

(Released January 24, 1947, at 224 Federal Office Bldg., Seattle 4, Wash.)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - Cooperating with - WASHINGTON STATE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

1947 TURKEY PRODUCTION DOWN 20 %

IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Producers blame low turkey prices and high feed costs for reduction below 1946 level. It now appears that the 1947 crop will be the smallest in the last five years. Based on intention reports as of January 1 from Washington turkey producers, only 1,043,000 turkeys will be raised in 1947. Production in 1946 was 1,310,000, which was also a reduction from 1945's record figure of 1,637,000 birds. Reports from the field since January 1 indicate that the reduction may be heavier than reported. Hatcheries report cancellations of many orders for turkey poults, and large producers who furnish eggs for hatching state their sales are dropping to pre-war levels.

U.S. TURKEY CROP ALSO EXPECTED TO BE SMALLER IN 1947

Turkey growers plan to reduce turkey production in 1947 by 16 percent. This will be the second successive reduction since the peak production of 1945. If growers carry out their intentions the number of turkeys raised this year will be about 34½ million, compared with 41 million in 1946. The 1947 crop would be 23 percent smaller than the record crop of 45 million in 1945. The 1939-43 average number was about 33½ million turkeys.

Turkey growers in the West, where about a fourth of the 1946 crop was raised, plan a decrease of 26 percent this year. A decrease of 16 percent is expected in the West North Central States, the largest producing area in the United States, with 31 percent of the Nation's turkeys. In the South Atlantic States, growers plan a decrease of about 12 percent. Growers in East North Central and the North Atlantic States expect a 10 percent decrease from the 1946 crop. The smallest decrease planned this year is 7 percent in the South Central States. Growers in Texas and Oklahoma plan a decrease of only 5 percent, which partially offsets much heavier decreases in other States in this area.

Numbers actually raised usually vary from January 1 intentions, the difference depending on prices of feed, hatching eggs, and poults, and on the sale of turkeys remaining in growers' hands. Last year the number of turkeys raised was about 4 percent less than January 1 intentions because of an uncertain feed situation during the hatching season.

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INTENTIONS TO RAISE TURKEYS IN 1947

State and Division	Turkeys Raised					
	Average 1939-43	1944	1945	Indicated: 1946 1/2	Intended in 1947	
					Number	% of 1946
-- T h o u s a n d s --						
WASHINGTON	980	1,387	1,637	1,310	1,048	80
Oregon . .	1,819	2,084	2,876	2,013	1,389	69
California	3,368	4,260	5,155	3,712	2,598	70
Montana	268	253	253	273	254	93
Idaho . .	243	272	340	255	255	100
West.	8,991	11,212	13,664	10,335	7,613	73.7
S. Cent.	6,241	5,628	6,830	6,586	6,151	93.4
S. Atl.	2,242	2,617	3,309	3,307	2,910	88.0
W.N.Cent.	11,021	10,543	12,784	12,607	10,609	84.2
E.N.Cent.	2,837	3,749	5,046	5,071	4,540	89.5
N.Atl.	2,079	2,581	3,358	3,107	2,805	90.3
U.S.	33,410	36,330	44,991	41,013	34,628	84.4

1/ Preliminary estimates as of August 1, 1946.

Fred J. Martin, Director - Cooperating - Haven C. R. Stewart
 State Dept. of Agriculture Agric. Statistician in Charge

After 5 days return to
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Bureau of Agricultural Economics
 224 Federal Office Building
 Seattle 4, Washington

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wolfe DU 8-6957
McDavid DU 8-4026

Washington, Aug. 28, 1968

For A.M. Release Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Machine Developed To Aid Salmon Spawning:

Successful development by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, of a machine to improve the productivity of salmon streams of the West Coast and Alaska was announced today by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman.

The self-propelled amphibious machine, dubbed the "Riffle Sifter," uses high-pressure underwater jets and a suction pump to remove sediment and make streambed spawning gravels clean and porous. This permits water to seep through and provide more oxygen to the embryonic fish.

Tests have shown that an acre of natural spawning bed, which normally produces about 500,000 young or "fry," can produce more than 2 million young per acre when cleared of silt.

Such an increase could help stabilize the \$125 million dollar commercial salmon industry of the West Coast and Alaska, as well as contribute to salt-water sport fishing. Much of the nearly \$300 million spent annually for salt-water sport fishing on the Pacific Coast is directed toward the salmon.

The "Riffle Sifter" can clean about 4,000 square feet of streambed per hour, the Secretary said. As the machine moves downstream, sediment-laden water is sucked up and forced through a discharge nozzle that deposits it on stream banks about 100 feet from the cleaning device.

