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# Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

## AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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AGENTS APPOINTED CHAIRMEN NATIONAL JUDGING COMMITTEES. Three Minnesota agents are being invited to serve as chairmen of judging committees to judge the national contests of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors to be held in connection with the annual convention of the association at the University of Minnesota August 6-8. Harold Pederson, Hennepin county, will head the judges of the publicity entries; G. J. Kunau, Goodhue county, will head the judges of bulletins and other publications; J. I. Swedberg, Redwood county, will head the visual aids judges.

MASTER OF EXTENSION OFFERED BY COLORADO. Dr. I. E. Newsom, vice president of Colorado A. and M. College, has announced that a degree of master of extension education has been authorized by the faculty council of the institution. The degree, to be offered by the department of vocational education, requires that the candidate have a minimum of 3 years' experience in agricultural extension work before enrolling for the advanced academic training. Courses offered for the degree include extension philosophy, objectives and methods of extension work, psychology of extension work, rural sociology, and educational research. A similar curriculum has been established at Cornell, and Missouri and several other of the land-grant colleges are planning to develop such a course.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION. Hatchery production of chicks in April is estimated at 310,664,000, a total 10% less than in April last year. Hatchery output of chicks from January through April was 736,865,000 or 5% less than during the same period in 1946. Chick production during May is expected to be about the same or slightly larger than in May last year. The number of eggs in incubators on May 1 was about 3% larger than a year ago. The demand for turkey poults continues dull. Reports from 292 hatcheries indicate that poult production in April was 23% below that of April last year. Turkey eggs in incubators on May 1 were also 23% less than a year ago.

LITTLE, IF ANY, CHANGE INDICATED IN WORLD FOOD SUPPLY IN 1947-48. Despite world-wide efforts to increase production, early crop conditions in important producing areas indicate the world food supply for the 1947-48 consumption year may be little, if any, larger than in 1946-47, according to the Department of Agriculture. A survey by the Department's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations indicates that declines in grain production are indicated in several importing countries but may be offset by increased production in the principal exporting regions. Such a shift in production will require a somewhat greater movement of grains in international trade during the coming year if supplies in importing countries are to be maintained at the relative low levels of 1946-47. Some increase is likely in the production of sugar, potatoes, and fats and oils but the supply of all of these commodities will continue below prewar.

The severe winter, extensive floods and labor shortages, have reduced the acreage in winter food grains in the countries of Western Europe below those of a year ago and only a small part of this loss can be made up by spring plantings. However, there will probably be larger acreages of sugarbeets, potatoes, and feed grains, and a further recovery in output of livestock products is expected in 1947-48. The acreage planted to winter grains in central and eastern Europe is larger than a year earlier and the winter-kill has been small. Present crop conditions point to a somewhat larger production of grains in this area in 1947. The 1947 crop outlook in the Soviet Union appears to be better than last year. In general weather conditions during the

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past winter and spring were favorable to crops, but the final outturn of crops will depend largely upon weather conditions in the last half of May and in June. It is not likely that conditions for food production in Japan will be as favorable as they were in 1946 and little expansion in acreage is possible. Since the population has increased substantially, (natural increase plus repatriates) greater imports will be needed for this country during 1947-48 than in 1946-47.

In most areas of China crop prospects are above normal, but drought in central China has reduced the prospect for a good wheat crop and has retarded rice planting in that area. Finance will be a major problem in agricultural trade in 1947-48. With the temporary wartime expedients of lend-lease and UNRRA out of the picture, the volume of foreign imports will depend on the amount of U.S. funds appropriated for foreign relief, the buying power that importing countries can muster out of the receipts from their own exports, out of gold and dollar reserves, and out of loans. International loans will therefore remain the key factor that ultimately will determine the volume of international trade in the next crop year. In the case of certain essentials, such as bread grains, priority will be given to the import need at the expense of most other products, but imports of less essential foods and other less essential products will continue to be restricted in many countries, and the rigidity of the control will depend upon the extent to which they can finance their trade deficits by loans.

FARM LABOR. There were 10,280,000 people at work on farms throughout the country on May 1, about the same as a year ago, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported. A late season and unfavorable weather were largely responsible for keeping farm employment at the 1946 level. There were about 100,000 fewer operators and unpaid members of their families doing farm work this year on May 1 than a year ago. Over a million more persons were at work on farms on May 1 than on April 1. The seasonal increase in the number of family workers was less than usual but about normal for hired workers.