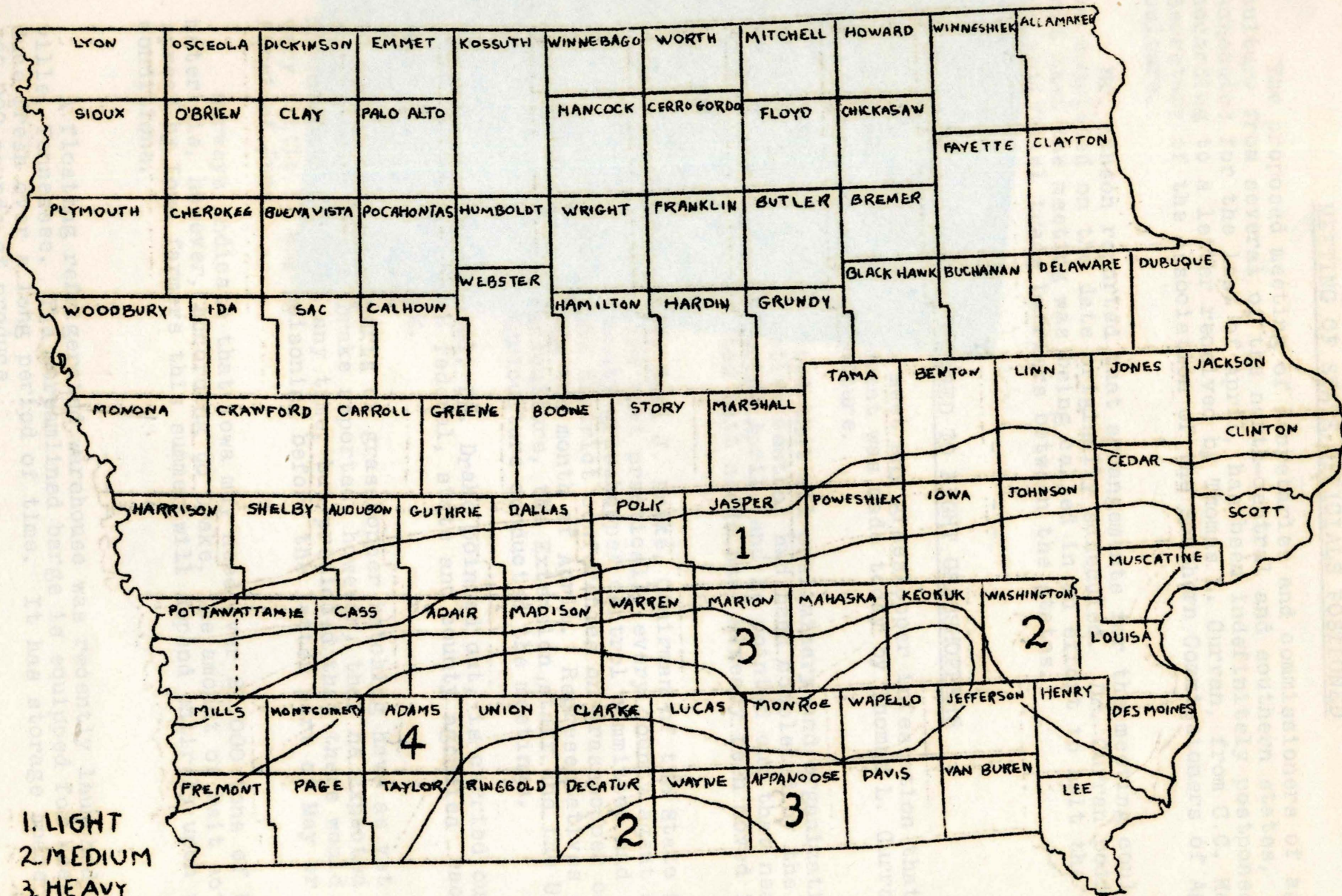
MOST SUNSHINE IN JULY

A study made by the Weather Division of the State Department of Agriculture shows that July has fewer sunless days than any other month in the year, according to Thomas L. Curran, State Secretary of Agriculture. The study shows that during the last twenty years, only six days in July have been entirely without sunshine at some time during the day at Des Moines.