In congratulating the Forest Service, Secretary Freeman said, "This unique stream-cleaning machine opens the way for substantially increasing the productivity of salmon streams for both commercial and sport fishing."

More than 10,000 miles of streams within the National Forests constitute "nursery" waters for the production of Pacific salmon. It is estimated that more than 40 percent of the salmon taken by commercial and sport fishermen off the Pacific Coast States have their origin in waters within the National Forests.

Secretary Freeman said the "Riffle Sifter" will be used in the National Forests and may later be made available commercially.

"The need for a machine capable of cleaning gravel beds at the headwaters of salmon producing streams has been foreseen by the Forest Service for a number of years," said Secretary Freeman. "After operating principles and design criteria were established in laboratory experiments by the Forest Service's Equipment Development Center at San Dimas, Calif., the project was contracted to the Clark Equipment

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Company of Cassopolis, Mich. Field tests in Alaska and California during the past two years by the Forest Service in cooperation with State Fish and Game Agencies resulted in a number of modifications and improvements."

Fires, floods, and other natural causes, plus increased activities of man, are the main causes of the silt problem in natural spawning waters.

According to fishery experts, suitable spawning gravel is of critical importance to the life cycle of the salmon. The present high death toll and low survival rate of the salmon is staggering. Of the 3,000 eggs deposited by a sockeye salmon, only about 100 will become fingerlings and travel to the sea. Under the best conditions, about 20 of these will return as adults. If ocean survival is poor, as few as 2 or 3 will return.

Salmon is a self-perpetuating resource, but as with any renewable resource, lack of concern by the public could destroy it. Protected against natural and man-caused hazards, and wisely managed, our fisheries experts foresee that salmon will continue to be an important source of food as well as provide sport for America's fishing enthusiasts.

For A.M. Release Wednesday, Aug. 28.

NOTE TO EDITORS: 3 photographs of the "Riffle Sifter" are available free to news media upon request to Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Please include ZIP code.

USDA 2746-68

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, Oct. 11, 1967

For Release Thursday, Oct. 26

"Outdoors USA," 1967 Yearbook, Features Resources in Action:

The opportunities that rural America offers for living, working, and relaxation are told in the 1967 Yearbook of Agriculture, "Outdoors USA," which will be published today (Oct. 26) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A handbook of conservation and wise use of natural resources, a guide to the American outdoors with its great recreation potential, and a primer of natural beauty, the Yearbook tells its story largely in terms of people.

It is designed for all Americans -- citizens concerned about conservation of our natural resources, hunters and fishermen, family campers, all who are concerned with the quality of the total environment, children eager to learn about the outdoors, and farmers interested in profitmaking recreation enterprises.

In the foreword, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman writes that the Department is "moving forward with bold new actions to restore, conserve, and wisely use our natural heritage and maintain it for future generations." He stresses that this work is vitally important, and tells why.

"Each year 3 million more Americans squeeze into our already jam-packed cities. Today 140 million people -- or 7 in every 10 Americans -- are crowded onto just 1 percent of our land. The result is strangled cities, slapdash suburbs, and rush hour nightmares.

"But rural America has breathing space -- room for people to live, to work, to enjoy recreation, to be part of the land.

"Through conservation and the development of our natural resources, the rural areas can be ideal sites for our communities of tomorrow; communities where blight and urban sprawl will be unknown. Rural America can be synonymous with good living."

Secretary Freeman noted that about half the Department's staff works in some phase of conservation to preserve natural resources, while getting the most use from them. These USDA'ers, he said are helping to develop forests and wood sources;

helping to develop watersheds and river basins, fish-stocked lakes, and ponds for swimming and boating as well as storing water; helping to develop farms that besides growing crops offer good hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

"The scope of these activities is amazingly wide," the Secretary said. "USDA conservation programs can benefit some 81 percent of the Nation's total land: All the Nation's cropland, grassland, pasture, and range, the vast national forests and national grasslands, and much of the private forest land."

"Outdoors USA" contains 408 pages of text illustrated with over 220 black and white photographs, plus a section with 43 color photographs. There are 109 chapters under 4 headings: The Big Woods, Water, Beautification, and The Countryside.

Most of the authors are Agriculture Department specialists, but there are also chapters by university faculty members, outdoor writers, and officials of other government agencies.

Senators and Congressmen have limited numbers of copies of the Yearbook for free distribution to constituents. Copies of "Outdoors USA," the 1967 Yearbook of Agriculture, may also be obtained for \$2.75 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has no copies of the Yearbook for public distribution or sale.

