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WISCONSIN CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Agricultural Statistics

Federal—State Crop Reporting Service

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IN THIS ISSUE

August Crop Report

Production prospects for many Wisconsin crops improved during July. Grain crops are turning out better than expected, and weather conditions have been favorable for hay. Pastures are much better than a year ago. The corn crop did not make the expected progress in July and weather conditions in August and September will be important in determining final production. The nation is also having a good crop year, and feed supplies are expected to be adequate this winter.

Milk Production

For the first 7 months of 1950 milk production on Wisconsin farms has been slightly below last year, but for the nation milk production this year has been a little higher. In July milk production in Wisconsin and nationally was higher than in July 1949.

Egg Production

Wisconsin farm flocks produced more eggs in July than a year earlier although there were fewer layers on farms. There were 5 percent more layers in the nation's farm flocks in July than a year earlier and egg production was up 7 percent.

Prices Farmers Receive and Pay

The general level of Wisconsin farm prices increased from June to July and was above the July 1949 average. Increases in farm product prices are also shown for the nation.

Current Trends

Cold storage holdings of creamery butter and cheese are much larger than a year ago while sharp decreases are reported for condensed, evaporated, and powdered milk stocks. Total agricultural income showed a slight increase from May to June but is below a year ago. Non-agricultural incomes are much above last year.

Special News Items (Page 4)

Baby Chicks Purchased
Hay Harvesting Late

IN spite of a delayed season and excessive rains in some areas during July, crop prospects in Wisconsin have improved during the past month. While the early hay crops were reduced by unfavorable early season weather, the June and July rains have improved production of second cuttings of alfalfa and some other hay. Pastures, likewise, have improved with the rains and on August 1 were 88 percent of normal compared with 78 percent a year ago and an average for that date of 77 percent.

Grain crops also are turning out better than estimated earlier. The yield of oats for Wisconsin is now reported at 46 bushels per acre, which is up 2 bushels over the estimate of last month. Barley yields have likewise risen and are now estimated at 39.5 bushels per acre, which is up a half bushel from last month. Yields of wheat are also turning out somewhat better than was estimated earlier.

One of the uncertain items in the crop picture this year is the corn crop. It has been retarded by cool, wet weather, especially in some of the areas where rainfall in July was much above normal. However, in most counties the corn crop has a good color and with the abundant moisture supplies. August and early September will be important in determining corn production.

Other crops are making varied returns this year. Potato yields are unusually high. The outlook for potato production is excellent in Wisconsin and an all-time high yield per acre is in prospect. The tobacco crop has been a little slow in getting underway, but has shown improvement recently. Canning crops are making varied progress. Peas were delayed in harvesting but have done rather well. The sweet corn crop is sharply cut in acreage and yield prospects are much below last year. Most other truck crops, except cabbage and onions, have lower yield prospects than last year. Fruit crops vary, cherry and apple production being somewhat larger than last year, but the cranberry crop is late and uncertain and production may well be below that of a year ago.

United States Crops

The country as a whole in spite of cool and rainy weather which delayed harvesting is having another good crop year. Generally July was a favorable month for crop progress and even the corn crop for the country as a whole has above average prospects.

Grain production for the nation varies. The feed grains—oats and barley—are making relatively large crops compared with last year. Rye production is up about 20 percent from a year ago, but still 30 percent under average. The winter wheat crop is down nearly 18 percent from the big production of last year, and other types of wheat will produce at about last year's level.

Nationally the hay crop is a large one, being about 6 percent above 1949 and nearly 5 percent above average. Pastures, too, have responded to the rains and cool weather and they are the best for this date in several years. Such crops as potatoes and tobacco are now expected to produce close to last year's output in spite of some reduction in acreage.

