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Iowa. Agriculture. History
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IOWA AGRICULTURE

Vol. 3. No. 1

Monday, January 3, 1938



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Published Monthly by the Iowa State Department of Agriculture
Des Moines, Iowa

January 3, 1938
Afternoon release

"Iowa Agriculture"

PROGRESS

At the dawn of a new year, it is fitting and proper that Iowa farmers pause for a few minutes to reflect upon the growth and progress of their industry. At times our immediate problems become so large that our perspective is distorted and we fail to realize just how far we have progressed. At such times it is refreshing to turn back the pages of history and call to memory the conditions that existed at an earlier date.

Start
In 1857, the Iowa State Agricultural Society published an Agricultural report of Iowa. This volume was a summary of the fairs and agricultural exhibits held in the state during the year. The publication also contained a short report on agricultural conditions in each of the counties then organized. The following notes are taken from this report and from the 1936 Iowa Year Book of Agriculture.

EXPERIMENT STATION --

1857

The education the farmer requires differs but little from the proper education of any other man. But we must have a farm-observatory, an experiment station of the proper kind, before we can hope to shed that light on Agriculture, and extend that aid to the farmers of which they are now most in need.

1936

The Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station during the past year worked on more than 300 different projects. At the close of the year, there were 339 active projects assigned to the 14 sections and 16 sub-sections of the station. Reports of extension agents in 100 counties show a total of 161,085 families reached by agents and specialists with agricultural and home economics information.

STATE FAIR --

1857

The numbers of entries this year are 1131, exceeding those of last year by 175.

1936

The State Fair report shows a total of 28,999 entries.

HOGS --

1857

Allamakee County: The hogs of our county are mostly "Prairie Rooters".
Black Hawk County: Of hogs the amount is limited. The "Hog Law" is in force in this county, and there are some farmers that think they cannot raise hogs unless they are allowed to run at large, so they raise but few.

Marion County: The Suffolks and Irish Grazers have been introduced into this county.

1936

26.7% of the total number of hogs slaughtered under federal inspection were produced in Iowa.

PASTURES --

1857

Davis County: Clover is raised to some extent and we have some very respectable blue grass pastures.

Progress -- (Continued)

Johnson County: A few folks have laid down blue grass pastures, and from the recent demand for grass seed, it would seem that they are exerting influence in the direction of tame pastures and meadows.

Decatur County: Clover seems to bid fair to do well but not so with timothy.

Muscatine County: Blue grass holds well and will come into very general cultivation. Whether it will ever wear out has not been decided upon by the oldest inhabitants.

1936

Assessors' reports show 10,333,262 acres in blue grass pastures.

MACHINERY --

1857

Farm Engine:-A portable steam engine, exhibited by Townsend, Smith & Company, of Davenport, for farm and other purposes, was in operation on the ground. An engine on wheels was a novelty to most of the visitors, and attracted considerable attention.

Davis County: We have not a sub-soil plow in the county. We have no wheat drill in the county and our wheat as a general thing is put in in a slovenly manner.

Des Moines County: In a few instances corn planters have been tried with marked success.

Poweshiek County: The common breaking and fallow plows and the three-cornered harrow are all the implements used.

Wapello County: Hand corn planters have been used considerably, but do not meet with general approbation.

1936

Assessors' reports show a total of 83,656 tractors on Iowa farms as of January 1, 1937.

DAIRY --

1857

Polk County: We have no dairies in the county and but little attention is paid to the extensive making of butter and cheese although it can be successfully done.

Des Moines County: 206,026 pounds of butter and 24,451 pounds of cheese were made.

Washington County: 200,000 pounds of butter and 75,000 pounds of cheese were sold.

1936

Iowa creameries produced 207,826,088 pounds of butter and 4,411,067 pounds of cheese.

stop

The agricultural industry of this state has a right to be proud of its past accomplishments, proud of the part it has played in the development of the greatest wealth producing state in the nation.

GRASSHOPPER SURVEY SHOWS HEAVY EGG DEPOSITS

The grasshopper survey conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, State Department of Agriculture, Experiment Station and Extension Service of Iowa State College, shows the potential danger of a serious grasshopper infestation in 1938.

The survey reveals heavy deposits of grasshopper eggs in practically all of the ninety-nine counties of the state. Although the greatest number of egg masses were found in the southern and western counties, practically all counties showed egg deposits above normal. In releasing the results of the survey, Dr. Carl J. Drake, State Entomologist pointed out that the large number of eggs in the soil does not warrant the prediction that heavy grasshopper damage will occur next year--weather conditions during the late spring and early summer to a large extent will determine the seriousness of the infestation.