The month of June is next with only eleven sunless days in the last twenty years. December is at the other end of the table with the most sunless days for any month. There is a total of 164 days in the last twenty Decembers that the sun did not shine.

The survey was the result of an inquiry regarding the lighting requirements for school rooms. The study shows that in the ten school months,--September to June--13.5% of the school days are likely to be sunless.

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- 1. LIGHT
- 2. MEDIUM
- 3. HEAVY
- 4. VERY HEAVY

CHINCH BUG INFESTATION AS OF APR. 1, 1938
BASED ON NUMBERS OF BUGS IN HIBERNATION

MEETING OF STATE OFFICIALS POSTPONED

The proposed meeting of secretaries and commissioners of agriculture from several of the north-central and southern states, scheduled for the last of April, has been indefinitely postponed, according to a letter received by Thomas L. Curran, from C.C. Hanson, Secretary of the Association of the Southern Commissioners of Agriculture.

Mr. Hanson reported that arrangements for the meeting could not be completed on the date originally scheduled. Dr. Curran pointed out that the meeting was being called in an effort to halt the growth of artificial trade barriers between the states.

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IOWA PREPARED TO FIGHT GRASSHOPPERS

"Iowa is prepared to meet any grasshopper infestation that may materialize." This statement was made today by Thomas L. Curran, State Secretary of Agriculture.

The Secretary reported that all preliminary and organization work necessary for effective control had been completed by the State Grasshopper Committee during April, and he pointed out that nearly 25% of the total estimated bait needs has already been moved into the state.

State Entomologist, Carl J. Drake, Chairman of the State Grasshopper Committee reported that practically every county agent and some member of every county grasshopper control committee had attended one of the nine district conferences on grasshopper control held in the state during the month of April. Representatives of the State Department of Agriculture, the Extension staff and the United States Department of Agriculture conducted the meetings.

Grasshopper control, Dr. Drake pointed out, is carried out on a cooperative basis with federal, state and county agencies each taking a part in the work.

No authentic reports of grasshopper hatching have as yet reached the state offices. Drake reported, however, that he expected the hatching to begin at any time, but predicted that there would be very little if any poisoning before the latter part of May or the first of June.

Surveys indicate that Iowa may need over 21,000 tons of bait materials, however, according to Drake, the amount of bait actually spread by Iowa farmers this summer will depend entirely upon weather conditions.

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A floating refrigerated warehouse was recently launched at Knoxville, Tennessee. The streamlined barge is equipped for keeping produce fresh over a long period of time. It has storage space for 350,000 pounds of produce.

SEES DANGER IN PLANTINGS OF CASTOR BEANS

Castor beans are toxic to human beings, and an increase in plantings may result in death to humans as well as farm animals, according to a warning issued today by the State Entomologist, C. J. Drake.

Drake reported that seed houses have informed his office that there has been an increase in the demand for castor bean seed for use in plantings to protect crops from grasshopper damage. The increased demand for castor bean seed is attributed to recent news articles claiming castor beans were a satisfactory grasshopper control.

Experimental data regarding the effect of castor beans on grasshoppers are lacking, Dr. Drake stated, and added that preliminary results of experiments now under way at Iowa State College do not indicate that control of grasshoppers by the use of castor beans would prove to be of any value.

Drake expressed concern as to the results of state-wide planting of castor beans, and pointed out that one mature bean seed had been known to kill a child, and that a small number of the beans would kill a man or any farm animal. He estimated that five beans would be fatal to a horse.