Weather Summary, July 1950

Station	Temperature Degrees Fahrenheit				Precipitation inches		
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Normal	July 1950	Normal	Accumulative excess or deficiency since January 1
Duluth	42	89	62.0	63.9	3.48	3.76	+3.68
Spooner	39	88	64.7	69.1	4.20	3.96	+3.22
Park Falls	43	86	63.5	67.2	4.42	4.50	+1.54
Rhinelander	44	89	64.0	67 1	4.69	4.41	+2.32
Wausau	47	90	67.6	68.4	3.54	4.07	-------
Marinette	42	90	67.4	71.1	4.15	3.37	—0.83
Escanaba	46	86	63.5	66.0	5.20	3.33	+1.10
Minneapolis	51	90	70.5	72.3	3.74	3.73	—2.87
Eau Claire	50	92	70.2	71.5	5.64	3.59	—0.77
La Crosse	51	89	69.6	72.8	6.07	3.90	+6.15
Hancock	47	88	67.0	71.3	6.23	3.45	+1.66
Oshkosh	47	90	68.9	71.7	5.98	3.42	+0.07
Green Bay	45	89	66.4	70.0	6.50	3.46	+2.61
Manitowoc	50	89	66.6	68.0	5.02	3.50	—0.74
Dubuque	50	89	72.0	74.1	4.69	3.94	+5.32
Madison	51	88	69.7	72.1	10.41	3.88	+10.86
Beloit	48	91	70.4	72.8	5.46	3 58	-------
Milwaukee	48	89	68.7	68.2	6.07	2.83	+5.33
Average for 18 Stations	46.7	89.0	67.4	69.9	5.30	3.70	+2.42[1]

[1] Average for 16 stations.

Milk Production

An estimated 1,543 million pounds of milk was produced on Wisconsin farms during July and 11,827 million pounds was produced in the country as a whole. Wisconsin's July total was 1½ percent above July 1949 and 6 percent above the 1939–48 average for the month. For the nation the production in July was 2 percent above that of the same month in the previous year and 3 percent higher than the 10-year average for July. The cumulative total for the first seven months shows Wisconsin slightly below last year but the United States as a whole 2 percent above 1949.

Crop Summary of Wisconsin for August 1, 1950

Crop	Acreage			Production					Unit	Yield per acre		
	1950 (Preliminary)	1949	1950 as a percent of 1949	August 1, 1950 forecast	1949	10-year average 1939-48	1950 as a percent of 1949	1950 as a percent of 10-year average		Indicated 1950	1949	10-year average 1939-48
Corn	2,544,000	2,596,000	98.0	111,936,000	129,800,000	103,589,000	86.2	108.1	Bu.	44.0	50.0	42.0
Potatoes	75,000	80,000	93.8	14,625,000	13,600,000	12,894,000	107.5	113.4	Bu.	195	170	95
Tobacco	21,000	20,100	104.5	31,045,000	30,846,000	33,252,000	100.6	93.4	Lb.	1478	1535	1479
Oats	2,880,000	2,924,000	98.5	132,480,000	119,884,000	108,370,000	110.5	122.2	Bu.	46.0	41.0	41.3
Barley	214,000	188,000	113.8	8,453,000	6,392,000	11,524,000	132.2	73.4	Bu.	39.5	34.0	33.5
Rye	97,000	92,000	105.4	1,212,000	1,196,000	1,397,000	101.3	86.8	Bu.	12.5	13.0	11.2
Winter wheat	24,000	27,000	88.9	552,000	608,000	687,000	90.8	80.3	Bu.	23.0	22.5	19.7
Spring wheat	63,000	85,000	74.1	1,544,000	1,912,000	1,095,000	80.8	141.0	Bu.	24.5	22.5	21.2
Buckwheat	17,000	15,000	113.3	264,000	232,000	261,000	113.8	101.1	Bu.	15.5	15.5	15.0
All tame hay	3,862,000	3,829,000	100.9	6,623,000	6,178,000	6,690,000	107.2	99.0	Ton	1.71	1.61	1.69
Alfalfa hay	1,769,000	1,653,000	107.0	3,626,000	3,554,000	2,216,000	102.0	163.6	Ton	2.05	2.15	2.14
Clover and timothy hay	1,767,000	1,900,000	93.0	2,562,000	2,280,000	4,072,000	112.4	62.9	Ton	1.45	1.20	1.54
Other tame hay	326,000	276,000	118.1	435,000	344,000	402,000	126.5	108.2	Ton	1.33	1.25	1.42
Wild hay	105,000	105,000	100.0	121,000	110,000	154,000	110.0	78.6	Ton	1.15	1.05	1.18
Flax	14,000	17,000	82.4	175,000	221,000	128,000	79.2	136.7	Bu.	12.5	13.0	11.4
Canning peas	115,000	115,400	99.7	230,000,000	234,260,000	238,140,000	98.2	96.6	Lb.	2000	2030	1810
Corn for canning	70,000	99,800	70.1	182,000	329,300	166,310	55.3	109.4	Ton	2.6	3.3	2.3
Snap beans for canning	11,400	12,100	94.2	17,100	20,600	13,800	83.0	123.9	Ton	1.5	1.7	1.4
Tomatoes for canning	1,800	1,500	120.0	11,700	13,600	9,730	86.0	120.2	Ton	6.5	9.1	5.7
Cabbage, domestic	11,000	10,000	110.0	126,500	97,200	86,700	130.1	145.9	Ton	11.5	9.7	8.7
Cabbage, Danish	4,000	3,800	105.3		41,800	31,000			Ton		11.0	8.6
Onions	2,200	2,100	104.8	456,500	420,000	355,000	108.7	128.6	Cwt.	207.5	200.0	201.0
Sugar beets	17,000	8,900	191.0	178,500	89,900	143,890	198.6	124.1	Ton	10.5	10.1	9.9
Apples, commercial				750,000	724,000	725,000	103.6	103.4	Bu.			
Cherries				15,800	11,600	12,460	136.2	126.8	Ton			
Pasture										88[1]	78[1]	77[1]