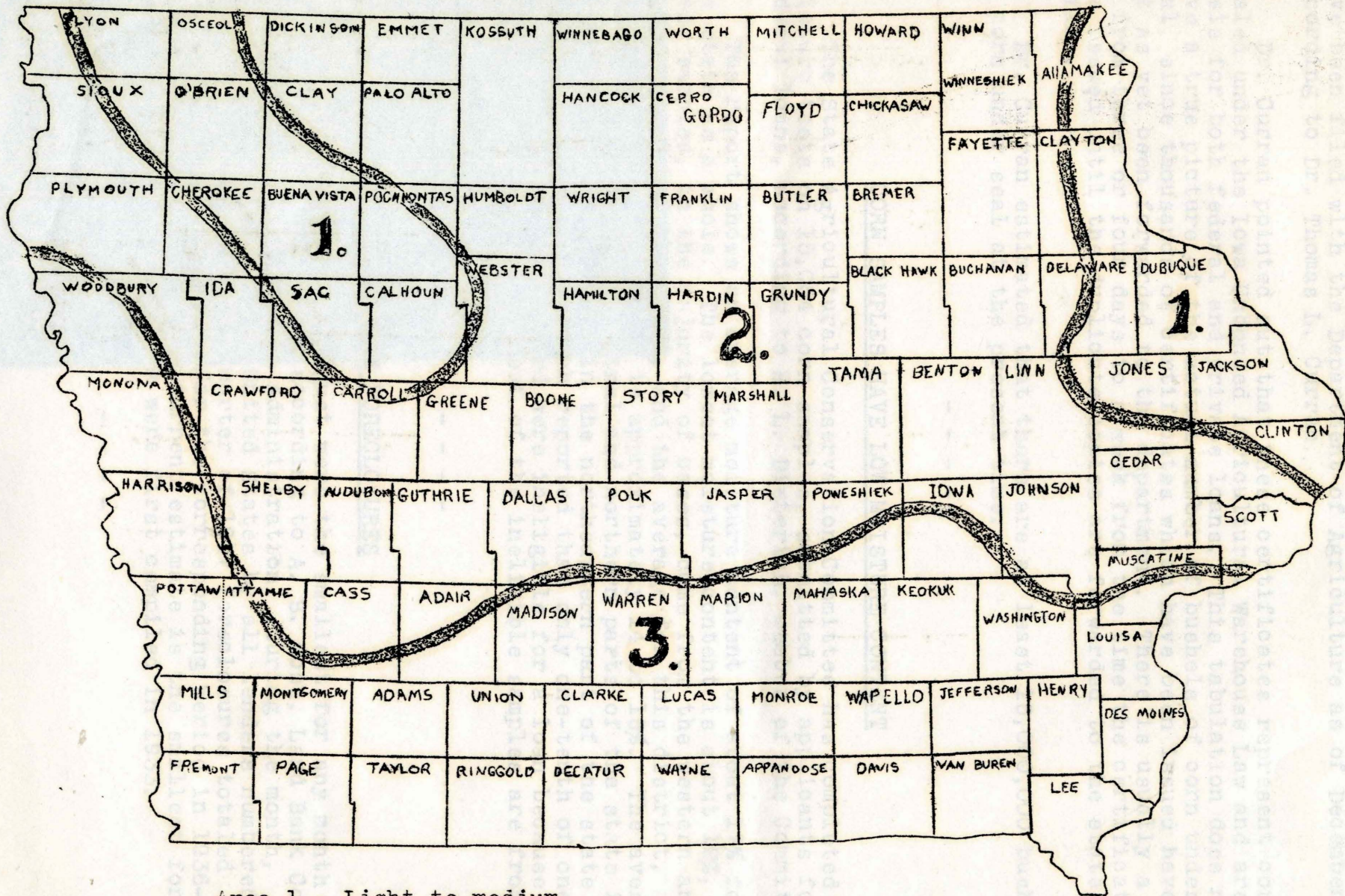
In the opinion of Dr. Drake, a comparatively hot dry season such as prevailed in 1936 would produce a serious outbreak of grasshoppers. On the other hand, heavy rains and continued wet weather such as existed in 1937 would in a large measure reduce the potential danger and produce a grasshopper situation comparable with the one existing during the past year. Dr. Drake predicted that even with weather conditions favorable for the destruction of young hoppers, there would be areas in the state where it would be necessary to carry on a poisoning campaign to prevent crop damage.

