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Continuing discussions of farm programs indicate that another attempt to draft "permanent" agricultural legislation will be made by the next Congress. The current trend of thinking appears to be in the direction of continuing the present type of program for storable commodities, possibly with greater flexibility in the level of support, and of direct subsidy payments to farmers for a selected list of perishable commodities. The level of price support established probably will depend to some extent on the size of losses experienced this year and the amount of stocks accumulated. Election results this fall may give some further indication of the type of program to be expected.

The long-awaited two billion dollar increase in CCC borrowing authority, never in serious doubt of approval, now appears to be definitely set for prompt action. Bills have passed both Houses of Congress and are in conference committee. The CCC is reported ready to announce price support programs for several crops as soon as the additional funds are authorized. The long delay apparently was occasioned by dissatisfaction on the part of some Congressmen with CCC accounting methods as well as with the large financial losses experienced on some price support activities.

Corn in CCC bins in Iowa is offered for sale in June at 21 cents per bushel above the 1949 corn loan rate in the county where stored.

The storage payment to farmers who hold 1948 corn on farms until July 31, 1951, is 10 cents per bushel, payable at the time the corn is resealed. This is for the 1949-50 storage. Further payment will be made after July 31, 1951, if the corn is delivered to the CCC.

Potato growers in Delaware and the eastern shore of Maryland recently rejected a Federal marketing control program for that area and, therefore, will not receive price support for their 1950 crop of potatoes. Similar action was taken recently by California growers.

Winter wheat crop prospects have improved, according to a private crop reporting service, due largely to timely rains. Harvesting is under way in Texas and Southern Oklahoma with yields running above expectations. Spring wheat and oat acreages are reported to be less than indicated earlier with production likely to be less than in 1949.

The Illinois Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin reports that over 90 per cent of the corn is planted, except in the southern counties where almost one-half is still to be planted, and soybean planting is 70 per cent completed; both are behind year-ago planting schedules but ahead of most years.

Seasonally high prices for most classes of meat animals are in prospect for this summer, according to the BAE. Some reaction from the rapid April-May advance may first occur, but further advances are likely later. It is expected that prices of stocker and feeder cattle and lower grades of slaughter steers will decline during the summer, although the seasonal downturn is delayed. Prices of sheep and lambs are likely to decline seasonally in the months ahead, but probably less than usual.

The Corn Belt Livestock Feeders Association has announced its opposition to a proposed change in Federal grades for beef on the grounds that it would permit grass-fat beef to be graded "good" along with corn-fed beef.

Ernest T. Baughman
Agricultural Economist
Research Department