

Hogs seem to be continuing the general downward trend which has been under way since the fall of 1948. For the month ending April 15, 1950, farm hog prices were down 50 cents, or \$2.50 lower than a year ago. The farm price for milk cows was reported as unchanged, both for the month and year. Livestock farm prices for North Dakota are also well above pre-war prices, as beef cattle were 353 per cent of the average farm price of 1935 to 1939, veal calves were 326 per cent, lambs were 308 per cent, hogs were 204 per cent, and milk cows were 388 per cent. Parity price comparisons as of April 15, 1950, are: beef cattle 121 per cent, veal calves 120 per cent, lambs 121 per cent, and hogs 79 per cent.

The April 15, 1950, report shows wholesale milk down 10 cents per hundred pounds for the month and 50 cents under the April farm price of a year ago. Retail milk was unchanged for the month but butterfat was down two cents from the March 15 farm price. Wholesale milk was 81 per cent of the U. S. parity price but 171 per cent of the 1935-39 average. Butterfat was 88 per cent of parity and 179 per cent of the 1935-39 average farm price. Wool was 84 per cent of parity but 183 per cent of the 1935-39 average.

In the poultry and egg group, chickens were up one cent per pound but turkeys and eggs were unchanged from the previous month of March 15, 1950. The parity price situation was 59 per cent for chickens and 52 per cent for eggs. Chickens were 142 per cent of the 1935-39 average farm price, and eggs were 93 per cent.

It may be of interest to note that, of all the North Dakota farm commodities contained in this report, the April 15, 1950, farm price of eggs is the only farm price that was lower than the 1935-39 average.

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#### NEW FORMULA TELLS THE STORY

You could now weigh your live chicken and know in advance how many helpings to serve for your Sunday dinner—if you were a poultryman. This is done by a mathematical formula worked out by ARA poultry scientists. The equations were derived by weighing large numbers of individual live chickens and the dressed and eviscerated carcasses and edible meat obtained from them. They found that percentage yields are different for birds of different weights and that some breeds give a larger eviscerated carcass and more edible meat for each pound of live weight than others. In one particular study the Cornish won out over the New Hampshire, Rhode Island Red, and the crossbred. This information will be of value particularly to processors who buy quantities of poultry on a live basis as well as to institutions feeding large groups of people.—(USDA Agricultural Research Administration.)

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An article in the December number of Botanical Gazette reports that the addition of tomato juice has given better results in germination of orchid seeds than methods previously used. Orchid seeds are extremely small. A single pod may contain half a million seeds. The seed consists of a small embryo without sufficient food material to support early growth of the seedling. Present methods involve growing the seeds on an agar medium supplied with sugars and other nutrients.—NDAC Botany News Letter.