These forecasts are the result of two separate surveys conducted in Iowa during the past fall. The one survey was an actual count of adult hoppers and the other a count of the number of grasshopper egg masses actually deposited in the ground. The results of these two surveys are compiled and tabulated and used as a basis for planning a control campaign during the coming year.

The Iowa surveys were conducted by Dr. George C. Decker and A. D. Worthington. In commenting on the work, Mr. Worthington pointed out that in the No.1 area on the map, there is a potential possibility for 20 to 30 per cent of the crop to be infested and destroyed if the weather is favorable to the hatching and development of the young hoppers. In the NO.2 area, it is potentially possible for 50 to 75 per cent of the crop to be infested and destroyed if the weather is favorable, and in the No.3 area, with the assistance of favorable weather, the potential infestation and crop destruction would run between 75 and 100 per cent.

Cold weather and winter snows apparently do not affect the eggs, and under agricultural conditions existing in Iowa, it is impractical to attempt to destroy egg deposits, according to Thomas L. Curran, State Secretary of Agriculture. Dr. Curran said that all precautions would be taken to provide Iowa farmers with an adequate supply of poison bait materials to be used in case the outbreak should materialize.

GRASSHOPPER SITUATION IN IOWA AS SHOWN BY EGG SURVEY COMPLETED DECEMBER 1, 1937.



Area 1 - Light to medium
 Area 2 - Medium to heavy
 Area 3 - Heavy to severe

January 5, 1938,
 For release Monday noon

"Iowa Agriculture"

ESTIMATES 15 MILLION BUSHELS OF CORN SEALED

Warehouse certificates representing 8,864,309 bushels of corn have been filed with the Department of Agriculture as of December 28, according to Dr. Thomas L. Curran.

Dr. Curran pointed out that these certificates represent corn sealed under the Iowa Unbonded Agricultural Warehouse Law and are a basis for both federal and private loans. This tabulation does not give a true picture of the actual number of bushels of corn under seal, since thousands of certificates which have been issued have not as yet been forwarded to the department. There is usually a lapse of from three or four days to a week from the time the certificates are issued until the duplicate copies are forwarded to the state office.

Dr. Curran estimated that there are at least 15,000,000 bushels of corn under seal at the present time.

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CORN SAMPLES HAVE LOW MOISTURE CONTENT

The State Agricultural Conservation Committee has completed moisture tests on 15,054 corn samples, submitted by applicants for federal loans, according to H. L. Dieterich, member of the Committee.

The report shows an average moisture content of about 17% for the state as a whole. The lowest moisture content is about 12%, these samples, in the majority of cases, come from the western and southern parts of the state, and the average for this district, according to Mr. Dieterich, is approximately 14 to 15%. The average moisture content in the central and northern parts of the state is about 18% and a small area in the northeastern part of the state averages 19%. Mr. Dieterich reported that only one-tenth of one per cent of the samples submitted were ineligible for a loan because of excess moisture content. Most of the ineligible samples are from the northeastern district.

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FARM FORECLOSURES

Farm foreclosures in August were the smallest for any month during the last four years, according to A. S. Goss, Land Bank Commissioner of the Farm Credit Administration. During the month, foreclosures throughout the United States by all lenders numbered only 2,991. For the third quarter of 1937 foreclosures totaled 9,719, compared with 12,560 for the corresponding period in 1936--a decline of 23 per cent. The current estimate is the smallest for any three-month period since data were first compiled in 1933.

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BUSHELS OF CORN UNDER SEAL IN STATE

