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# *Weekly Review* for MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul 1, August 23 1946

STATE WHEAT GOALS SET AT 71,720,000 ACRES. State 1947 wheat goals totaling 71,720,000 acres were announced by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson. The State totals only slightly revise the national goal of 71,700,000 acres announced June 28. This revision followed review of suggested goals in the States and becomes the wheat goal for 1947.

Sum of the wheat goals recommended by State goals committees is nearly the same as the indicated plantings of 71,896,000 acres for the 1946 crop. About the 70% of the total will be planted to winter wheat, and the remainder to spring wheat. Yields equaling those of the last few years would produce on the 1947 acreage the fourth successive crop of more than a billion bushels.

Officials pointed out that these goals serve as guides to farmers in balancing production against needs. Because of the low level of world food stocks, the proposed acreage is somewhat larger than would normally be desirable for proper conservation and land utilization.

State wheat goals are recommended by the State USDA Councils, which include representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration, the Extension Service, State agricultural colleges, and other Government agencies.

CATTLE ON FEED. The number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on August 1 this year was 45% smaller than on August 1, 1945, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported. This is the sharpest decrease in August numbers ever recorded, and one of the sharpest ever shown for Corn Belt cattle feeding. Only in January 1935, following the 1934 drought, was the percentage decrease larger than for this August.

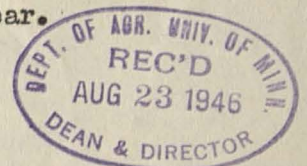
APPLE PRODUCTION. The U. S. apple crop for 1946 in commercial areas is now indicated at 111,728,000 bushels, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported. While this total is 64% more than the last year's record small crop of 68,042,000 bushels, it is 8% below the 1935-44 average.

CANADIAN-BRITISH WHEAT AGREEMENT. The United Kingdom has agreed to buy Canadian wheat for the next 4 years under an agreement described as the largest transaction of its kind in history.

Canada has agreed to sell at least 160 million bushels of wheat during each of the first 2 years of the contract period, and 140 million bushels during each of the second 2 years. The total for the first 2 years will be exceeded in event of unusually good Canadian harvests. Part of the wheat purchased will be in the form of flour.

An important feature of the contract is that the terms and conditions of the agreement shall conform with the provisions of any international wheat agreement which may be arrived at, and to which both the United Kingdom and Canada are parties. The agreement fixes the price of the purchased wheat at \$1.55 a bushel during the first 2 years. The price for the third year has not been fixed definitely, but will be at least \$1.25. A minimum of \$1 a bushel is provided for the fourth year.

(Over)



FARM LABOR. More persons were employed on farms on August 1 this year than on that date in any other year since 1942, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported. There were 11,044,000 people engaged in farm work in the entire country, including 8,258,000 farm operators and unpaid members of their families and 2,786,000 hired hands.

NO CORN YET IMMUNE TO EUROPEAN CORN BORER. Reports of the development of a corn said to suffer no damage from the European corn borer are unduly optimistic, say agronomists of the Department of Agriculture.

For many years the Department has been attempting to develop a corn resistant to this insect, and as a result many different strains have been tested, and some have been found to suffer less injury under borer attack than others. In general, say the agronomists, strong-stalked strains are less likely to lodge under heavy borer infestations than weak-stalked strains. Since most good hybrids are more resistant to lodging than open-pollinated varieties, the hybrids, as a class have suffered less damage than open-pollinated corn.

Farmers in borer-infested areas will do best to plant high-yielding, lodging-resistant hybrids such as would be recommended for their locality in the absence of the borer.

Some day, say the corn breeders, hybrids immune to the corn borer may be developed; but for the present, farmers should grow strong-stalked hybrids and follow the recommended farming practices if they wish to keep borer damage to a practical minimum.

HEALTH. The Senate on August 1 concurred in the House Amendments to S. 191, the Hill-Burton Hospital Survey and Construction Act. The President approved the act on August 13. This legislation makes provision for assisting States to survey their hospital and health center needs and to construct public and other nonprofit hospitals and centers.

In order to assist the States in carrying out surveys and planning, the act authorizes a Federal appropriation of 3 million dollars. Under the supplemental deficiency bill previously approved, two-thirds of this sum is now available, thereby making it possible to start these studies now.

The act authorizes the appropriation for this fiscal year and for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years the sum of 75 million dollars for construction. Hospitals serving rural communities will be given special consideration. Two-thirds of the construction phases of the 5-year program will involve State expenditures, and one-third Federal. If fully carried out this will call for total expenditures of \$1,125,000.

Administrator of the act is the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service. The act also provides for a Federal Hospital Council to assist the Surgeon General.

MILK COW NUMBERS. The government reports that milk cow numbers declined for the second successive year from the all-time peak established in 1944. Numbers in June were 4 per cent fewer than a year earlier and 6 per cent below the June 1944 level. The number of spring heifer calves saved this year for additions to the milking herd was at the lowest level since the late 1930's. This trend suggests a further decrease in replacement stock available for maintaining milking herds 1½ to two years from now.