[1] Condition on August 1.

Egg Production

There were fewer layers in Wisconsin farm flocks during July than both July a year ago and the average. Compared with July last year the decrease in layer numbers was about 2 percent while there was about a 6 percent decrease from the 5-year average. Farms in the United States had 5 percent more layers on hand than a year ago but about 2 percent less than the 5-year July average.

The July rate of lay per layer was higher than a year ago in both the state and nation. Wisconsin layers averaged 16.55 eggs per layer—nearly 3 percent above July 1949 and about 5 percent more than the 5-year average. The nation's rate of production, 15.17 eggs per farm layer, was nearly 2 percent above a year ago and 5 percent above the July average.

Wisconsin farm flocks produced 202 million eggs during July. This was 1 percent higher than July last year but 1 percent lower than the 5-year average for the month. The nation's total output of 4,637 million eggs was substantially above July a year ago with a recorded increase of about 7 percent and it was between 2 and 3 percent above the July average. The increase over a year ago was the result of the expansion in layer numbers more than of the rise in rate of production.

The farm price of both chickens and eggs advanced from June to July. Eggs averaged 31.2 cents per dozen in July compared with 27.5 cents one month before and 43.5 one year before. The July average for eggs was the highest monthly average price recorded this year. Farmers received an average of 25.2 cents per pound for live chickens while one month earlier and one year earlier they received prices that averaged 24.9 and 25.3 cents per pound respectively.

Wisconsin Farm Prices

Wisconsin farm product prices as a whole increased about 5 percent from June to July. Most of the upturn in these prices was seasonal, but there probably was some effect from the Korean War.

The index of meat animal prices in July was 10 percent above June and 19 percent higher than July of last year. Chicken and egg prices also increased 10 percent from June to July but averaged 22 percent below July 1949. Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers have been rather stable throughout the year and showed an increase from June of less than 2 percent and advanced about 3 percent from July last year. Some advances in other farm products occurred from June to July.

Until July the purchasing power of the Wisconsin farm dollar had shown a steady decline beginning with October of last year. During that

