

MN 2000 WRM 6/15/45

Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul 8, June 15, 1945

FIRST COMMERCIAL USE OF DDT APPROVED. The first approved commercial use of DDT insecticide has been announced by the WPB. Upon the request of the War Food Administration, a limited quantity of technical grade (the best commercial grade) DDT has been made available in Oregon for use against the potato tuber flea beetle, WPB said. The request from WFA was based on the importance of potatoes in the food program, and the fact that materials normally used for controlling the potato tuber flea beetle are not available, that no deleterious residue problem is involved, and that there is no great danger of harming the other vegetation and bird, insect and animal life by the proposed application. WFA explained that the use of DDT against this insect is restricted to Oregon because it is only in that area that severe damage to the tuber cannot be prevented by materials used elsewhere, such as calcium arsenate or cryolite.

WHEAT CEILING INCREASED. An increase of 3-1/8 cents a bushel in producers' ceilings for the 1945 wheat crop has been announced by the Office of Price Administration. The increase is calculated to reflect parity and is required by law, OPA said. This action, effective May 30, 1945, is included in a general revision of the regulation covering maximum prices of wheat. The revision is aimed at providing uniformity between the wheat and other grain regulations, OPA said. The revision also provides a formula for determining ceilings for deliveries of wheat in store at points other than the farm where grown. Such deliveries are in line with customary trade practices, but previously have not been covered in the regulation. Other changes include a reduction of two cents a bushel in the discount for "Sample Grade" wheat.

NO REGIONAL AND STATE FAIRS THIS YEAR. Because the most critical phase of our wartime transportation is just ahead, regional and State fairs cannot be held this year, according to the War Committee on Conventions and the Office of Defense Transportation. Local and county fairs that do not involve use of intercity transportation by those exhibiting or attending may be conducted this year on the same basis as trade shows. Managers of State or regional fairs, however, are requested to cancel such fairs since military and essential wartime activities will require the entire transportation capacity of the country--both rail and highway.

LARGE AMOUNTS OF GRAIN MOVING TO EUROPE. Grain and flour shipments to Europe are now averaging about 1,500,000 tons per month and are expected to be maintained at about that level for the next three months, according to the War Shipping Administration. Grain was selected for major portion of shipments because it is available, is needed, and can be loaded and unloaded easily. Ships returning from Europe will carry military supplies or men en route to the United States and the Pacific.

U.S. AND CANADA HAVE MUTUAL HARVEST AID ARRANGEMENT. The special wartime arrangement between the U.S. and Canada for mutual aid in grain harvesting will go into effect this season on June 1, according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA. Certain border crossing formalities will be suspended, allowing Canadian threshing outfits to help harvest the Western Great Plains grain crops, and American machinery and crews later will go to the Prairie Provinces.

Crop prospects are not yet sufficiently definite to permit an appraisal of the size of the harvest job to be done this season compared with that of 1944. The need for as rapid harvesting as weather conditions will permit, however, is as great this year as at any time during the war. Canadian threshing outfits may remain in the U.S.

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until September 15 under this year's arrangement. U.S. machines and crews may enter Canada when their services are required, but may not remain longer than December 31. Some of the Canadian units may start harvesting as far south as Texas and progress northward thru Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana.

Requests by grain producers for this assistance are being handled thru State AAA chairmen, with State requests clearing thru John W. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota AAA committee, Fargo.

POST-V-E NEEDS FOR BAGS INCREASED. Conservation of agricultural bags in this country is becoming increasingly important because of accelerated needs since victory in Europe and the fact that textiles for new bags are probably 20 per cent short of requirements, WFA has announced. Requirements for textile bags are up about 20 per cent from last year, and allocations of textiles for bags are running more than 5 per cent less than last year. Accordingly, WFA is asking members of industries and trades as well as farmers to conserve bags and return them to channels of trade as promptly as possible.

The critical bag problem affects a number of industries and trades, including those dealing with feed, seed, sugar, and mill products; growers and shippers of potatoes, peanuts, beans, peas, and in some parts of the country, wheat, oats, and barley. Conservation of bags includes: (1) Opening the bags by pulling the chain stitch--not by cutting; (2) protection of filled bags from rats and mice; (3) storing bags, either full or empty, in a dry place, and (4) emptying and shaking bags thoroughly, hanging them over a wire until sold or re-used.

Factors intensifying the problem are: (1) Increased shipments of foodstuffs to liberated Europe, requiring large numbers of bags; (2) little opportunity to cut down the use of bags in this country, since no alternate packaging seems possible on a large scale for a number of commodities; (3) the fact that military requirements for cotton duck and other fabrics have cut into the mills' capacity to produce heavy osnaburg and heavy sheeting needed for bags.

WORLD HOG NUMBERS SHOW 13% DECLINE. World hog numbers at the beginning of 1945 are placed at 255 million head, compared with 280 million at the beginning of 1944, according to preliminary estimates by the Department of Agriculture's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This represents a decline of 13% from the record level of 1940 and of 10% from the average for the 5-year period 1936-40. The decline from the early 1944 level is attributed mainly to reduced hog numbers in the U.S. and Canada during 1944. There was a slight reduction during 1944 in hog numbers in Continental Europe, excluding Russia, but the reduction there was offset to a large extent by increases elsewhere. Hog numbers in North America, mainly the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, slightly exceeded 74 million head at the beginning of 1945, compared with the all-time record of 99 million at the beginning of 1944. Unless the current downward trend in hog numbers in the U.S. and Canada is checked, the total in these two countries by the beginning of 1946 is not likely to be far above that of the beginning of 1940 when it amounted to 66 million head.

Normally, Continental Europe (excluding Russia) accounts for about 26% of the world's swine but the war reduced that figure to less than 19%. Present indications are that because of feedstuff shortages the total hog numbers in Continental Europe, exclusive of Russia, are likely to decline to around 48 million head by the beginning of 1946. As in Continental Europe, hog numbers in the United Kingdom declined sharply after the outbreak of the war. Hog numbers in the Soviet Union were sharply reduced between 1938 and 1944. Hog numbers in South America increased, mainly in Brazil and Argentina which together account for about 83% of the South American total.