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Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

BULLETIN ROOM

University Farm, St. Paul 8, September 29, 1944

TEST AUCTION WELL RECEIVED BY FARMERS. From 3,000 to 4,000 farmers and others turned out to bid for the some 6,000 pieces of surplus war property auctioned September 8-9 at Ashland, Ohio, and, according to War Food Administration officials, the buyers appeared well satisfied with the sales arrangement.

Supplies put on the block consisted of tools and equipment no longer needed by the Defense Plant Corporation for construction work. The sale, arranged by WFA thru the Ashland County Triple-A committee, was held to determine whether disposal of surplus war property by this method is satisfactory.

Bidding was brisk, and farmers picked up many items difficult to obtain thru regular trade channels. Some scarce items such as hickory axe handles and post-hole diggers sold for slightly more than retail prices, but generally buyers felt they were getting bargains.

Hand tools, wheelbarrows, shovels, wrecking bars and similar items needed on farms sold quickly, as had been expected. But buyers were also on hand for specialized items such as chain hoists, cross-cut saws, tarpaulins, gasoline pumps, and many others. Even the boxes and barrels used to package the auctioned items found buyers.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING. Hog receipts continue their rapid decline from a year ago. For the month of August, receipts of salable hogs at 12 public markets were down 10 per cent, receipts of salable cattle at these 12 public markets for the month of August were up 11 per cent compared to a year ago and calf receipts were up 30 per cent.

WFA CONTROL OVER PRESSURE CANNER DISTRIBUTION REMOVED. All remaining control over the distribution of pressure canners has been released by the WFA, effective September 21, 1944....Production of pressure canners has increased from approximately 65,000 in 1942 and about 340,000 in 1943 to an established 400,000 in the first nine months of 1944.

SWEET CLOVER SEED PRODUCTION. Production of sweet clover seed this year is expected to be about 40 per cent larger than the very small crop of last year but about one-third smaller than the 10-year (1933-42) average. The 1944 crop is forecast at 597,700 bushels (35,862,000 pounds) of thresher-run seed, compared with 428,200 bushels (25,692,000 pounds) in 1943 (revised) and the 10-year average of 905,710 bushels (54,342,600 pounds). A larger production this year than last is indicated for all producing States except Michigan, Iowa, and Missouri. The greatest increases in production expected in Colorado, Nebraska, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, and Kansas.

GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FATS DELIVERIES INCREASE. While meat, dairy, and poultry products continued to head the list of foodstuffs delivered in August for shipment to the Allies under lend-lease, increases over July deliveries were shown in grain products and in fats and oils. According to the WFA, total deliveries of all lend-lease foodstuffs in August amounted to 558,577,695 pounds, compared with 522,851,964 pounds in July and 1,076,611,544 pounds in August a year ago.

(Over)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 1945 GARDEN PROGRAM. A broad program of home gardening for 1945 to promote health, economy, attractive surroundings, and recreation was recommended recently to the Secretary of Agriculture and the administrator of the War Food Administration by the National Advisory Garden Committee. As an aid to millions of town and city families who will want to continue gardening, the committee recommended employment of urban extension agents trained in horticulture.

A FEW POUNDS EXTRA. Not a surplus of onions but rather a shortage of space to store them during the peak of their harvest is the way the WFA explains the present onion predicament. If every housewife will buy a few extra pounds of onions to store at home, this will be insurance against too few onions on the market later when onions are seasonally short.

WFA LIFTS SET-ASIDE QUOTA ON BUTTER. Butter manufacturers were informed recently by the War Food Administration that they will not be required to set aside for Government purchase any of their October output, nor any of their output in succeeding months until spring when production will be seasonally higher.

Government purchases are expected to total 285 million pounds this year, compared with a total of 464 million pounds in 1943. The smaller purchases this year were made possible because of a carry-over in stocks from last year's purchase program, compared with 1943 when the Government had no stock carry-over from the previous year and was forced to begin procuring butter, under a set-aside program, in February. The set-aside program was not initiated this year until April. In all, 95 out of every 100 pounds of our butter supply this year will be consumed by Americans -- 80 by U. S. civilians, 15 by U. S. armed forces -- and 5 out of every 100 pounds will be sent to the Russian army, chiefly for use in hospitals.

TWENTY-EIGHT LIBERTY SHIPS NAMED FOR 4-H AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS. Twenty-eight Liberty ships have been named by State 4-H Club Groups, M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work, USDA, has announced. Names for ships have been submitted from 10 other State 4-H groups. The farm boys and girls in 4-H Clubs were asked by the Maritime Commission to submit names for the ships in recognition of their work in food production, bond selling, scrap collection, and other rural community war efforts.

TRACTORS MATCH HORSES NOW. If all the pulling jobs on American farms could be lumped in one "big hitch," the year 1944 would find the pull on the evener almost exactly divided between tractors on one side and animals on the other, a USDA report estimates. The horses and mules represent about 55 per cent of the total drawbar power, according to an estimate by A. P. Brodell and R. D. Jennings of the BAE, but the 45 per cent of tractor power works somewhat longer hours in the year, and the total pull is believed to be almost evenly balanced.....Colt production is not sufficient to maintain the present number of work animals.

TEXTILE BAG CONSERVATION STILL NEEDED. Although fourth-quarter supply of textile bags will probably be adequate, further measures must be taken to increase bagging output and obtain the greatest use from the existing secondhand bag supply, according to WPB and industry advisory committees.