Crop Summary of the United States for August 1, 1950

Crop	Acreage (000 omitted)			Production (000 omitted)			1950 production as a percent of		Unit	Yield per acre		
	1950 (Preliminary)	1949	1950 as a percent of 1949	August 1, 1950 forecast	1949	10-year average 1939-48	1949	10-year average		Indicated 1950	1949	10-year average 1939-48
Corn	83,091	86,735	95.8	3,167,607	3,377,790	2,900,932	93.8	109.2	Bu.	38.1	38.9	32.9
Potatoes	1,826.5	1,901.3	96.1	407,342	401,962	403,284	101.3	101.0	Bu.	223.0	211.4	154.6
Tobacco	1,595.8	1,630.3	97.9	1,932,611	1,970,376	1,777,945	98.1	108.7	Lb.	1211	1209	1073
Oats	42,765	40,560	105.4	1,456,130	1,322,924	1,274,474	110.1	114.3	Bu.	34.0	32.6	32.8
Barley	11,233	9,879	113.7	285,402	238,104	310,668	119.9	91.9	Bu.	25.4	24.1	24.2
Rye	1,852	1,558	118.9	22,509	18,697	32,155	120.4	70.0	Bu.	12.2	12.0	12.0
Winter wheat	43,104	55,453	77.7	740,537	901,668	758,821	82.1	97.6	Bu.	17.2	16.3	17.5
Durum wheat	2,706	3,525	76.8	35,518	38,864	36,753	91.4	96.6	Bu.	13.1	11.0	14.8
Spring wheat other than durum	14,703	17,773	82.7	220,435	205,931	235,738	107.0	93.5	Bu.	15.0	11.6	15.9
Flax	3,738	4,880	76.6	30,695	43,664	34,752	70.3	88.3	Bu.	8.2	8.9	9.5
Buckwheat	270	279	96.8	4,807	5,184	7,029	92.7	68.4	Bu.	17.8	18.6	17.0
Tame hay	60,813	57,917	105.0	92,448	87,009	88,280	106.3	104.7	Ton	1.52	1.50	1.45
Wild hay	14,873	14,918	99.7	12,543	12,296	12,064	102.0	104.0	Ton	.84	.82	.89
Pasture										88[1]	83[1]	80[1]

[1] Condition August 1.