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CORN SEALING TOTAL EXCEEDS 30,000,000 BUSHELS

Iowa farmers have sealed more than 30,000,000 bushels of corn during the 1937-38 sealing year. On April 1st, Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas L. Curran, made the prediction that more than 30,000,000 bushels of the 1937 Iowa corn crop would be sealed. Secretary Curran saw his forecast fulfilled when he released a report today showing that farm warehouse certificates representing 30,062,935 bushels of corn have been completed and filed with the State Department of Agriculture.

Curran stated that there had been a drop in sealing activities during the last two weeks in April, and pointed out that the Department had received certificates representing 2,500,000 bushels of corn in April as compared to nearly 5,000,000 in March and 4,300,000 bushels in February.

An analysis of the tabulation shows that Pocahontas County leads the field in the amount of corn sealed, with 1,273,227 bushels reported. Two other counties, Webster and Calhoun, have sealed more than a million bushels each, and a total of 20 counties has exceeded the half million mark.

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JUNE 1 DEADLINE ON DAIRY PROJECTS

Ernest M. Wright, Field Secretary for the Iowa State Dairy Association today warned 4-H Club members that June 1st in most counties is the final date for enrollment in dairy projects.

All enrollments and entries, to be eligible, must be filed by the county agent or club agent at the state office not later than June 15.

BUSHEL'S OF CORN UNDER SEAL IN STATE

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>NO. BU.</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>NO. BU.</u>
Adair	313,904	Jefferson	100,116
Adams	149,142	Johnson	190,766
Allamakee	1,106	Jones	96,785
Appanoose	44,925	Keokuk	168,802
Audubon	328,527	Kossuth	837,900
Benton	405,125	Lee	65,919
Black Hawk	203,476	Linn	137,772
Boone	733,020	Louisa	140,107
Bremer	32,487	Lucas	38,101
Buchanan	107,477	Lyon	379,236
Buena Vista	744,578	Madison	265,827
Butler	132,014	Mahaska	127,035
Calhoun	1,063,895	Marion	101,536
Carroll	576,575	Marshall	601,028
Cass	230,123	Mills	305,178
Cedar	202,786	Mitchell	26,137
Cerro Gordo	218,949	Monona	679,300
Cherokee	454,488	Monroe	51,879
Chickasaw	12,262	Montgomery	223,819
Clarke	85,274	Muscatine	165,363
Clay	742,952	O'Brien	290,806
Clayton	20,227	Osceola	286,787
Clinton	262,622	Page	190,036
Crawford	262,326	Palo Alto	398,715
Dallas	285,125	Plymouth	318,977
Davis	19,370	Pocahontas	1,273,227
Decatur	119,612	Polk	325,217
Delaware	32,940	Pottawattamie, East	443,941
Des Moines	103,461	Pottawattamie, West	248,824
Dickinson	323,174	Poweshiek	360,937
Dubuque	21,945	Ringgold	160,879
Emmet	305,253	Sac	634,405
Fayette	25,542	Scott	115,697
Floyd	59,157	Shelby	489,320
Franklin	283,913	Sioux	532,905
Fremont	603,466	Story	958,605
Greene	572,323	Tama	513,888
Grundy	251,260	Taylor	138,822
Guthrie	385,571	Union	80,954
Hamilton	401,421	Van Buren	32,411
Hancock	340,362	Wapello	53,029
Hardin	687,629	Warren	176,169
Harrison	264,512	Washington	286,376
Henry	164,083	Wayne	72,559
Howard	23,705	Webster	1,242,080
Humboldt	567,175	Winnebago	173,622
Ida	468,624	Winneshiek	18,820
Iowa	258,819	Woodbury	599,847
Jackson	59,915	Worth	69,963
Jasper	276,441	Wright	639,453

TOTAL BUSHEL'S - 30,062,935

STOCK TONICS MUST BE REGISTERED

Stock tonics which are offered or exposed for sale in Iowa must be registered with the State Department of Agriculture, according to Harry Irwin, State Chemist. In addition, Iowa law requires that the labels of all such products must state the English name of each drug, the total percentage of all drugs, the actual percentage of salt, sulphur, and charcoal and the actual percentage and name of any other ingredient in such stock tonic. If water is used in the product the actual percent must be stated and the term "water" used on the label.