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: Two black and white photos from the Yearbook, and a black and white photo of the Yearbook's cover, may be obtained from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please use zipcode.

For Release Thursday, Oct. 26

USDA 3219-67

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Castillo DU 8-4211
Newman 343-3171

Washington, Oct. 11, 1968

For A.M. Release, Wednesday, Oct. 16

Vanishing Puerto Rican Parrot to Get Aid:

Two Federal agencies have joined forces to save the emerald green Puerto Rican parrot from extinction.

Only about 200 of the parrots remain alive, and all of the known birds are found in the 28,000-acre Caribbean National Forest in Puerto Rico.

Some experts say the colorful, foot-high parrot could survive less than a decade if left to its own devices.

The Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the forest, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, which protects endangered species of wildlife, have announced a joint project to save the parrot from extermination.

The International Survival Service Committee of the World Wildlife Fund has indicated a strong interest in the effort and may contribute to the study.

First step in the program will be an ecologic management investigation to determine what the endangered bird needs to recover its numbers. More information will be sought on the bird's reproductive processes, nesting habits, food requirements, natural enemies, migration habits and other elements on which survival depends.

Directing the research will be Dr. Cameron B. Kepler, ornithologist from Interior's Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife. Working with him will be Dr. Frank Wadsworth, director of the Forest Service's Institute of Tropical Forestry, and Senor Ricardo Cotte (Santana) the U. S. Game Management Agent with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, both of whom are headquartered in Puerto Rico. Dr. Wadsworth's continuing effort provided impetus to establishment of the project.

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As with many other vanishing fish and wildlife species, the green parrots were once abundant throughout Puerto Rico -- before man began putting pressure on them.

In the last century human encroachment has been heavy. Most of the natural forests have been cut, reducing or eliminating their nesting sites. The birds have been hunted by man. And nestlings have been captured for pets.

As a result, all of the known species are now found in the Caribbean National Forest, where a 3,000-acre tract has been set aside as a parrot preserve. Hunting by man has been minimized.

But these steps haven't been enough. Other factors continue to hasten the Puerto Rican Parrot's decline, Dr. Kepler says. Rats, feral cats and mongooses apparently have become major predatory threats. Even the weather has its impact. Torrential rains occasionally fill the cavities in trees in which the parrots nest, thus destroying the eggs and drowning the young.

The estimate of some 200 Puerto Rican Parrots still living may be optimistic. Dr. Kepler reports it is based on a study made in the early 1950's. Observations during the last decade suggest the numbers have continued to decrease, Dr. Kepler said.

Some think the total may be as low as 50, a figure comparable to that of the beleaguered whooping crane or California condor, he said. But if the aims of the new study are realized, limiting factors to their survival will be identified and corrective measures can be taken before it is too late, Dr. Kepler predicted.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A picture showing the parrot (449343) is available free to news media upon request from Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Please use your zipcode.

For A.M. Release. Wednesday, Oct. 16

USDA 3216-68

★ news release

For Release September 22, 1966

SURVEY OF GRAZING FEES BEGINS IN WEST

A jointly sponsored effort by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior is underway to survey ranching operations to determine costs of grazing livestock on Federal lands.

The survey, conducted by USDA's Statistical Reporting Service in western States containing Taylor Grazing District, National Forest, and private grazing lands, will be used as a basis for evaluating current fees, a joint announcement said.

The project, endorsed by the National Wool Growers Association and the American National Cattlemen's Association, will get underway throughout the West September 22. It is scheduled to be completed in November. A sampling of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service grazing permittees - about one out of every four permittees for each Grazing District, National Forest and National Grassland - will be interviewed. Individuals leasing private land in areas adjacent to Federal lands, as well as officials of financial institutions, also will be interviewed.

A pre-testing of questionnaires to be used in the survey was carried out during July. Selected groups of BLM and Forest Service grazing permittees were contacted in New Mexico, Colorado, South Dakota, and Montana.

The current survey is an important phase of continuing studies of the western ranching industry using public grazing lands. The studies began in 1961. An Interdepartmental Grazing Fees Committee, comprised of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Defense and chaired by R. M. DeNio, director, Division of Range Management, Forest Service, is coordinating these efforts.

