

FOREWORD

State estimates for five years, generally ending January 1, 1955, are included in this issue of Illinois Agricultural Statistics. County estimates of crop production, livestock numbers, milk production, and the pig crops are shown for two years--also ending January 1, 1955. Records for earlier years are available on request in companion pieces as follows:

<u>Publication identification</u>	<u>Date issued</u>	<u>Period covered</u>	
		<u>County estimates</u>	<u>State estimates</u>
Illinois Agricultural Statistics Circular 445	June 1949	None	Entire record through 1/1/45
Illinois Agricultural Statistics Circular 446	June 1951	Twenty years ending 1/1/45	None
Illinois Agricultural Statistics 5 years ending January 1, 1950	June 1953	Five years ending 1/1/50	Five years ending 1/1/50
Illinois Agricultural Statistics Milk Production by Counties	December 1953	1945-52	Background data for varying periods
Illinois Agricultural Statistics County Pig Crop Estimates Bulletin 54-2	May 1954	1945-53	Background data for varying periods

County estimates for the three years ending January 1, 1953 are available in the form of separates from publications otherwise obsolete. A special report on apples and peaches, including variety and age group classifications (Bulletin 54-3), was completed in the past year, and can be supplied to anyone interested.

We have adopted a uniform numbering system which will simplify identification of our bound bulletins. The first two digits of the serial number will designate the year of issue and the third digit the order of release in the year indicated. For example, this volume is the first bound publication issued in 1955 and thus is designated, Bulletin 55-1.

In addition to the various publications listed above, the Crop Reporting Service issues throughout the year releases providing current forecasts and estimates comparable with many of the series included here. These releases, in addition to others, include: A weekly weather crop summary (during the growing season), and weekly broiler placement estimates; monthly reports on crops, prices, milk, poultry, fruit (in season), vegetables (in season), and commercial slaughter; quarterly reports on grain stocks (on-farm and off-farm), cattle on feed, and the pig crop; and an annual report on livestock inventories. Any or all of the various publications and releases will be supplied without charge to anyone requesting them.

Many people throughout Illinois contribute to the fund of information on which the estimates of the Illinois Co-Operative Crop Reporting Service are based. Running into many thousands of individuals we can mention them only en masse. The office staff during the preparation of this publication included the following individuals; Clerical and stenographic--Marilyn Billingsley, Mary Jane Boardman, Floyd Brandon, Pearl I. Gard, Wilma Grieme, Rose Mary Grunendike, Faye E. Harris, Margaret H. Jorgenson, Ruth A. Kerst, Mary Louise Langheim, Catherine E. McGinnis, Viola H. Millot, Katherine S. Mulcahy, Dolores H. Mulvany, Alice E. Pfeifer, Marvin E. Scattergood, Nellie Schiava, Joan Sherry, Estelle Steele, Hazel Trotter, H. Marie Weber, Catherine M. Werner; Statistical Assistant--Inez M. Griffin; Agricultural Statisticians--Howard L. Bossart, G. Dean Hasenmyer, Maurice E. Johnson, Charles W. LeGrande, Burton R. Miller.

J. A. Ewing, Agricultural Statistician In Charge