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Co-Operative Extension Work in Agriculture And Home Economics

Prairie View A&M College

A REPORT

on

THE PROTEIN FEED SITUATION IN TEXAS WITH SUGGESTED CORRECTIVE MEASURES

Prepared by the Agricultural Divisions

of

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PROTEIN FEED SITUATION IN TEXAS AND SUGGESTED CORRECTIVE MEASURES

Situation for Current Period

1. The estimated vegetable protein feed needed in Texas for the period March 1 to August 1, 1943, is 380,770 tons. (Table 1)

2. The estimated amount of vegetable protein feed available for this period is 140,000 tons. Thus, Texas livestockmen are short in their protein feed requirements by about 240,770 tons or 63 per cent. (Table 2 & 3)

3. This shortage has resulted largely from a decided increase in numbers of livestock, heavier feeding in response to favorable prices, and decreased shipments to Texas of cottonseed meal from the Southeastern States.

Suggested Corrective Measures

To lessen the severity of the current situation, two steps may be taken.

1. Assure the best possible distribution of the limited supply of protein.

2. Encourage the greatest possible importation of soybeans for crushing in Texas oil mills.

The Situation for Next Year

1. The estimated vegetable protein feed needed in Texas for the period August 1, 1943 to August 1, 1944, is 1,043,000 tons. (Table 1)

2. The estimated amount of vegetable protein feed available for this period will be 565,000 tons, a shortage of 478,000 tons or 45 per cent. (Tables 2 & 3)

Suggested Corrective Measures

Either one or a combination of the following means might be used to remedy this situation:

1. Increase Cotton Acreage

To the extent that Texas is to supply its own requirements for protein feed, experience has amply demonstrated that cottonseed is the most dependable source. Past research and experience show that the production of soybeans and peanuts have decided limitations in Texas. Therefore, Texas must depend on cotton for its principal source of protein feed.

The government program restricts the cotton allotment to Texas to about 9,800,000 acres. About 8,000,000 acres of this allotment were planted last year. As the program now stands, the prospects are that even fewer acres will be planted this year.

The urgent need for cottonseed meal for livestock feeding, vegetable oil for war needs, the current demand for cotton hulls and linters, and the probable post-war needs for cotton lint all point to the advisability of increasing cotton production. Therefore, Government regulations on cotton production should be liberalized and growers should be guaranteed full parity price with adjustments for desired qualities of cotton lint.

The Congressional Acts governing cotton acreage or the regulations, whichever is necessary, should be revised so as to permit temporary reallocation of unused allotment acreage in order to encourage the planting of the entire 9,800,000 acres of cotton allotted to Texas for 1943. Each additional million acres planted to cotton means an extra 50,000 tons of needed protein feed as well as the many other needed products of the seed.

2. Making Vegetable Protein from Other Areas Available

Last year's volume of soybean production has not been so handled under the government program as to make the soybean meal available in the quantities needed and at the time needed so far as this State is concerned. To some extent this has also been true with respect to the peanut crop. Correcting this difficulty would, in part, relieve the situation in Texas.

3. Import Protein from South America

Large quantities of animal and considerable supplies of vegetable proteins are available in South America. It is likely, however, that limitations in shipping space and political considerations will preclude our getting any appreciable amounts of these supplies.

4. Reduce the Production of Livestock and Livestock Products

Texas farmers have responded to the government's appeal to increase the production of livestock and livestock products. Unless a commensurate increase in protein feed is made available, it is apparent that either the market weight and quality of such livestock and livestock products will be lowered as a result of inadequate feeding, or that the number of livestock must be reduced.

Table 1. Estimated Quantity of Vegetable Protein Feed Needed in Texas by Kinds of Livestock for Periods March 1, 1943 to August 1, 1943 and August 1, 1943 to August 1, 1944

Item	Mar. 1, 1943 to Aug. 1, 1943	Aug. 1, 1943 to Aug. 1, 1944
	tons	tons
Dairy	129,220	310,000
Beef	140,000	430,000
Sheep	20,000	96,000
Goats	3,000	10,000
Hogs	64,550	155,000
Poultry	24,000	42,000
Total	380,770	1,043,000

Table 2. Estimated Quantity of Vegetable Protein Feed Available in Texas for the Periods March 1, 1943 to August 1, 1943 and August 1, 1943 to August 1, 1944

Item	Mar. 1, 1943 to Aug. 1, 1943	Aug. 1, 1943 to Aug. 1, 1944
Meal	tons	tons
Cottonseed	104,860	416,000
Peanut	21,980	132,000
Soybean	13,160	17,000
Total	140,000	565,000

Table 3. Difference Between Estimated Quantity of Vegetable Protein Feed Needed and Estimated Quantity Available for Periods March 1, 1943 to August 1, 1943 and August 1, 1943 to August 1, 1944

Item	Mar. 1, 1943 to Aug. 1, 1943	Aug. 1, 1943 to Aug. 1, 1944
	tons	tons
Needed	380,770	1,043,000
Available	140,000	565,000
Difference	240,770	478,000

Source of Information

Table 1. Livestock Specialists

Table 2. Total feed figures for period March 1 to August 1, 1943, obtained from Cottonseed Crushers Association. August 1, 1943 to August 1, 1944, figures estimates of committee based on past acreages and yields. Cotton, peanut, and soybean acreage estimates from State AAA Office.

Table 3. Calculated from Tables 1 and 2.