University of Minnesota

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Pamphlet 114

Minnesota Farm Front in 1943

THE MINNESOTA FARM FRONT IN 1943

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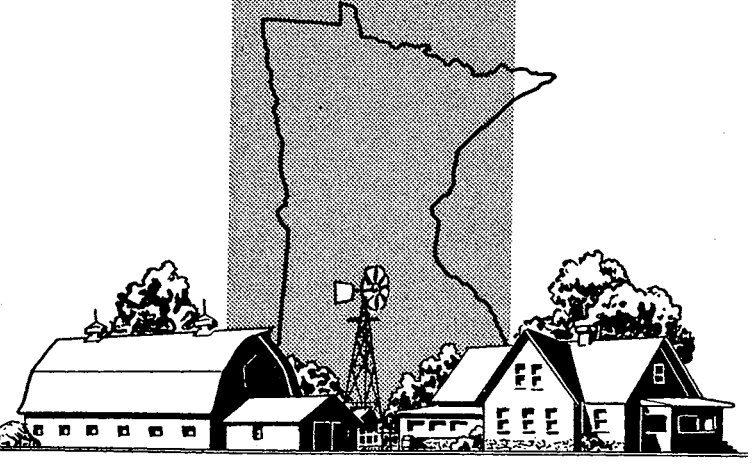


UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Agricultural Extension Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1943 OUTLOOK

INCOME PAYMENTS to individuals—about 115 billion dollars in 1942—may increase to 130 billions in 1943. People will have more money to spend.

EXPENDITURES FOR WAR—about 50 billion dollars in 1942—are expected to reach 90 billions in 1943.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION will increase somewhat in 1943 and about two thirds of it will go into the war effort compared to about one half in 1942.

CIVILIAN SUPPLIES of industrial products in 1943 will be only half as large as in recent years.

LEND-LEASE REQUIREMENTS of foods may increase from about 10 per cent of our total production in 1942 to as much as 20 per cent in 1943.

MANPOWER will grow scarcer in 1943. Output of less-needed commodities and services will be curtailed to provide workers for essential production.

PRICES will tend to move upward—a result of large consumer purchasing power, shortage of civilian goods, and an inadequate tax program.

PRICE CONTROLS, priorities, and rationing will be strengthened and extended to retard price rises and to protect the war effort and civilians from the effects of a serious inflation.

TRANSPORTATION may be inadequate to permit the movement of less essential commodities during parts of 1943.

PROCESSING CAPACITY will be adequate for most farm products in 1943, but the marketing of some will have to be "leveled out" to extend use of available capacity.

FARM INCOME from the marketing of agricultural products in 1943 may exceed that of 1942 by one billion dollars.

Minnesota farmers will be called upon to increase production of several commodities in 1943 even though resources will be limited. Maximum production can be obtained only by skillful management and the most effective use of available feeds, labor, transportation, machinery, land, and other productive facilities.

FEED SITUATION

MINNESOTA farmers will make their greatest contribution to the war effort by producing a large volume of livestock and livestock products. The factor most likely to limit this volume is the available supply of feeds. Never has the feed situation been of greater significance.

Nationally, the 1942-43 supply of feed grains, grain by-product feeds, and high-protein feeds is the largest on record—9 per cent more than 1941-42. However, with the increase of grain-consuming animals on farms the supply per animal is about the same. In general, the livestock produced this year can be "fed out" with the feeds produced in 1942, leaving about the same carry-over for the 1943-44 feeding season. However, the production of livestock and livestock products probably will be increased further in 1943, which will require more feed, and it is also unlikely that 1943 crop yields will equal the record high yields of 1942.

In Minnesota livestock production has increased more rapidly than feed production in recent years. Indications are that Minnesota farmers will have enough feeds to carry forward present livestock production plans until the 1943 feed crops are harvested, but reserve stocks of feeds will then be largely depleted. In some areas shortages will develop before the 1943 harvest and more feed than usual will need to be shipped in. Supplies of hay appear to be adequate in both Minnesota and the country as a whole.

What the Individual Farmer Can Do

Use available feeds (including feed wheat) to best advantage—

Feed balanced rations . . . Reduce waste and spoilage caused by rats, poor storage, etc . . . Produce thrifty, healthy animals . . . Cull low producers.

Increase production of feeds—

Divert more small-grain acres to corn . . . Increase yields through good cultural practices and superior varieties.

Make sure NOW of adequate feed supplies—

Transportation shortages may hinder feed shipments during parts of 1943 . . . Feed prices will tend to rise as reserve stocks are depleted.

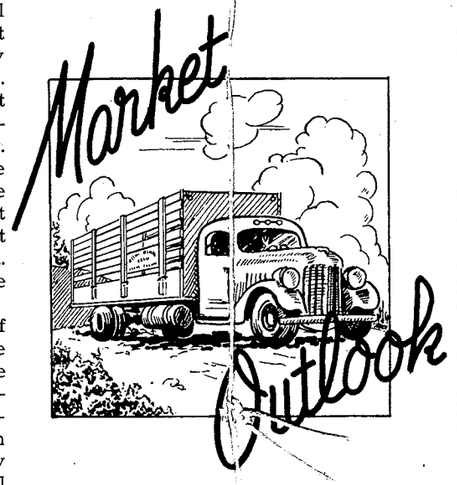
FARMERS must not only produce more but they also must regulate the flow to market so the transportation and processing facilities can handle the load.

Transportation Critical

Transportation facilities will be short in 1943. **Railroads** are now operating near peak capacity. Rail freight is expected to increase about 15 per cent further in 1943. Heavy, bulky agricultural products which do not have high food value may not be transported in 1943. **Trucks** are wearing out rapidly and cannot be replaced during the war. Rubber is scarce. The tire situation may become critical. Railroads cannot carry the volume of freight now moving by truck. Trucks and tires must be conserved.