Current Trends

WISCONSIN	Latest Report: Date	Latest Report: Reported figure[1]	Previous Reports: One month before	Previous Reports: One year before	Previous Reports: 5-yr av. of same month
Farm Price Indexes[2], 1910-14=100*					
Farm prices, general, %	July	256	244	243	254
Livestock and livestock products, %	July	262	249	248	255
Milk, %	July	237	233	231	264
Meat animals, %	July	356	324	300	265
Poultry and eggs, %	July	163	148	210	191
Crops, %	July	216	214	205	245
Feed grains and hay, %	July	191	186	169	199
Fruits, %	July	192	192	174	303
Prices farmers pay, %	July	262	261	257	215
Purchasing power, farm products, %	July	98	93	95	118
Dairy Production and Markets					
Milk price per cwt.[3]					
All utilizations, $	July	3.00	2.95	2.92	3.34
For cheese, $	July	2.90	2.81	2.77	3.29
For butter, $	July	3.05	2.97	3.00	3.28
Condensery products, $	July	3.11	3.06	2.97	3.40
Market milk, $	July	3.25	3.20	3.25	3.62
Farm price of butterfat in cream[4], cts.	July 15	65	66	65	68.4
Farm price of butter[5], cts.	July 15	60	62	60	64.4
Wholesale prices of cheese, per pound					
American[6] (cheddar), cts.	July	30.92	31.15	29.25	
Swiss, cts.	July	37.0	33.5	35.6	41.1
Total milk production[2], (000,000 omitted), lbs.	July	1543	1707	1518	1455[7]
Cows in herd freshening[8], %	July	3.37	4.10	3.07	3.41
Calves born during month being raised[8], %	July	32.67	35.47	27.49	29.15
Grains and concentrates fed per month, per cow[9], lbs.	July	111	138	117	90.6
Grains and concentrates fed daily[8]					
Per farm, lbs.	Aug. 1	65.2	60.0	60.7	52.6
Per cow in herd, lbs.	Aug. 1	3.72	3.43	3.58	3.08
Per 100 lbs. of milk produced, lbs.	Aug. 1	16.68	12.69	16.47	14.94
Wisconsin creamery butter production[10], (000 omitted), lbs.	June	20240	19375	18280	12295
Wisconsin American cheese production[10], (000 omitted), lbs.	June	52730	45075	49635	48107
Wisconsin butter receipts at 4 markets[11], (000 omitted), lbs.	July	6637	8297	8033	4569
Wisconsin cheese receipts at 4 markets[11], (000 omitted), lbs.	July	11176	8840	10529	14816
Poultry Production[12]					
Layers on hand in month, (000 om.), no.	July	12202	12924	12428	12935
Eggs per 100 layers, no.	July	1655	1686	1612	1575
Total eggs produced (000,000 om.), no.	July	202	218	200	204
Feed Price Changes[2]					
Index of feed prices, 1910-14=100, %	July	221.7	213.8	194.0	237.3
Cost, 1000 lbs. dairy ration, $	July	28.13	26.90	23.98	28.90
Amount of ration 100 lbs. of milk would buy, lbs.	July	106.6	109.7	121.8	116.0
Wisconsin by-product feed cost per ton f.o.b. Madison					
Standard bran, $	July	56.50	50.00	47.90	53.20
Linseed oil meal, $	July	75.50	73.25	65.40	69.38
Corn gluten feed, $	July	56.00	54.50	56.00	58.53
Tankage, $	July	126.15	112.50	143.05	96.63
Standard middlings, $	July	65.25	57.75	50.60	57.86
Soybean meal, $	July	99.40	88.15	88.55	80.19
Cost, 100 lbs. poultry ration, $	July	29.95	28.05	27.50	30.93
Amount of ration 10 doz. eggs would buy, lbs.	July	104.2	98.0	158.2	125.9
Farm Product Prices[5]					
Milk cows, per head, $	July 15	238	235	210	170.00
Hogs, per cwt., $	July 15	20.80	17.70	18.00	17.90
Beef cattle, per cwt., $	July 15	22.40	21.10	18.10	14.68
Veal calves, per cwt., $	July 15	27.20	26.10	23.50	18.20
Sheep, per cwt., $	July 15	9.50	9.10	8.90	7.38
Lambs, per cwt., $	July 15	24.00	23.60	21.60	17.20
Wool, per lb., $	July 15	.53	.50	.43	.45
Chickens, per lb., cts.	July 15	25.2	24.9	25.3	27.6
Eggs, per doz., cts.	July 15	31.2	27.5	43.5	37.7
Wheat, per bu., $	July 15	2.05	1.98	1.94	1.86
Corn, per bu., $	July 15	1.36	1.30	1.23	1.67
Oats, per bu., $	July 15	.81	.82	.64	.85
Barley, per bu., $	July 15	1.41	1.32	1.18	1.49
Rye, per bu., $	July 15	1.29	1.25	1.20	1.67
Buckwheat, per bu., $	July 15	1.15	1.11	1.05	1.56
Flaxseed, per bu., $	July 15	3.25	3.55	3.60	4.12
Red clover seed, per bu., $	July 15	24.90	29.30	23.00	23.02
Alfalfa seed, per bu., $	July 15	32.00	32.00	30.00	23.52
Timothy seed, per bu., $	July 15	9.10	13.30	5.50	2.98
All hay, loose, per ton, $	July 15	18.00	20.00	19.70	15.52
Alfalfa hay, loose, per ton, $	July 15	18.80	21.10	20.20	18.72
Clover and timothy hay, loose, per ton, $	July 15	17.30	18.90	19.90	17.70
Potatoes, per bu., $	July 15	1.60	1.55	1.65	1.70
Apples, per bu., $	July 15	2.50	2.50	2.00	3.56

