

READINGS ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

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AMERICAN FARM ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Editor
O. B. JESNESS



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READINGS ON
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY
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Editor's Preface

Decision to sponsor this publication was made by the American Farm Economic Association at its annual meeting in September 1947, when it approved the following proposal of its Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee recommends that the Association publish reprints of articles in particular fields in Agricultural Economics in accordance with the following plan:—

The President of the Association with approval of its Executive Committee shall designate the Editor of the *Journal of Farm Economics* and the Editorial Council of the American Farm Economic Association as a special committee to select the subject and title of the volume. This special committee shall also establish general rules as to the size of the volume, its makeup, and general criteria for selection of articles to be reprinted. The special committee shall also select and recommend to the President for his approval, the individual(s) who shall be the editor (or joint editors) of the volume.

The editor(s) shall be responsible for the selection of the articles to be printed in the volume. In this task he shall be given leeway in exercising professional judgment and consulting with professional colleagues. The editor shall also be responsible for the organization of the volume including the order of the articles. Furthermore, he will be responsible for preparing or arranging for preparation of the bibliography and index. (These recommendations are based upon a report prepared by a committee composed of Sidney Hoos and Henry Keller, Jr.)

The special committee selected Agricultural Policy as the field for the initial volume and invited the undersigned to assume the responsibilities of editor. He, in turn, then asked Herrell DeGraff, F. F. Elliott, L. P. Gabbard, and H. R. Wellman to serve as an advisory committee to make recommendations regarding articles to be considered.

Agricultural policy is a part of public policy. No single volume can even begin to provide coverage of so broad a field. The editor and the members of the committee on selections are keenly aware of this fact. The objective has been to include selections dealing with some of the more important agricultural aspects. Particular attention has been given to articles which have appeared in the *Journal of Farm Economics*, but a number of other sources have been drawn upon as well.

The editor appreciates greatly the very helpful assistance of the members of the committee on selections and of their associates and others to whom they turned for suggestions. He also acknowledges the assistance of colleagues at the University of Minnesota and others who helped make the task easier. Responsibility for final decisions on selections rested upon the editor and he, consequently, should be the target of criticism of those who may discover what appear to them as sins of omission or commission.

O. B. JESNESS

Contents

Editor's Preface.....	v
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Part I. BACKGROUND

✓ 1. AGRICULTURAL FUNDAMENTALISM.....	3
By Joseph S. Davis From <i>Economics, Sociology and the Modern World</i> , 1935	
2. AGRICULTURE AND THE NATIONAL WELFARE.....	18
By the Committee on Postwar Agricultural Policy of the As- sociation of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities From <i>Postwar Agricultural Policy</i> , 1944	
3. WHAT MAKES FARM PROSPERITY?.....	25
By Walter W. Wilcox From <i>Farm Policy Forum</i> , 1948	
4. WHAT THE FARMERS WANT.....	31
By Allan B. Kline From <i>The Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> , 1948	
5. POSTWAR AGRICULTURAL POLICY—PRESSURE VS. GENERAL WEL- FARE.....	40
By O. B. Jesness From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1946	

Part II. PRICE AND PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT

6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY SINCE THE END OF THE WORLD WAR.....	55
By Chester C. Davis From <i>U. S. Department of Agriculture Yearbook 1940</i>	