With a shortage of transportation in 1943 we will need to rely more completely on locally-produced products. Products normally shipped in during "off-seasons" may not be available. Local production should be planned to make fresh fruits and vegetables available during as long a season as possible. Local surpluses of perishable products should be preserved. The shortage of tin, together with military and lend-lease requirements of canned products, will reduce the supply of canned fruits and vegetables available to civilians in 1943.

Transportation may be inadequate to move the large volume of livestock, particularly hogs, in the winter of 1943-44. Farmers should plan production to market as many hogs as possible before December and after January.



Processing Capacity Limited

Hog-packing plants may be unable to handle the 1943 crop if the hogs are marketed largely in the two peak months of December and January. Processing capacity will not be expanded materially. Therefore marketings must be spread more evenly over a longer period. Farmers should adjust production practices, as much as practicable, to this marketing situation.

Storage Capacity Short

Storage capacity for the 1943 wheat crop may be inadequate—depending on the size of the crop and the amount of old wheat moved out of storage before harvest. A similar situation may prevail for the 1943 production of oil-bearing crops. Farmers should plan to store more of these crops than usual on their farms and at other country points. Cold storage capacity will be inadequate in some areas but, in general, is expected to be sufficient to handle the volume of products in prospect.

Packaging Scarce

Supplies of tin, burlap, and some other packaging materials will be inadequate to meet all needs in 1943. New types of packages must be developed for some products while the packages used for others must be salvaged and reused. Some products formerly sold in packages will be available in bulk only. More of some foods, such as fruits, vegetables, milk, and eggs, will be dried. This will reduce the requirements for tin for packaging. However, the production of dried products will be used almost entirely for lend-lease and the armed forces. Little, if any, will be available for the civilian market. Home canning and preservation will be extremely important to all farm families.

Prices in 1943

PURCHASES for the armed forces and for lend-lease shipments and larger dollar incomes in the hands of many consumers will increase the demand for farm products. Left uncontrolled, this demand will force prices to higher levels. Lend-lease requirements as well as the policies of the price stabilization agencies may change from time to time. Present indications are that every effort will be made to protect the country against a violent inflation by holding prices at about present levels during 1943 except for those products for which prices are now below "parity."

FARM LABOR

FARMERS will be "short-handed" in 1943 and for the duration of the war. It is estimated that farms in the United States will lose about one million workers from July, 1942, to July, 1943, and another 300,000 from July, 1943, to October, 1943.

Many farmers will have to use unskilled labor. This will be difficult where it involves using complicated machinery or handling livestock. Unskilled workers will require some training, careful instructions, and thorough supervision. Farmers may find it worth-while to plan their work so they can do the more difficult tasks themselves and assign the less important tasks to the unskilled labor.

Farms Need New Workers

Steps are being taken to curtail the flow of "essential" agricultural workers from farms into industry and the armed forces. The flow will be somewhat reduced but not stopped. Agriculture will need to recruit about one and one-half million new workers to replace those lost. Every available source of labor must be utilized. Farm boys and girls, as well as farm women, will be called upon for more labor in the production of livestock and crops than in the past. Urban men, boys, girls, and women must be utilized to meet peak labor demands in the harvesting of some crops.

Laborsaving practices should be used to the utmost. Use self-feeders for hogs and free-choice feeding for chickens. Arrange self-watering facilities for livestock—reduce carrying to a minimum. Cull out low-producing cows and hens. Raise hogs and poultry on clean ground to control disease and parasites. Feed and labor expended on animals which die or become sick and unthrifty are largely wasted.

Some enterprises require much more labor than others and labor peaks for different enterprises come at different seasons. Plan to expand production in those lines which require most labor when it is most readily available.

Milk cows take most labor in late autumn and winter. The

Food Will Win the War—Plan to Make Your Farm Produce to the Limit in 1943

seasonal peak for hogs varies with the time of farrowing and can be adjusted somewhat. Poultry requires most labor during the brooding and rearing season. Labor required by beef cattle is highest in winter and spring, lowest in late summer and autumn.

The labor requirements of crops vary from week to week. Small grains have two peaks—seeding and harvesting. Alfalfa requires substantial amounts of labor at each cutting—the first during corn cultivating and the second about the same time as small-grain harvest. Corn reaches its labor peak in late autumn when little is needed for other crops.

Farm Supply Situation

MACHINERY and other production materials will be short in 1943. Provision has been made for the manufacture of 20 per cent as much farm machinery as the average of 1940-41. In 1942 the manufacture of new farm machinery was limited to 83 per cent of the 1940-41 production. The stocks of new machines in dealers' hands at the outbreak of war are now largely depleted. This will result in an extremely tight situation on new farm machinery. It is expected that repair parts for farm machinery will be available but more time may be required to obtain them. Farmers should carefully overhaul machinery and, insofar as possible, order repair parts in advance.

An allocation of steel for the production of fencing materials during the first quarter of 1943 has been made. This will permit the manufacture of one half the roddage manufactured during recent years. The wire will be of lighter gauge and simplified design. There are practically no reserve stocks of fencing materials on hand. The limited supply available will be distributed by some form of rationing.

The supply of phosphate and potash fertilizers appears adequate for 1943 but nitrogen fertilizers will be short and their use limited to the most urgent needs.

Some kinds of insecticides and fungicides will be short in 1943 and will need to be used sparingly. In general, it is expected that enough will be available to protect 1943 crops from normal insect and disease attacks.

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