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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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PERSONNEL CHANGES. Two veterans of county extension work in Minnesota are leaving within the next two weeks to take other positions of unusual interest. C. G. Gaylord has resigned in Faribault county to take a position as operations manager of the Azilum Dairy Farms of Asheville, North Carolina. This is a commercial dairy enterprise consisting of 100 head of purebred Holstein and Jersey cattle.....Ray Aune has applied for a leave of absence from his work in Olmsted in order that he might accept a position with the United Nations Rehabilitation Administration for foreign service. He is slated to leave late this month....Alfred Halvorson, now assisting in Olmsted, will carry on....Charles Haley, now 4-H agent in Goodhue, is slated to become agricultural agent in Koochiching beginning November 1.

WHEAT EXPORT AGREEMENT. The Secretary of Agriculture announced Tuesday, October 10, that Canada, Australia, Argentina and the United States have agreed to divide the export market for wheat after the war. The United States' share would be approximately 72 million bushels a year. Secretary Wickard said that eventually there will be an agreement on price. Seventy-two million bushels is about 10 per cent of our average production and only about 7 per cent of this year's production. It is possible, of course, that we can also export substantial quantities of flour, but a period when we shall again have burdensome wheat surpluses appears to be in the offing.

ORDERLY POULTRY MARKETING URGED. The War Food Administration suggests that farmers continue to cull their poultry but urges them to contact their poultry buyers or processors before attempting to market their chickens. Some processing plants are unable to handle chickens as rapidly as they are offered. The demand for poultry is high and the processing plants have no trouble disposing of their products, but they do have difficulty in finding enough labor to handle heavy marketings. As a result, if farmers flood the market beyond the capacity of processors, they may take much lower prices than are justified by the high consumer demand. This is the season of the year when poultry marketings normally reach a peak. This year marketings have been heavier than usual.

RED CLOVER SEED. Red clover seed production this year is forecast at 1,805,900 bushels of thresher-run seed. This is 56 per cent larger than the 1943 crop and 51 per cent larger than the 1933-1942 average. Part of this increase in production is probably due to the fact that growers are to receive \$3.50 an acre for harvested red clover seed without restrictions as to number of acres, and the payment of 3½ cents a pound for clean seed fulfilling certain requirements, in addition to the attractive support price announced last spring.

LAMB FEEDING SITUATION. October 1, 1944--The number of lambs and sheep to be fed for the coming winter and spring market will probably be somewhat smaller than the number fed a year earlier. Shipments of feeder lambs into the Corn Belt States in September were only about 85 per cent as large as in September last year and were much the smallest for the month in 6 years.

CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION. October 1, 1944--Developments in the cattle feeding situation to the end of September point to a moderate increase in the number of cattle to be fed for market during the coming winter compared with a year earlier. Whatever increase may take place will be a result of increased feeding operations in the Western Corn Belt, especially in the 3 states west of the Missouri River, since present indications are that the volume of feeding in the Eastern Corn Belt will be considerably reduced from last season and the total in states outside the Corn Belt little changed from last year.

(Over)

FARM EGG PRICE DECREASE SEEN. Egg prices received by farmers during the next 6 months are expected to be less than in the same months of 1943-44, according to the Department of Agriculture. Egg production is expected to be smaller than for corresponding months of 1943 and 1944. However, decreased requirements for drying plus record stocks of frozen and shell eggs probably will leave more egg products for civilians. August, 1944 egg production exceeded any previous August. Wholesale egg prices have been showing about the usual seasonal increases since mid-August, especially on top grades, most of which are selling at or near ceiling levels. Lower grades and eggs in weight classifications below "large" are under ceilings.

BUTTER PRODUCTION SMALLER. In the first seven months of 1944, output of creamery butter was about 131 million pounds smaller than for the first seven months of 1943, despite the fact that milk production this year will be about 15 billion pounds greater than before the war. July production was the lowest in 22 years and preliminary reports indicate that production in August and September also will be smaller than during the corresponding months in 1943.

SOYBEAN FLOOD TIDE. "One of the most striking agricultural developments in the U.S. in recent times is the rapid rise of the soybean," says W. J. Morse, USDA specialist on the crop. "In 1907 there were about 50,000 acres; in 1943 more than 16 million acres of which 10,820,000 were harvested for seed, 3,442,000 for hay, and nearly 2 million grazed or plowed under. Production of beans has risen from about 3 million bushels in 1920 to nearly 200 million bushels in 1943.

BEAUTY MORE THAN SKIN DEEP. "Genetic selection." That is a new term for the vocabulary of the up-to-date livestock man. Genetic selection means selecting breeding stock primarily on the basis of qualities that are hidden from view. In poultry for instance, genetic selection covers egg production, fertility, hatchability, and other things that poultrymen cannot see but can measure in various ways.

BREEDING IS A KEY TO HIGH MEAT QUALITY. The flesh of cattle, hogs, and sheep as they come to market, varies greatly in physical and chemical composition, according to studies made by O. G. Hankins, meat specialist of the U.S.D.A. Samples of meat from steers of the same breed but differing in type varied as much as 12 per cent in moisture content, 23 per cent in fat, 14 per cent in protein, and 7 per cent in ash. Differences in tenderness were found to be influenced by breeding and exercise, as well as by the age and feeding of the animals. Differences in juiciness of the meat and in the color of both the lean and fat also were observed. Breeding has an especially important influence on meat quality. Research has indicated that the meat of exercised cattle is more tender than that of cattle having little opportunity to move about. Also it is not necessarily true that the meat of a young animal is tender and that of an old one is tough, although tenderness generally decreases as an animal gets older.

FARM LABOR REPORT. The smallest farm labor force of record is harvesting one of the biggest production of full crops this country has ever raised, the USDA reports. Despite the utilization of workers from unusual sources, the number of people working on farms October 1 was slightly lower than at the same time last year, and 5 per cent less than the 1935-39 October average, when crop production was much smaller than this year. Farm wage rates averaged 16 per cent higher on October 1 than for the same date last year; the index of farm labor supply remained unchanged and the demand index declined 1 point. Of the 11,839,000 persons working on farms the first of October, 8,928,000 or 75.4 per cent,--the highest percentage in more than a decade--were unpaid family workers. The decrease of 6 per cent in number of hired workers from October, 1943, to October, 1944, for the country as a whole is in agreement with similar declines recorded monthly throughout most of this year. The scarcity of competent help and in some instances, relatively high wages, have caused some farm operators to decide to "get by" without hiring additional workers.