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Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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VETERAN AGENT, GEORGE A. KING, PASSES AWAY. George A. King, 49, veteran Carver county agent and president of the Minnesota County Agricultural Agents Association, passed away Wednesday afternoon, July 3, at Waconia. He had been Carver county agent since 1925. In 1945 he was given the distinguished service citation by the National County Agent Association for his outstanding leadership and achievements in county agent work. King passed away following an appendicitis operation. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

NEW ASSISTANT AGENTS. Two new assistant agents joined the Minnesota Extension Service during June and another is scheduled to assume duties July 10. Richard B. Aakre became assistant to Carl G. Ash in West Polk county June 6. Aakre has had many years experience in both agriculture and education. After graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1931, he was agricultural instructor in St. Louis county schools until 1940. From 1940-1944 he supervised the food production war training program in St. Louis county. From 1945 to the present, he was in the farm implement, feed and seed business for himself. Lowell M. Johnson, after more than three years in the Army, has been named assistant agent in Becker county effective June 25. Johnson was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1941. Alvin N. Thornes, a 1946 graduate of the University of Minnesota, will become assistant agent in Hennepin county, July 10. Thornes was discharged from the Army Air Forces as a major after four years' service.

MINNESOTA PIG CROP REPORT. - June 1, 1946 - Hog production in Minnesota is being reduced sharply in 1946 in comparison with production in 1945 and other recent years, according to the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service. This report is based upon returns from farmers obtained in cooperation with the Post Office Department through its rural mail carriers. The spring crop, which has already been produced is 5 per cent smaller than the 1945 spring crop, while it is expected that the fall crop (June 1 to Dec. 1) will be about 29 per cent smaller. The total 1946 crop (spring and fall) is expected to be 12 per cent smaller than the 1945 crop - about 6 per cent smaller than the 1944 crop, but nearly 40 per cent smaller than the record crop produced in 1943. Short feed supplies rising feed costs and uncertainties in regard to future price relationship are factors which prompted farmers to reduce production. Reports reveal that the change in the production level between areas of the State is very closely related to the size and quality of the 1945 corn crop. The sharpest reduction is noted for the southeast and south central counties where the 1945 corn crop was small and of very poor quality.

WHEAT GOALS RAISED FOR 1947 CROP. A national wheat goal of 71,700,000 seeded acres for the production of next year's crop was announced recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This would be the largest wheat acreage since 1938. About 70 per cent of the total would be planted to winter wheat, and the remainder to spring wheat.

The 1947 goal compares with 71,057,000 acres seeded for the 1946 crop, and with 68,781,000 acres for the 1945 crop. It is based on estimated requirements during 1947-48 for food, feed, seed, exports, and carry-over.

(Over)

Yields equaling those of the last few years would produce on the 1947 goal acreage the fourth successive crop of more than 1,000,000,000 bushels of wheat. If yields were to fall to the 1935-44 average of 13 bushels per acre a crop of 934 million bushels would be produced.

Officials said that the proposed acreage is larger than would be desirable for proper long-time land utilization and conservation, but that a large supply of wheat is needed in view of the world food situation and the low level of wheat stocks, and therefore a maximum acreage of wheat is proposed for 1947.

State goals will be announced following a determination of local possibilities by federal and state agricultural agencies at state and county levels.

RECORD GRAIN EXPORTS REPORTED. A new high record 477,000 long tons (18,040,000 bushels) of exports of U. S. grain and grain products for a 10-day period this season to date was reported today by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the period June 10-20.

These exports included 390,000 tons of wheat and flour equivalent and 87,000 tons of corn and corn products. They raise the total for June 1-20 to 834,000 long tons (31,712,000 bushels).

Exports during the first 10 days of June had totaled 357,000 long tons (13,672,000 bushels) consisting of 228,000 tons of wheat and flour equivalent and 129,000 tons of corn and corn products.

SAVE-WHEAT CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE. The present is a time for level-headed thinking. Newspaper headlines are reporting "bulging elevators" in the Southwest. On June 26 the New York Journal of Commerce ran this "bullish" headline: "End Held in Sight for Grain Famine; Surpluses Likely." In matters like these the best judgment is to invoke the maxim of a certain wise man who cautions that every written or spoken word ought to be weighed in the light of the author's motives.

Facts, as revealed in official statements and otherwise this week, are:

- (1) The United States' relief shipment goal of 225 million bushels for the first 6 months of 1946 is in sight.
- (2) The Southwest wheat area generally is reporting a good harvest. Although the 1946 harvest is lessening the domestic "pinch" of the past few months there is no probability that serious world food shortages can be overcome before the harvests of 1947.
- (3) On June 24, Chester Davis announced the successful end of the "short term" famine emergency campaign to help the starving overseas. In the same breath, however, Chester Davis, who had just attended a White House conference to hear Herbert Hoover's report on his Latin-American trip, emphasized that the "save the wheat" program would continue.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION. On the eleventh anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration, Administrator Wickard announced that 45 per cent of the country's farms were now electrified, as compared with fewer than 11 per cent when REA was established, May 11, 1935. More than half the farms electrified since that time, and two-thirds of those electrified since 1939, are on REA-financed lines. Yet approximately 6 million American farmers and other rural people who want electric power still lack it.

During its history the total REA loan funds allocated approach 700 million dollars. Of this, \$481,259,969 was advanced to borrowers to finance construction. REA borrowers have repaid \$110,062,187 in principal and interest on loans, almost 18 per cent of which represented payments on principal in advance of dates specified in borrowers' contracts. Delinquencies - where principal and interest payments are more than 30 days overdue - amount to only \$794,000.