

Farmers last year who marketed their wool through the Cooperative Wool Growers Association received on the average of six to seven cents per pound more than those who sold through the local buyers. This increase in wool prices was made possible through the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation loaning program. An advance which averages about eighteen cents per pound of wool was made at the time the wool was delivered to the local cooperative assembling point for wool, which in this county was at Baldwin. When the wool was graded an additional payment was made on grade, and when all the 1938 wool crop was sold, the farmer received his 3% payment which was his bonus in addition to the advance and the grading payment. This year all indications are that the payment per pound over local buyers will be much in excess of 1938 because a large part of the wool was sold after the war boom early in September and commanded top prices.

We had a series of sheep dipping demonstrations and also did considerable work on docking and castrating lambs. This fall the Wisconsin State Ram Truck brought 35 fine purebred rams into the county from old established sheep breeders in the state. These rams were offered for sale and 12 of them were bought by farmers in the county. The sale of rams is not the only object of this ram truck. This is a fine opportunity for farmers to see choice rams, to compare them with what they already have, and to see what is being used as a guide in selecting good rams.

### SWINE

A number of requests have come in from time to time for information regarding sicknesses in hogs. In hogs, as well as in other livestock, we have no intention of replacing the licensed veterinarian. It has been our aim to work in cooperation with the local veterinarians in the county in bringing about an understanding of diseases and their control.

We have discussed with various swine breeders the problem of marketing their product and they too, as well as dairymen, are becoming aware of the fact there if there is going to be a continued market for pork as well as for lard, we are going to have to put on a strenuous advertising program to again convince people that lard is a by-product of the swine industry that cannot be substituted successfully.

### HORSES

Much lively discussion has come up from time to time regarding the merits of the horse versus tractors. We have seen sufficient cases where tractors on small farms are a detriment in that they do not come near to paying their own way so that, as a result of this, many times we are encouraged to say that unless there is sufficient need for a tractor it is questionable whether it is advisable on the average small farm. In support of this statement we usually ask the farmer if the use of the tractor increased his income. We do not answer this question. His answer will satisfy anyone.

The epidemic of Sleeping Sickness which we witnessed in 1938 disappeared almost entirely in 1939. Its disappearance was one of the peculiarities of the disease. It came upon us fast and disappeared with the same speed. What the possibilities of its re-appearance are, is still a matter of question.

### BEEES

The bee industry has been encouraged and this office has helped maintain a County Beekeepers Association. Inspection work was carried on this past year again and 26 colonies of American Foul Brood were discovered and destroyed by the colony owner and the inspector. The Beekeepers are aware of the fact that this disease is their worst enemy and when appraised of this information are willing to cooperate to eradicate the disease.

### PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION

This office has cooperated with the secretary and Board of Directors of the Production Credit Association wherever possible. The P.C.A. provides short-time loans to farmers who cannot obtain credit from the local banks and who have security to back their loan. I think it is noteworthy that the policy of the P.C.A. is to make loans for work stock so that the farmer can increase his income so that he can not only pay off the loan but pay off other loans and expenses as well.

### FEDERAL LAND BANK

Because of economic conditions the past few years, a large number of farms in St. Croix County have now become the property of the Federal Land Bank. This office has cooperated with the officials of the Federal Land Bank to help alleviate the existing conditions for their present borrowers and to help them, wherever possible, to rehabilitate farmers on these already fore-closed farms.

### SMALL FRUITS

Some work was done last winter with the boys in the Agricultural departments, encouraging them to take an interest in small fruits of the farm size orchard. As a result of this an order was pooled for apple trees which we obtained through a nearby nursery. These trees were of fine stock and were priced very reasonable. This coming year we have already made plans to order several times as many trees and small fruits as we did last year.

### WEEDS

The one new weed which farmers will want to acquaint themselves with is Creeping Jenny or Field Bindweed. This has already