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DEPARTMENT TO PUBLISH NEW BULLETIN

The preparation, handling and distribution of grasshopper bait materials will be covered in a new bulletin to be published by the State Department of Agriculture, according to C. J. Drake, State Entomologist. Drake reported that the bulletin was now being prepared by his office, and should be available for distribution some time during the next month.

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STATE DAIRY ASSOCIATION MEETS MAY 13

The Board of Directors of the Iowa State Dairy Association will hold their regular semi-annual business meeting in Ames, on Iowa Dairy Day, Friday, May 13, according to Ernest M. Wright, Field Secretary for the Association.

A feature of the meeting will be a discussion on the "Advantages and Disadvantages of Reciprocal Trade Agreements to the Iowa Dairy Farmer". Dr. T. W. Schultz of Iowa State College and Clifford Gregory of Wallace Farmer and Iowa Homestead will lead the discussion.

The Board will also hear a report for the Dairy Association representatives that attended the meetings of the Iowa Live Stock Committee.

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STOCKS OF PORK DECREASE

Stocks of pork in storage on April 1st of this year were considerably below those a year ago, according to a report made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The report shows 543,307,000 lbs. of pork in storage on April 1 of this year as compared to 755,777,000 lbs. at the same time last year, and an April 1st five-year average of 620,147,000 lbs.

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Numbers of cattle on farms, January 1, 1938 were the smallest since the peak reached in 1934. The figures probably represent the low point in the current cattle cycle; some increase in numbers is likely this year.

THREE WEIGHT GROUPS IN PULLING CONTEST

Another class has been added to the horse pulling contest at the 1938 Iowa State Fair, according to W. H. Maxwell, Superintendent of the Horse Department.

Mr. Maxwell predicted that the new classification would increase the popularity of this year's pulling contest. Prize money in the contest this year is being raised from \$600 to \$900, and the addition of the new class will allow for a pulling contest during each of the last three days of the fair.

This year's entries will be divided into the following weight classifications: (1) Teams of horses or mules weighing 2800 lbs. or under; (2) Teams of horses or mules weighing over 2800 lbs. and under 3200 lbs.; (3) Teams of horses or mules weighing over 3200 lbs.

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PREDICTS CANKER WORM DAMAGE

Heavy damage to elms and other shade trees in Iowa is indicated this year because of an above normal infestation of spring canker worms, according to C. J. Drake, State Entomologist.

Drake pointed out that the female moth had deposited the eggs in the trees earlier in the season, and that a spray of 2 pounds of lead arsenate to 50 gallons of water was the only effective control at this stage. Drake advised that this spray should be applied as soon as the worms begin damaging the trees.

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SWINE PRODUCERS PUBLISH DIRECTORY

A breed directory published by the Iowa Swine Producers' Association will be ready for distribution about the middle of May, according to R. L. Pemberton, Field Secretary for the Association.

Pemberton explained that the directory contains the names of the members of the various breed associations together with a history of the swine breeds and articles on feeding. A copy of the bulletin may be secured by writing the Iowa Swine Producers' Association at Des Moines.

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DAIRY PROGRAM ON W.O.I.