<u>County</u>	<u>No. Bu.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>No. Bu.</u>
Adair	99,148	Jefferson	42,480
Adams	19,907	Johnson	86,728
Allamakee		Jones	31,952
Appanoose	6,620	Keokuk	
Audubon	1,280	Kossuth	191,616
Benton	193,429	Lee	
Black Hawk	95,908	Linn	30,221
Boone	312,260	Louisa	22,928
Bremer		Lucas	
Buchanan	33,304	Lyon	182,732
Buena Vista	388,040	Madison	124,790
Butler	4,795	Mahaska	60,930
Calhoun	475,423	Marion	4,144
Carroll	291,889	Marshall	309,394
Cass	95,263	Mills	100,013
Cedar	57,070	Mitchell	6,810
Cerro Gordo	66,502	Monona	265,762
Cherokee		Monroe	4,985
Chickasaw	978	Montgomery	61,752
Clarke	33,349	Muscatine	
Clay	245,697	O'Brien	230,069
Clayton		Osceola	44,201
Clinton	121,192	Page	86,008
Crawford	99,687	Palo Alto	
Dallas	29,814	Plymouth	165,947
Davis		Pocahontas	467,918
Decatur	31,585	Polk	
Delaware		E.Pottawattamie	16,940
Des Moines		W.Pottawattamie	30,446
Dickinson	165,489	Poweshiek	116,224
Dubuque		Ringgold	
Emmet	21,541	Sac	24,695
Fayette	5,319	Scott	51,264
Floyd	12,566	Shelby	174,699
Franklin	51,616	Sioux	213,325
Fremont	279,629	Story	314,373
Greene		Tama	148,217
Grundy		Taylor	
Guthrie	173,827	Union	27,140
Hamilton	181,896	Van Buren	
Hancock	74,897	Wapello	13,117
Hardin	115,031	Warren	20,680
Harrison		Washington	144,609
Henry		Wayne	8,191
Howard	4,695	Webster	213,980
Humboldt	305,294	Winnebago	29,904
Ida	79,458	Winneshiek	
Iowa	79,597	Woodbury	223,076
Jackson		Worth	41,442
Jasper	33,832	Wright	242,780

TOTAL 8,864,309

(Compiled from farm warehouse certificates filed with the Iowa Department of Agriculture as of December 28, 1937.)

DECEMBER COLDER THAN NORMAL

Preliminary reports received from cooperative observers of the Weather Division of the Iowa Department of Agriculture show that the past December has been the wintriest for several years.

In releasing the report, Dr. Thomas L. Curran pointed out that temperatures have averaged lower than usual and there has been more precipitation in the form of snow, sleet and rain. The reports indicated that most of the ice covering in the state was underlain with layers of snow or granular sleet. This covering served to avert damage to winter grains, grasses and clover.

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WEIGHT TICKETS REQUIRED

Coal haulers and dealers were warned today by C. S. Bogle, Chief Inspector of the State Department of Agriculture, that state law requires that each delivery of coal, charcoal or coke must be accompanied by duplicate delivery tickets; tickets to be made out in ink or indelible pencil and distinctly show the gross weight of the load, the weight of the delivery vehicle and the net amount of the commodity together with the names of the purchaser and the dealer from whom purchased. The hauler or dealer is required to deliver one copy of the weight ticket to the purchaser.

Mr. Bogle explained that this law was enacted to protect the coal consumer and guarantee him honest weight on his purchases. He reported that the department inspectors had been instructed to rigidly enforce provisions of this law and to prosecute violators.

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NEILSEN HONORED

Clarence Neilsen of Independence, Iowa, was elected president of the American Butter Institute at the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the organization.

Mr. Nielsen is manager of the Blue Valley Creamery Company at Independence, Iowa, and was formerly president of the Butter Industries Committee in Iowa.

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, cottonseed oil comprised about 49 per cent and coconut oil only 24 per cent of the fats and oils used in the production of oleomargarine during the first nine months of 1937. In some former years, coconut oil comprised 75 per cent of all fats used in the production of oleomargarine.

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BARROW SHOW AT 1938 STATE FAIR

A market barrow show will be a feature of the 1938 Iowa State Fair, according to an announcement made by A. R. Corey, Secretary of the Fair Board. The announcement followed a conference between the members of the State Fair Board and members of the Iowa Swine Producers' Association.

The board allotted \$1500.00 as premiums for the barrow show. Tentative plans indicate that the show will be divided into two classes by weight; one class from 170 to 210 pounds, the other class from 210 to 250 pounds. The exhibits will consist of individual as well as pens of three.

Barrows will also be shown separately by breeds with special classes providing for grades and cross-breds. All barrows shown must be farrowed on or after February 1, 1938. It is planned to judge this exhibit and sell the entries by Saturday of the first week of the Fair, in order to provide pen room for the incoming purebred herds.

E. J. Morrissey, President of the Iowa Swine Producers' Association explained that this type of show would:

- (1) Attract practical hog raisers and give them an opportunity to compete with each other.
- (2) Tend to set standards for market hogs.
- (3) Create a greater public interest in proper market type.
- (4) Focus attention of the purebred breeders on the ideal type of market hog.

