During the past ten years our population has increased much more than in any other ten-year period in our history. Prospects are for continued very rapid gains in the years ahead. Our population just passed 160 million a month or so ago. It now appears that we will have a population of around 175 million by 1960.
Late Potato Storage Will Pay

Storage of late Russets should pay this season. With present grower prices for No. 1’s around $33 per ton, less sorting, price increases later in the season should more than offset storage costs, including average storage losses.

The total United States late potato crop was estimated on October 1 at 291.5 million bushels, compared with 280.9 million last year. But the eastern and central states face increased production while the late potato crop in the western states is now expected to be about 4 per cent smaller than last year.

The total crop in the principal Russet-producing states (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) is now estimated at 65.5 million bushels, compared with 64.8 last year. This year, however, we probably had larger crops of both earlies and early Russets, and it is believed that the late Russet crop will be smaller. Also, the more stringent size requirements probably will mean that a larger proportion will be culled out.

We should see some price increase in the next few months, although prices may not improve much during the rest of the harvest season. Volume going into storage will be heavy. Prices later on will depend on how shipments hold up and whether consumer demand continues strong. At present, shipments are behind last year’s in both Idaho and Oregon. This could become serious if shipments later in the season continued to fall behind last year.

Consumer demand shows signs of declining by about the first of the year, but should hold strong in comparison to last year’s and allow premiums for our Russets over other varieties.
What About Apple Storage?

Apple storage appears to be a particularly risky business this season. However, there is no question on the condition of the fruit. According to most reports, much of our apple crop should store well.

**Will price increases be sufficient** this season to offset storage charges and risk from normal decline in condition? Here are some of the factors which indicate less than normal profit:

1. Although production estimates have been reduced the past few months, both Washington and the other commercial apple-producing states are still expected to have larger crops than in 1952. As of October 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimated the Washington crop at 25.9 million bushels, as compared with 22.8 last year. The total crop in all other commercial apple-producing states was estimated at 71.4 million bushels, 69.7 last year.

2. Carlot shipments have been slowly falling behind last year’s.

3. In view of the optimistic attitude of the trade, large volumes will probably go into storage.

4. Present Washington prices are averaging slightly above last year’s. Price increases during much of the storage season last year were quite small.
5. Consumer incomes were increasing rapidly during the storage season last year. Present indications are that consumer incomes have pretty well leveled off and by the first of the year some slight downward movement could take place.

Reports are that the Washington crop is running heavily to small sizes. At present it appears that storing select sizes might be a little more profitable than storing smaller sizes, unless the discount on smaller sizes should become greater.

**Onion Prices Unchanged**

Onion prices are expected to improve little this season. It appears unlikely that storage will pay.

The United States late crop was estimated on October 1 at 35.7 million 50-pound sacks. This is an increase of 20 per cent over last year. Production by sections of the United States is as follows: East, 10.9 million sacks—up 53 per cent from last year; Central, 9.5—up 6 per cent; West, 15.3—up 12 per cent.

Quality is reported to be good in most areas, and as of October 1 very little onion acreage had been abandoned because of the low prices. Volume going into storage this year will probably be very large and may prevent prices from advancing very much this season.
Egg Prices About at Peak

Egg prices have about reached their seasonal peak and probably will weaken in the next few weeks. United States egg production reached a new record for September, 3 per cent greater than last September, due to an increase in the rate of lay. The number of layers is about the same as last year and will increase seasonally. Egg production will also be increasing the rest of the year. If this trend in rate of lay continues, new production records will be made in the remaining months of 1953.

Price declines are expected to be small. Consumer demand is strong, and storage reserves are small. These two factors will likely keep the declines mild and prices at least equal to the same months last year.

Egg prices are likely to be favorable until about the fall of 1954. On January 1, 1954, slightly more potential layers are expected than existed on January 1, 1953. If we continue to see an increase in the rate of lay over the same months a year earlier, supplies per person will be slightly above 1953. If consumer incomes weaken by next year, as now appears likely, egg prices will fall below this year's prices. But, they should remain favorable, particularly in view of probable cheaper feed.

"Keeping Up On The Farm Outlook" is a monthly publication of the Washington State Agricultural Extension Service. About 10,000 copies now are sent monthly to Washington residents and interested persons outside the state. Our mailing list includes farmers, marketing organizations, banks, farm credit organizations and other groups and individuals.

The information in this circular is prepared from a great variety of statistical sources. Prior to its release, agricultural economists in the Department of Agricultural Economics, State College of Washington, are consulted.

Any person may receive this circular regularly by contacting his County Extension Agent or by writing to the Agricultural Extension Service, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington.
Red Clover Seed Prices to Strengthen

We should see some price improvement for both Kenland and uncertified Red Clover seed after harvest. Probably the price increase will not be great for either, but should be large enough to justify holding for a short period if storage facilities are readily available.

Production of all Red Clover seed was estimated on October 1 at 88.2 million pounds. This is 12 percent less than last year's 100.2 million pounds. Estimated production for the Pacific Northwest states, is as follows in thousand pounds (1952 production is in parenthesis): Washington, 756 (675); Oregon, 1,760 (1,925); Idaho, 9,000 (8,120).

Carryover from last season is slightly larger than a year earlier. Carryover this year is 38.5 million pounds, with probably very little Kenland included. Last year, carryover was 34.1 million pounds. Total supplies, including commodity credit holdings, are estimated at 126.7 million pounds. Probably imports will increase our supplies to around 130 million pounds. Supplies totaled 134.3 million pounds last year. Last season we used 100.7 million pounds.

Kenland production is not known, but will probably be slightly larger this year. Last year 1.9 million pounds of clean seed were produced in the United States.

Commodity Credit stocks are not large as compared to total supplies. On October 1, the Commodity Credit Corporation listed the following amounts and sale prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amounts</th>
<th>Sale Prices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14,000 pounds</td>
<td>Kenland $43.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,379,000 pounds</td>
<td>Uncertified $36.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162,200 pounds</td>
<td>Certified Cumberland and Midland $36.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These prices will not be reduced before June 30, 1954.

The amount of Red Clover seed used this year should about equal last year. If acreage allotments are placed on corn, more demand for Red Clover seed will probably develop. This would particularly help the demand for uncertified seed. In view of falling farm prices, many farmers in the Red Clover area may choose the cheaper uncertified seed to the higher priced Kenland. However, in both cases demand should at least equal last year's.
At present prices of feeder lambs, look for very favorable returns from lamb feeding. Prices of fed lambs should improve over present fat lamb prices since these will be of better quality. Also, fewer are going to be fed this winter.

The Midwest wheat pasture has been very poor so far this year. This is one of the reasons for low feeder lamb prices this fall. In normal years, large numbers of feeder lambs go on these fall pastures. If wheat pastures improve soon in that area, look for a stronger feeder lamb market.