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BULLETIN ROOM

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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WHEAT STOCKS IN PRINCIPAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES DROP. Wheat stocks in the four principal exporting countries July 1 were at their lowest level since 1938 owing to unprecedented world demand for breadgrains, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Total wheat supplies in Argentina, Australia, Canada and the United States on July 1 amounted to 373 million bushels, which was about 450 million bushels less than a year previous and well below the 1935-39 average of 457 million bushels. Wheat reserves in other areas also were at an uncomfortable low level although quantitative estimates are not available as of that date.

Argentina's wheat stocks on July 1 were estimated at 115 million bushels, Australia's at 67 million bushels, Canada's at 90 million bushels and this country's at 101 million bushels.

USDA ANNOUNCES HEN AND PULLET GOAL. The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced recently a hen and pullet goal for January 1, 1947 of 435,000,000 head. This number represents almost 93 per cent of the actual number of hens and pullets on farms on January 1, 1946 and is 115 per cent of the average number on farms on the same date for 1937-41.

The hen and pullet goal will provide for egg production sufficient to meet all currently known requirements in 1947, including eggs available to U. S. consumers at the anticipated rate of 360 eggs per capita. This allows for greater consumer use of eggs than in any other year except 1945 - when per capita consumption was 390 and 1946, for which consumption is estimated at 375 eggs per capita.

The goal of 435,000,000 represents an expected carryover of 145,000,000 mature hens, and the saving for egg production of about 290,000,000 pullets. The better feed situation already indicated by 1947 is not expected to make any appreciable change in flock numbers by January 1. Hatchery production fell off sharply after May this year because of heavy cancellations of chick orders and the uncertainty, then, of the feed situation after June 1.

MINNESOTA WHEAT GOAL FOR 1947. The wheat goal for Minnesota for 1947 is 1,300,000 acres as compared with an indicated planted acreage of 1,405,000 acres in 1946.

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SIGNS COPRA AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES. Under the terms of the Copra Purchase Agreement signed August 8 in Manila, the Philippine Government has agreed to sell the entire exportable surplus of copra and coconut oil to the Commodity Credit Corporation or its designee for one year beginning July 1, 1946, the Department of Agriculture announced.

The price of copra will be \$103.50 per long ton, f.o.b. ocean carrier. Price of coconut oil will be 7-1/8 cents per pound f.o.b. Philippine ports. This will allow importation of copra and coconut oil within the existing price ceilings set by OPA.

In addition the Philippine Government has agreed not to place any restrictions upon the production or export of copra to the U.S. All purchases for foreign claimants will be handled by the U.S. and the Philippine Government will issue export licenses

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only to the U.S. or its designee. Purchases for foreign claimants with International Emergency Food Council allocations will be made by the Fats and Oils Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration through normal commercial channels. All copra imported for use in the U.S. will be purchased by private importers, with control through import licenses.

Shipments of copra and coconut oil in terms of copra have risen steadily since January reaching a high of about 60,000 tons in July, almost equaling prewar tonnages.

CANADA AND U.S. REACH APPLE MARKETING AGREEMENT. The Canadian and United States' Departments of Agriculture announced the conclusions reached at a meeting of the Canadian-United States Joint Apple Committee held in Toronto, Canada, August 9 and 10, regarding the marketing of Canadian apples in the U.S. during the 1946-47 season.

The marketing plan provides for the export from Canada to the U.S. of 1 million bu. of packed apples, and 2 million bu. of processing apples, with an additional 250 thousand bus. for either fresh market or processing at the option of the Canadian industry, making a possible total export of 3,250,000 bu. to the U.S.

The Joint Committee also developed a plan for the orderly distribution of these exports. The program was arrived at after a full examination of the 1946 supply and marketing prospects of the two countries.

FAT SALVAGE FOR SOAP. Household fat salvage collections in the last three years have accounted for 7 to 8% of the total supply of inedible tallow and greases -- much of which is used in soap making -- the Department of Agriculture reports, emphasizing that the need for salvage is still urgent. In the first four months of this year the collections were about 20% smaller than in the same month in 1945 but were about 40% larger than in the last four months of 1945, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics says. The increase in early 1946 is traceable to bigger civilian supplies of pork in these months following supplies of pork and bacon in late 1945 that were so light that housewives could not accumulate much fat to be turned in. Advertising the need of fats also helped.

HARVEST JOB. The tremendous harvest job American farmers have on their hands this fall is emphasized by the August 1 USDA crop report which says "aggregate production still promises to exceed the outturn of any previous year 27 per cent above 1923-32 average, 6 points above 1945 and 3 points above previous high mark set in 1942..... Major contributions to this largest aggregate volume...are made by record crops of corn, wheat, tobacco, peaches, plums and truck crops; near record crops of oats, rice, peanuts, potatoes, pears, grapes, cherries and sugarcane and average or better crops of hay, soybeans, dry peas, prunes, apricots, and sugar beets. Only sorghum grain, flaxseed, buckwheat, dry beans, sweetpotatoes, pecans and particularly cotton and rye are below average".

MILLION VETERANS WORKING ON FARMS. More than a million veterans of World War II had returned to farm work in the U.S. by July 1, the BAE announced in a preliminary report. There were 1,045,000 veterans employed on farms, 713,000 as farm operators and members of farm operators' families and 332,000 as hired workers...

REA'S REPORT. Extensions to existing rural electric lines rather than building of new lines is responsible for the increase of 261,710 new "customers" for REA during the 1946 fiscal year, second only to 1940 for farm electric service additions made. Claude Wickard, director of REA, says there are at least three million farms yet to be serviced for current. As of last July 1, REA was providing service to about one and a half million farms and other ruralites on 474,000 miles of lines in 46 States and two territories.