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HERRICK ON LEAVE

Robert S. Herrick, Secretary of the Iowa State Horticultural Society, has taken a two months' leave of absence without pay, to travel in southwestern United States and Old Mexico.

Mr. Herrick will visit relatives in southern California, Yuma, Arizona, and College Station, Texas, where a cousin of Mr. Herrick's, Professor Charles Shepardson, is Head of the Dairy Husbandry Department of Texas State College.

Mr. Herrick expects to return to Des Moines about the tenth of February, when he will resume his duties as head of the Horticultural Department, under Dr. Thomas L. Curran, Secretary of Agriculture

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(Continued)

WALLACE TWINS WIN 4-H HONOR

The 15-jewel gold watch offered by the American Steel and Wire Company for the outstanding dairy record book of the state was awarded to Albert and Arthur Wallace of Williamsburg, Iowa, according to Ernest M. Wright, Field Secretary of the Iowa State Dairy Association.

The record book winning the award was on a purebred Jersey heifer entered in 4-H Club work in 1935 and carried through the full three-year project.

The two boys have been prominent in 4-H Club work for a number of years. Arthur is now president of the Iowa Boys' 4-H Association and Albert is president of the Iowa County Association.

Mr. Wright reported that further results of the 4-H record book contest in which the Iowa State Dairy Association will award \$300.00 in cash prizes will be announced as soon as they have been tabulated.

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CORN AND SMALL GRAIN SHOW FEBRUARY 7-11

The premium list for the thirty-sixth Annual Corn and Small Grain Show has been completed and is now available for distribution, according to Joe L. Robinson, Secretary of the Iowa Corn and Small Grain Growers' Association.

In addition to ordinary classes, premiums will be offered for the longest ear of corn and for the heaviest ear of corn. In the long-ear class, measurements are to be made from the outside of the last kernel on the butt of the ear to the last kernel on the top. In the heavy-ear class, the ears will be weighed at the time of judging and no entry may contain more than 20% of moisture.

Mr. Robinson predicted an outstanding show this year because of the excellent growing season.

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IOWA CROP INCOME IN 1937 INCREASES OVER 1936

The end of the season survey of Iowa's crops by the Division of Agricultural Statistics of the Iowa State Department of Agriculture tended to confirm most of the earlier indications for increased production and increased cash farm income in 1937 from crops.

Total cash farm income in 1937 from crops is estimated at \$79,500,000 as compared with \$73,500,000 in 1936, or an increase of about 8.0 per cent. Of the thirty crop items included in the farm income estimates, corn was the principal crop item showing a decline from last year in contribution to the total cash income although twenty-three other crops were listed as having larger cash incomes than in 1936.

(Continued)

Iowa Crop Income in 1937 Increases Over 1936, (Continued)

Total tonnage of the major grain and feed crops produced in Iowa in 1937 was nearly ninety (90) per cent greater than in 1936, and about fourteen (14) per cent greater than the average crop tonnage produced in the five-year period (1928-32). Comparisons with production in 1936 are hardly parallel comparisons because of drought conditions in that year and generally favorable producing conditions in 1937.

Average yields per acre of the important crops in 1937 were substantially greater than in 1936, and were well above the average yields in the five-year period 1928-32, excepting for wheat and buckwheat as shown in the following table:

	<u>Yield Per Acre in 1937</u> in per cent of	
	<u>1936</u>	<u>1928-32 Average</u>
Corn	254.2	117.5
Wheat	89.3	97.4
Oats	160.7	126.8
Barley	200.0	112.7
Rye	135.7	123.4
Buckwheat	122.2	93.2
Flax	143.7	121.0
Soybeans	132.1	112.8
Hay	120.7	108.1

In terms of estimated total cash farm income from crop items and from livestock and livestock products, the account does not stand quite as favorable as in 1936 as indicated by this comparison of total cash farm income in 1936 and 1937, namely \$569,377,000 and \$522,356,000 in order. Broken down into their component parts, the comparative income estimates are as follows:

<u>Cash Farm Income in Iowa</u>		
<u>Items</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>
Crops	\$73,500,000	\$79,500,000
Livestock and Livestock products	470,450,000	418,050,000
Government Payments	<u>25,427,000</u>	<u>24,806,000</u>
TOTAL	\$569,377,000	\$522,356,000

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