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# Current Information Letter

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION—PAUL E. MILLER, DIRECTOR

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March 26, 1943

UNIVERSITY FARM  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

No. 00056

FILE UNDER: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS - Outlook

Highlights from U.S.D.A. Situation Reports -- By Extension Economists

The Dairy Situation - February, 1943

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More butter, p.5--Since early in December butter production has been increasing seasonally and during most of January and early February production has been larger than a year earlier. The increased production reflects the decreased consumption of butterfat in ice cream and fluid cream under the recent conservation orders affecting these commodities.

Less for civilians, p.5--Effective February 1, every manufacturer who produced more than 12,000 pounds of butter in any month since January 1942 is required to set aside at least 30 percent of his monthly production for sale to designated Government agencies. Since average daily production normally is only about 5 percent higher in February and 8 percent higher in March than in January, supplies remaining for civilian consumption in February and March will be considerably smaller than in January. The butter set aside will be used largely by United States military forces.

\* More milk cans, p.9--To provide more cans to meet the 1943 milk production goal, to relieve transportation problems, and to assure replacement for worn and damaged cans, the War Production Board has amended its milk can conservation order so that manufacture of simplified type milk cans in the 12 months ending June 30, 1943 may be increased by about 75 percent.

The Fats and Oils Situation - February, 1943

Oleo, p.4--Production of oleomargarine in 1942 reached 426 million pounds, a new peak. Nearly 65 million pounds of this total, however, was colored oleomargarine, produced almost entirely for export. Domestic consumption amounted to about 2.7 pounds per capita, which was the average yearly consumption in 1937-41. In 1943, production of oleomargarine for civilian consumption will be increased to perhaps 4.5 pounds per capita, although under the terms of the order limiting manufacturers' use of fats and oils it is possible for the output to reach 4.8 pounds per capita. The total supply of butter and margarine available for civilian consumption probably will be near 17.5 pounds per capita, compared with 19.4 pounds in 1937-41.

Lard, p.7--Beginning February 14, packers operating under Federal inspection are required to set aside 50 percent of the lard and rendered pork fat produced for purchase by the Food Distribution Administration. The requirement is contained in Food Distribution Order No. 20, effective February 11. About two-thirds of the lard normally is produced under Federal inspection.

(Several good tables on oleo, - production, consumption, composition, pages 14-18.)

The Poultry and Egg Situation - February, 1943

More chicks, p.3--Farmers are likely to raise from 10 to 15 percent more chickens this year than were raised in 1942. The demand for baby chicks this spring is strong in all areas both for meat-producing purposes and for flock replacement. On February 1 farmers indicated that they intend to purchase 16 percent more chicks than last year. During January, 35 percent more eggs were set than the previous record for that month last year.

Good egg prices to continue, p.4--Because of the unusually strong consumer demand for eggs and the large demands for drying and hatching, egg prices will continue higher than a year earlier. Civilian consumption of eggs in January and February has been much heavier than last year, but egg prices have continued materially higher than in the corresponding period of 1942.

The Livestock and Wool Situation - February, 1943

Hog marketings, p.3--The weekly rate of hog slaughter has decreased considerably since early December, and it now seems probable that the 1942-43 season's peak in hog marketings was reached in early December. Nevertheless, the number of hogs on farms January 1 was over 13 million head larger than a year earlier, and slaughter supplies during the remainder of the marketing year (through September) are expected to be larger than a year earlier. Trade reports indicate that farm and local slaughter have increased considerably this winter, however, and if this tendency continues, the number of hogs marketed through regular wholesale channels will be correspondingly reduced.

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