

# *Weekly Review* for MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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CURRENT INFORMATION LETTER. Agents needing background information on topics related to their work or wanting up-to-the-minute reports on certain phases of research are invited to request preparation of Current Information Letters. Address requests to Extension Editor and they will be referred for consideration to subject-matter specialists concerned.

BUMPER CROP PRODUCTION. For the third successive year the nation's corn crop will exceed 3 billion bushels, with this year's prospective crop of 3.2 billion bushels setting an all-time record despite a late wet spring and prolonged, dry weather last summer in eastern corn-producing areas. Bumper crops of wheat, grain sorghums and possibly rice, as well as corn, are likely to make this year's total tonnage of all grains at least equal the record 155 million tons produced in 1942.

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION. Production of alfalfa seed this year is expected to be about 15 per cent smaller than in 1943, and also 15 per cent smaller than the 10-year (1933-42) average. Production in 1944 is forecast at 1,005,900 bushels of thresher-run seed, compared with 1,178,900 bushels in 1943 and the 10-year average of 1,179,170 bushels. The decreased production is attributed entirely to an expected smaller yield per acre, which offsets the slightly (1 per cent) larger acreage that may be harvested this year.

EGG PRODUCTION RECORD SET IN SEPTEMBER. U. S. farm flocks laid 3.6 billion eggs in September, a record production for the month. It was 6 per cent above the previous high of last year and 48 per cent above the 10-year average. The production was high in all parts of the country.

DAIRY FARMERS' POSITION TO BE MORE FAVORABLE. Despite wartime labor and equipment difficulties, dairy farmers are expected to be for 1945 operations in a much more favorable position regarding feed and the price of milk at wholesale than at the beginning of 1944. A considerable decrease in livestock numbers, abundant food grains and a continuing heavy demand for whole milk are among the reasons for the general improvement in dairying conditions. Currently, the milk-feed price ratio is the most favorable of all the livestock-feed price relationships. At mid-September, returns to dairy farmers, excluding production payments, were at the highest level for this period in 24 years. With the production payments included, returns were approximately 135 per cent of parity.

CCC WHEAT LOANS. CCC thru September 30, 1944, had completed 85,959 loans on 107,543,267 bushels of 1944 wheat in the amount of \$149,453,930.39. The average amount advanced was \$1.39 per bushel, which includes some transportation charges from the area of production to warehouse locations. On the same date last year 81,840 loans had been completed on 77,089,548 bushels.

FERTILIZER SITUATION. Prospective supplies of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers for use on 1945 crops have declined since midsummer, due to greatly increased military use of materials required for manufacture of those fertilizers, but substantially increased supplies of potash are expected to be available, the WFA reports. The WPB is asking early delivery of materials to manufacturers so that mixed fertilizers can be moved early to farms, so as to clear the way for use of additional materials in mixed fertilizers if supply situations improve in time for 1945 crops.

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TO HELP ADVISE SERVICEMEN. According to latest Extension Service reports, all counties in 22 states have organized committees to help advise veterans and others who may want to begin farming after the war. In some 15 states this work is more than half completed; in others plans are under way, so that advisory assistance will be available when servicemen and war workers get back. Reports indicate that about 50 per cent of the committees are made up entirely of local farmers, and that all committees have dirt-farmer representation.

WPB AUTHORIZED PRODUCTION OF MORE SHOTGUNS, RIFLES. Production of 495,000 new shotguns and rifles and completion of a quantity of partially-fabricated guns for use in replacing essential civilian equipment, has been authorized, the War Production Board's office of civilian requirements announced. Essential users include police and other law enforcement agencies, farmers and ranchers. The War Food Administration supported OCR in the program. WFA's interest is in having replacement guns available for farmers and ranchers to aid in controlling predatory animals and birds.

NECESSITY FOR CONTINUED SHOE RATIONING. Present inventories and the present rate of production of rationed shoes show the necessity for continued shoe rationing, the OPA and WPB announced.

NEW STOVE RATION REGULATIONS. Coal and wood heating and cooking stoves were removed from consumer rationing, October 15. OPA said that purchase certificates for these two types of stoves may not be offered by consumers, or accepted from them by dealers, after October 15.

PENALTIES FOR HOLDING BOX CARS. Because of the increasingly acute shortage of box cars, the Interstate Commerce Commission has again revised upward demurrage rates on box cars. The new order is intended to discourage delay in the loading and unloading of box cars, and is effective from October 19 to November 19, 1944. It fixes demurrage charges on box cars not loaded or unloaded within the free time provided by tariffs of \$2.20 per car per day for the first two days; \$5.50 per car per day for the third day; \$11.00 per car per day for the fourth day; and \$16.50 per car per day for each succeeding day.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION. The output of chicks by commercial hatcheries in September decreased to only slightly more than half of the record output of September last year. Production of baby chicks in September totaled 21,647,000 compared with 41,120,000 in September a year ago. The output of hatcheries for the first 9 months of this year totaled 1,147,295,000 chicks. This is about one-fourth less than the 1,503,698,000 produced during the same period last year.