Radio station W.O.I., through the cooperation of the Radio Guild at Iowa State College will present a thirty-minute program on Iowa Dairy Day, Friday, May 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

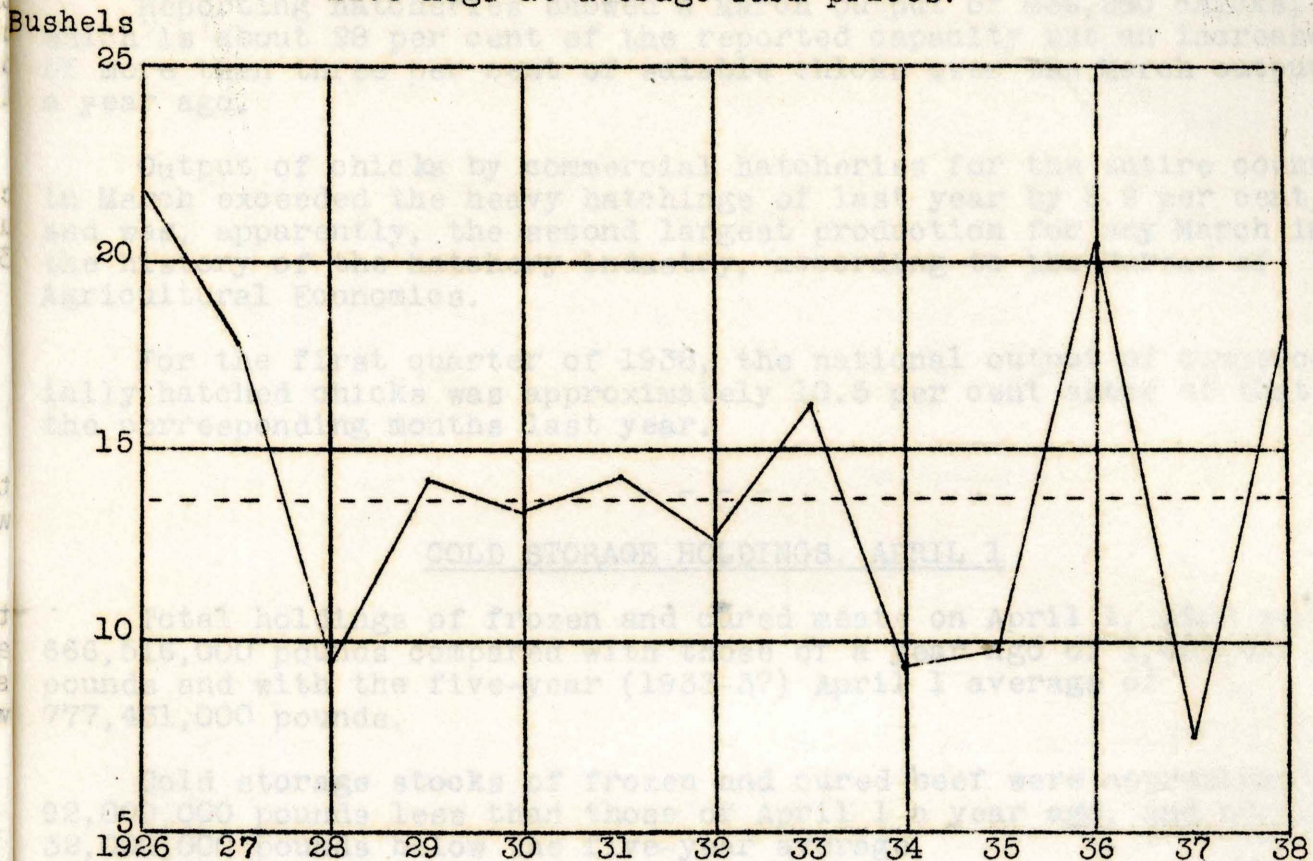
Ernest M. Wright, Field Secretary of the Iowa State Dairy Association reports that the program will dramatize some of the important events that have taken place in the dairy industry during the past 100 years.

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HOG AND CORN RATIOS ON APRIL 15 (1926-1938)

Based on Iowa Hog and Corn Prices for April 15, 1926 to 1938, and for the average of the period 1910-1935.

Showing the number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds of live hogs at average farm prices.



Solid line-April 15 ratios Dotted line-Average of April 15th ratios for the period 1910-1935.