UNITED STATES	Latest Report: Date	Latest Report: Reported figure[1]	Previous Reports: One month before	Previous Reports: One year before	Previous Reports: 5-yr. av. of same month
Farm Price Indexes[10], 1910-14=100					
Farm prices, general, %	July	263	247	246	243.0
Livestock and livestock products, %	July	287	268	269	251.0
Dairy products, %	July	232	227	237	249.6
Meat animals, %	July	371	342	316	276.6
Poultry and eggs, %	July	173	156	213	201.0
Crops, %	July	236	225	221	234.0
Feed grains and hay, %	July	195	190	171	218.8
Prices farmers pay, %	July	247	245	240	207.8
Purchasing power, farm products, %	July	106	101	102	116.9
Dairy Production and Markets					
Milk price, wholesale[10], $	July 15	3.57	3.45	3.71	3.81
Farm price of butterfat in cream[10], per lb., cts.	July 15	59.4	59.7	58.9	64.7
Price (wholesale) 92-score butter, Chicago, per lb.[11], cts.	July	60.0	59.9	59.9	61.70
Total milk production[10], (000,000 omitted), lbs.	July	11827	12485	11559	11515[7]
Creamery butter production[10], (000 omitted), lbs.	June	166275	156195	157325	152209
American cheese production[10], (000 omitted), lbs.	June	114705	104535	112545	108576
Evaporated whole milk production[10], (000 omitted), lbs.	June	348800	346850	350850	426925
Dried skim milk production[10], (000 omitted)					
Human food, lbs.	June	118750	113000	112200	88941
Animal feed, lbs.	June	1900	2700	2300	2849
Butter receipts at 4 markets[11], (000 omitted), lbs.	July	38450	45698	37738	45219
Cheese receipts at 4 markets[11], (000 omitted), lbs.	July	15129	12273	15896	22280
Cold-Storage Holdings[11], (000 om.)					
Creamery butter, lbs.	July 31	230652	185167	136786	111489
American cheese, lbs.	July 31	260180	229785	162346	159857
Swiss cheese, lbs.	July 31	5249	4487	2895	2250
All other cheese, lbs.	July 31	20131	19974	20276	23877
All varieties of cheese, lbs.	July 31	285560	254246	185517	185984
Total frozen poultry, lbs.	July 31	102975	122328	71261	123823
Eggs, shell, cases	July 31	3165	3667	1936	5438
Eggs, shell, frozen and dried, (case equivalent), cases	July 31	17971	17988	13078	14968
Poultry Production[10]					
Layers on hand in month, (000 omitted), no.	July	305754	320067	290943	313069
Eggs per 100 layers, no.	July	1517	1615	1488	1445
Total eggs produced, (000,000 omitted), no.	July	4637	5168	4328	4518
Stocks of Dried, Condensed, and Evaporated Milk[10], (000 omitted)					
Dried whole milk, lbs.	June 30	13219	10307	17377	23392
Dried skim milk, lbs.	June 30	94858	83820	107196	90059
Dried buttermilk, lbs.	June 30	5773	4838	8892	5703
Condensed milk (case goods), lbs.	June 30	9733	7650	10027	11264
Evaporated milk (case goods), lbs.	June 30	343988	222300	379000	302850
Slaughter under Federal Meat Inspection[11], (000 omitted)					
Cattle, no.	July	1070	1066	1090	1140
Calves, no.	July	443	485	501	552
Sheep and lambs, no.	July	960	1019	976	1386
Hogs, no.	July	3314	4154	3165	3256
Business and Industry					
Wholesale prices[13], 1910-14=100					
All commodities, %	July	236	230	224	190.4
Foods, %	July			255	221.0
Retail prices[13], 1910-14=100					
All commodities, %	June	247	244	246	207.8
Foods, %	June		258	264	213
Total personal income[14], %	June	305.2	314.1	291.2	271.6
Total non-agricultural income[14], %	June	312.1	322.1	293.7	270.1
Total agricultural income[14], %	June	242.0	240.3	268.1	285.5
Factory employment (adjusted)[15], No. of employees, 1939=100, %	May	146.1	143.0	140.8	157.3
Industrial production (adjusted)[15], 1935-39=100, %	June	197	193	169	200.2
Freight-car loadings (adjusted)[15], 1935-39=100, %	June	127	122	115	138

[1]Preliminary. [2]Prepared by Wisconsin Crop Reporting Service. [3]Based on Wisconsin crop reporters' data. (Subsidy payments excluded.) [4]Based on Wisconsin price reporters' data. (Subsidy payments excluded.) [5]As reported by Wisconsin price reporters. [6]Subsidy of 3.75 cts. included from December 1942 to January 1946. [7]10-year average. [8]Based on Wisconsin dairy reporters' data. [9]Computed on the basis of the average reported quantity fed at the beginning and end of the month in herds of Wisconsin dairy correspondents times number of days in the month. [10]Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. D. A. [11]Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. D. A. [12]Based on Wisconsin crop reporters' data. [13]Bureau of Labor Statistics converted to 1910-14 base. [14]U. S. Dept. of Commerce, corresponding month 1935-39=100. [15]Federal Reserve Board. *Unrevised

period farm prices gradually declined while prices paid by Wisconsin farmers for items bought for farm production and family living steadily increased. The purchasing power of the Wisconsin farm dollar in July was 98 percent of the 1910–14 average, which is about 5 percent above the June level and a little more than 3 percent higher than July 1949.