7. THE EVOLUTION OF PARITY.....	91
By John D. Black	
From <i>Parity, Parity, Parity</i> , 1942	
8. THE ECONOMICS OF THE EVER-NORMAL GRANARY.....	106
By Joseph S. Davis	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1938	
9. NEEDED! A PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PRICE POLICY.....	120
By Theodore W. Schultz	
From <i>Farm Policy Forum</i> , 1948	
10. OUTLINE OF A PRICE POLICY FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FOR THE POSTWAR PERIOD.....	124
By the Committee on Parity Concepts	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1946	
11. AGRICULTURAL PRICES	141
By the Committee on Postwar Agricultural Policy of the As- sociation of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities	
From <i>Postwar Agricultural Policy</i> , 1944	
12. A RATIONAL SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURAL PRICE AND INCOME CONTROLS	149
By Geoffrey Shepherd	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1946	
13. A PRICE POLICY FOR AGRICULTURE, CONSISTENT WITH ECO- NOMIC PROGRESS, THAT WILL PROMOTE ADEQUATE AND MORE STABLE INCOME FROM FARMING.....	165
By William H. Nicholls	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1945	
✓ 14. ELEMENTS OF A PRICE POLICY FOR AGRICULTURE.....	174
By Theodore W. Schultz	
From <i>Agriculture in an Unstable Economy</i> , 1945	
15. OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF GOVERNMENT PRICING OF FARM PRODUCTS	189
By W. M. Drummond	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1948	
16. ON THE REDEFINITION OF PARITY PRICE AND PARITY INCOME..	203
By a Committee of the American Farm Economic Association	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1947	

17. LONG-RUN EFFECTS OF PRICE-MAINTENANCE POLICY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS 222
 By the Committee on Agricultural Policy of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities
 A Statement Published by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, 1947
18. ADJUSTMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION..... 229
 By the Committee on Postwar Agricultural Policy of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities
 From *Postwar Agricultural Policy*, 1944
19. IMPROVED NUTRITION 237
 By the House Special Committee on Postwar Economic Policy and Planning, Seventy-ninth Congress, 2nd Session
 From *Postwar Economic Policy and Planning*, House Report No. 2728, 1946
20. POSTWAR AGRICULTURAL POLICIES..... 240
 By the House Special Committee on Postwar Economic Policy and Planning, Seventy-ninth Congress, 2nd Session
 From *Postwar Economic Policy and Planning*, House Report No. 2728, 1946
- Part III. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND RELATIONS
21. THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD TRADE..... 247
 By Frank Whitson Fetter
 From *The Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 1948
22. RECONCILING AGRICULTURAL AND FOREIGN TRADE POLICIES.... 260
 By D. Gale Johnson
 From *The Journal of Political Economy*, 1947
23. A PROPOSED WORLD TRADE BOARD FOR EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE 268
 By F. F. Elliott
 From *Journal of Farm Economics*, 1945

24. WORLD AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND THE EXPANSION OF TRADE	286
By Robert B. Schwenger	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1945	
25. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES.	306
By Edward G. Cale and Oscar Zaglits	
From <i>Iowa Law Review</i> , 1949	
Part IV. LAND AND RURAL PEOPLE	
26. DO WE NEED A NEW LAND POLICY?	331
By Leonard A. Salter, Jr.	
From <i>The Journal of Land and Public Utility Economics</i> , 1946	
27. OUR MAJOR LAND USE PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTED LINES OF ACTION	340
By L. C. Gray	
From <i>U. S. Department of Agriculture Yearbook 1940</i>	
28. CURRENT ISSUES IN FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES.	361
By M. M. Kelso	
From <i>Journal of Farm Economics</i> , 1947	
29. OBJECTIVES OF LAND TENURE POLICY.	379
By Marshall Harris	
From <i>Caribbean Land Tenure Symposium</i> , 1946	
30. LAND TENURE	395
By the Committee on Postwar Agricultural Policy of the As- sociation of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities	
From <i>Postwar Agricultural Policy</i> , 1944	
31. ACTION TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF FARM LABORERS AND SHARECROPPERS	403
By Committee IV, Farm Tenure Conference, Rupert B. Vance, Chairman	
From <i>Family Farm Policy</i> , 1947	
32. SOUTHERN FARMS NEED MORE EMPLOYMENT.	425
By George H. Aull	
From <i>Farm Policy Forum</i> , 1948	

Contents

xi

33. THE SOUTH'S GREAT EXPORT—PEOPLE	428
By Margaret Jarman Hagood	
From <i>Farm Policy Forum</i> , 1948	
34. RURAL LIVING AND SOCIAL FACILITIES	430
By the Committee on Postwar Agricultural Policy of the As- sociation of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities	
From <i>Postwar Agricultural Policy</i> , 1944	
INDEX OF AUTHORS	439
SUBJECT INDEX	443