

Weekly Review For MINNESOTA

BULLETIN ROOM
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

IVES IN COSTA RICA. Norton Ives, former extension agricultural engineer, writes from Costa Rica asking for news of Minnesota Extension. His latest assignment is with Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Science. His new address is P.O. Box 74, Turrialba, Costa Rica.

DOUGLASS IS BACK. Bob Douglass, formerly district county agent leader, will be back on the job November 1 after more than four years of military service, including grueling campaigns in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. His rank was that of Lieutenant Colonel. On the extension staff he will have a new assignment as coordinator of programs and planning.

KREITLOW TO 4-H STAFF. Sgt. Burton Kreitlow, just released from the army air force, has joined the state 4-H staff as district 4-H supervisor.

WHITE POTATO CEILINGS SUSPENSION. Ceiling prices on white potatoes will continue to be suspended for the period beginning October 25 and ending December 5, 1945. White potato ceilings have been suspended since September 14, 1945, after the Department of Agriculture estimated the 1945 yield would be approximately 432,895,000 bushels, one of the largest crops in years. At the same time, demands of the armed services for potatoes have decreased sharply, making larger supplies available for civilians than they normally consume.

POTATO DIVERSION BEGUN. Diversion of potatoes for the manufacture of butyl alcohol, an ingredient of paints and lacquers and a source of synthetic rubber, at a large plant in Philadelphia, Pa., is announced by USDA. The plant is now receiving potatoes at the rate of 35 cars a day and is expected to handle 75 cars a day by October 25. Progress also is being made for the use of ethyl alcohol plants in the Midwest, at Omaha, Nebraska, and Muscatine, Iowa, to utilize surplus potatoes for the production of motor fuel and anti-freeze solutions. Both mid-west plants may be converted soon for the manufacture of glucose from surplus potatoes. This would provide an outlet for surplus and low-grade potatoes, and help to relieve the sugar shortage. About 15 pounds of glucose syrup, equivalent to between 7 and 8 pounds of sugar, can be produced from 100 pounds of potatoes. Glucose syrup is used in bakery goods, soft drinks, preserves, jams and jellies. The two mid-west plants, when operating at full capacity could utilize around 75 cars of potatoes per day. Plans are being developed also for using beet sugar plants for potato glucose if necessary.

SURPLUS BUTTER TO GO TO CIVILIANS. Distribution into civilian channels of the 80,000,000 pounds of butter, recently declared surplus by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps, is currently being planned by the USDA. The butter will be made available to civilians during the next few months--the normal season of short production and supply. Announcement of the release and distribution of the surplus butter will be made in the near future. The increased civilian supply was made possible by the military release of 32% of the 1945 flush season butter procurement, estimated at a total of 250,000,000 pounds. Butter for the military services, as is the case with other seasonal commodities, has been procured during the period of flush production to relieve pressure on civilian supplies. The armed forces butter for the entire year is procured in the heavy production period from April thru August. The Quartermaster Corps purchased butter for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the War Relocation Authority. Requirements for the armed forces were completely revised when the war with Japan ended. Army estimates indicate that the rapid demobilization of the Army will result in a reduction of more than three-quarters of its personnel within 9 months, with comparable reductions in other branches of the service served by the Quartermaster Corps.