HOG - CORN RATIOS ON APRIL 15, 1910 to 1938

1910 - 19.0	1925 - 13.4
1911 - 14.5	1926 - 21.5
1912 - 11.1	1927 - 17.6
1913 - 19.8	1928 - 9.2
1914 - 13.7	1929 - 14.2
1915 - 9.9	1930 - 13.3
1916 - 13.6	1931 - 14.2
1917 - 12.1	1932 - 12.6
1918 - 11.9	1933 - 16.0
1919 - 12.7	1934 - 9.4
1920 - 9.3	1935 - 9.9
1921 - 18.3	1936 - 20.2
1922 - 20.0	1937 - 7.5
1923 - 11.2	1938 - 17.3
1924 - 10.0	Ave. 1910-1935 - 13.8

IOWA BABY CHICK HATCHINGS INCREASE

Production of baby chicks by commercial hatcheries in Iowa in March exceeded the hatchings of last year by 3.2 per cent, according to the Division of Agricultural Statistics of the Iowa Department of Agriculture. The chick survey is based upon thirty reporting hatcheries having a capacity of 3,007,300 eggs.

Reporting hatcheries showed a March output of 832,280 chicks, which is about 28 per cent of the reported capacity but an increase of more than three per cent of salable chicks over the March output a year ago.

Output of chicks by commercial hatcheries for the entire country in March exceeded the heavy hatchings of last year by 5.2 per cent, and was, apparently, the second largest production for any March in the history of the hatchery industry, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

For the first quarter of 1938, the national output of commercially hatched chicks was approximately 10.5 per cent ahead of that of the corresponding months last year.

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COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS, APRIL 1

Total holdings of frozen and cured meats on April 1, 1938 were 666,516,000 pounds compared with those of a year ago of 1,022,539,000 pounds and with the five-year (1933-37) April 1 average of 777,431,000 pounds.

Cold storage stocks of frozen and cured beef were approximately 92,000,000 pounds less than those of April 1 a year ago, and about 32,000,000 pounds below the five-year average.

Holdings of frozen and cured pork were reported at 543,307,000 pounds, a decrease of 28 per cent from a year ago and about 12 per cent decrease from average.

Stocks of frozen eggs on April 1 were the largest on record for that date, exceeding the previous high point of April 1, 1937 by 17,688,000 pounds.

Total frozen poultry holdings were 41,603,000 pounds below those of a year ago, and 4,277,000 pounds below the five-year (1933-1937) April 1 average.

Stocks of creamery butter declined to 14,310,000 pounds by April 1. They were, however, approximately 114 per cent greater than those of April 1, 1937 and 70 per cent above the five-year (1933-1937) average.

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Production of soybean oil for the first 3 months of the 1937-38 crushing season was the largest on record for any quarter. Production from October through December was 70 million pounds, 10 million more than in the same period last season.

GOVERNOR SETS MAY 13 AS IOWA DAIRY DAY

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Iowa has for long taken a proud and commanding position among the states of the Union in the quantity, quality and value of its dairy products, its fine herds being the envy of milk producers all over the country; and

WHEREAS, in this centennial year of Iowa's territorial existence, when the state stands proudly before its sister commonwealths to show wherein its wealth and health lie, and

WHEREAS, Iowa's milk products have made not only the citizens of our own state, but of many others, more healthy and possessed of that vigor which makes them accomplish the ultimate; now

THEREFORE, I, NELSON G. KRASCHEL, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby designate and declare

Friday, May 13, 1938

as

IOWA DAIRY DAY

and call upon all citizens of the state to pay homage and tribute to the cow, by partaking of its products in their manifold form, by advertising its worth and dominance as a domestic farm animal, and by promoting and attending services at which the humble cow shall be exalted.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, at Des Moines, this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-eight, and in the One Hundred Sixty-second year of the Independence of the United States of America, and of the State of Iowa the Ninety-second.

NELSON G. KRASCHEL
GOVERNOR

From
Iowa State Department of Agriculture
Des Moines, Iowa

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