"The current data collection project is part of this Committee's effort toward a more equitable and scientific approach to the establishment of fees by Federal agencies," Mr. DeNio said.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, Oct. 17, 1968

For A.M. Release Oct. 20

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Yearbook Chapter Describes Nobel Prize Work

Work which led to the Oct. 16, 1968 award of the Nobel Prize to Robert W. Holley is described in a chapter by B. Jean Apgar which begins on page 307 of "Science for Better Living," the 1968 Yearbook of Agriculture. The Yearbook is being published for A.M. Release October 20.

An earlier press release (USDA 3182-68) titled "New Yearbook Reports How Agricultural Research Serves the Nation" was issued Oct. 9 for A.M. Release Oct. 20. It describes the Yearbook contents in general.

B. Jean Apgar, a U.S. Department of Agriculture research chemist and the mother of three children, describes in the chapter her experiences as a member of the USDA-Cornell research team which Holley headed in the work for which he shares in the Oct. 16 Nobel Prize. Holley was with the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, stationed at Cornell University, for all but the last year during which this work was carried on. He then became a professor at Cornell, continuing to head the research team. Dr. Apgar was a member of the team for 7 to 8 of the final years.

The USDA-Cornell team received USDA's Distinguished Service Award in May of 1965 for its work. Holley and Dr. Apgar, of course, shared in this award with the other team members. Holley is now on leave from Cornell at the Salk Institute.

If you need more information, please call Press Service, Office of Information, at area code 202, DUDley 8-4026.

Another chapter in the Yearbook, beginning on page 248, is authored by Artturi I. Virtanen of Finland, who received the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1945.

News correspondents may obtain a copy of "Science for Better Living," the 1968 Yearbook of Agriculture, for review or feature purposes, from Press Service, Room 404-A, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone area code 202, DUDley 8-4026.

PRESS SERVICE
USDA

For A. M. Release Oct. 20

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Lee - 343-5717

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Castillo - 388-4211

For Release November 15, 1968

ADJUSTMENT OF GRAZING FEES ON NATIONAL FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS PROPOSED

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman and Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today proposed changes in current methods of determining fees for livestock grazing on National Forests and public lands under their administration.

This action is in accordance with the instructions contained in the Bureau of the Budget's Circular A-25 of September 23, 1959. Circular A-25 established general governmental policy for all Federal activities. It called for fair market value to be obtained for all services and resources provided the public through the establishment of a system of reasonable fee charges.

Fees charged livestockmen who graze their cattle and sheep under permit on public lands managed by Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Agriculture's Forest Service have been under intensive study for two years. The proposal for changing fees has resulted from a study using data from a survey designed and conducted for the land management agencies by the Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service (SRS). The results of the SRS survey indicate grazing fees are below the market value for the forage.

About 47,000 grazing permits are issued to farmers and ranchers by the two agencies.

The purpose of the study was to compare charges or values of grazing on similar private and Federal holdings. The intensive SRS survey produced data needed to estimate grazing values on 98 National Forests, 19 National Grasslands and 48 BLM districts in 17 Western States. Some 10,000 individual ranchers were interviewed in the survey and more than 14,000 questionnaires were collected. Information was obtained from the ranchers on 13 non-fee costs of using public and private lands and lease rates on private grazing lands for both cattle and sheep. Cost factors include such items as cost of handling, trucking, feeding and animal loss.

A common base of \$1.23 per animal unit month, adjusted by an annual forage value index, would be used to calculate grazing fees for livestock using the National Forests and public lands. The new base, which is considered the current fair market value, would be reached in even increments over a 10-year period starting in 1969.

For the public lands, the 1969 fee, including a private forage value index of 2 cents, is estimated at 44 cents per animal unit month. The current grazing fee on the public lands is 33 cents.

Although using the same common base and annual forage index factors, Forest Service fees will vary by each National Forest according to long-existing fee bases. For cattle the new fees are estimated from 31 cents to \$1.25 per cow month. Sheep fees on the Western National Forests are estimated to vary from 6 to 25 cents per sheep month. The new Forest Service fees will be applicable in 1969 to the National Forests in 11 Western States. Changes in fees for grazing on other National Forests and National Grasslands will be determined in 1970.

"We want full industry and public review prior to putting these regulations into effect" Secretaries Freeman and Udall stated. "When these regulations are approved, both agencies will use graduated increases over a period of time to reach the fair market value of the forage. This will give the livestock operators an opportunity to adjust their operations to meet the increased fees without undue impact."

The proposed changes in calculation of BLM grazing fees are being published by the Secretary of the Interior in the Federal Register. Proposed changes in National Forest grazing fees will be announced by the Forest Service. A 45-day period will be given to interested parties in submitting their comments to both Secretaries before a final decision is made by the two Departments.

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