For the nation, generally higher prices in July for most farm products resulted in the sharpest monthly increase in the index of prices received by farmers since March 1947 and the July farm product price index was nearly 7 percent above a year earlier.

Wisconsin Baby Chicks Purchased Mostly for Layers

Nearly three-fifths of the chicks purchased or to be purchased this year on Wisconsin farms will be kept for layers. This was indicated in a survey of Wisconsin dairy reporters this year. Over a fifth of the purchased chicks will be sold for meat while 12 percent will be eaten on the farm. Only 8 percent died or were otherwise lost. Compared with a year ago there were some differences in the disposition of the baby chicks. Last year 63 percent were intended for layers while only 18 percent were to be marketed for meat.

In no district was the number of chicks intended for layers less than one-half of all the chicks purchased. In fact the percentages for intended layers among the districts ranged from 53 percent in the Central and Southern Districts to 70 percent in the Southwestern District. As shown in the accompanying table the Northeastern, Western, and Eastern Districts were the only other districts where over three-fifths of the purchased chickens were intended for layers. In all of the districts the bulk of the chicks bought are intended for flock replacements.

Disposition of Purchased Baby Chicks
July 1, 1950*

	To be kept for layers	Will be sold for meat	Will be eaten on farm	Have died or were otherwise lost
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Northwest	55	12	28	5
North	54	13	26	7
Northeast	63	16	10	11
West	67	19	6	8
Central	53	27	14	6
East	62	21	9	8
Southwest	70	9	14	7
South	53	28	9	10
Southeast	56	25	11	8
State	59	21	12	8

*As reported by Wisconsin dairy correspondents.

Unlike the distribution pattern of chicks intended for layers the distribution of chicks that will be sold for meat shows a definite pattern in the state. The southern two-thirds of the state, except for the Western and Southwestern Districts, has the highest share of chicks intended for meat sales. This section of the state is well situated in regard to heavily populated areas and thus has an advantage in being nearer to markets than some other parts of the state. The Southwestern District which was highest in the percentage of chicks for future layers was lowest in meat sales with only 9 percent reported for all the chicks purchased. The Southern and Central Districts were highest with 28 and 27 percent respectively.

A larger share of the purchased chicks will eventually be eaten on farms in the northwestern section of the state than in any other section according to the survey. The Northwestern District had 28 percent while the Northern District had 26 percent. The Western District, a highly commercialized poultry area, reported only 6 percent of the chicks bought for farm consumption. The percentage of chicks purchased that have died or were otherwise lost has not varied greatly throughout the state—ranging from 5 percent in the Northwestern District to 11 percent in the Northeastern District. There does not appear to be any relationship between the loosing of chicks and the location in the state.

First Crop Hay Cut Late this Year

Harvesting of the first cutting of hay in the state was delayed considerably this year. Wisconsin crop correspondents reported that only a third of the hay crop on their farms was harvested by July 1 whereas usually around half of the first cutting is harvested by that date.

The lateness of the growing season this spring together with rains in June accounted for the delay in hay harvesting. The cold and late spring greatly retarded the early hay growth and when the crop was ready for cutting rains slowed harvesting. Last year by July 1 about two-thirds of the first cutting was harvested—the spring season being a normal one. In 1948 two-fifths of the first-crop hay was harvested before July.

Percent of Hay Harvested by July 1*

District	1950	Normal
	Percent	Percent
Northwest	19	33
North	10	27
Northeast	22	37
West	43	61
Central	36	49
East	32	57
Southwest	33	59
South	47	76
Southeast	42	62
State	33	54

*As reported by Wisconsin crop correspondents.

There is considerable variation among the areas in the state in regard to the share of hay harvested by July 1 this year. It ranged from a tenth in the Northern District to 47 percent in the Southern District. Normally around one-quarter and three-quarters of the first cutting is harvested by July 1, in those two districts respectively. In general the northern third of the state was later this year than the other areas. Only 19 percent was harvested in the Northwestern District and 22 percent in the Northeastern District. Usually the area in the northern third of Wisconsin has a smaller portion of hay harvested by July 1 than the other areas. This could be expected since the spring growing season usually gets a later start in the north.

As indicated by the accompanying table the over-all percentage pattern of hay harvested by July 1 this year was quite similar to the normal pattern, except that hay harvesting of the first cutting was retarded in all areas.

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