

MN 2000 w Rm 6/11/47

BULLETIN ROOM  
LIBRARY UNIVERSITY FARM

# Weekly Review for MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul 1, June 11, 1947

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AVAILABLE. Recently the State Extension Director received a description of a fellowship available to some extension worker interested in graduate study. Indications are that additional such fellowships may be made available in the future. Workers interested and in a position to make application for such awards should so notify the Director's office.

MINNESOTA'S HOUSEHOLD AMBASSADORS (From M. L. Wilson's letter to Extension Directors). A two-color spread in the May 18 issue of the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune reports on Home Agent Betty Schneider, of Glencoe, Minn., "household ambassador" to the women of McLeod County. The spread also calls attention to the fact that out of 87 counties in Minnesota, 51 have home agents and 10 more have applied for the service.

Thanks to Director Miller for sending in this clipping. He is to be congratulated on having on his staff an able person like Miss Josephine Bjornson. Miss Bjornson cooperated with a special feature writer of the Tribune staff in developing the feature in connection with National Home Demonstration Week.

USDA SEEKS SURPLUS POTATO OUTLETS. The Department of Agriculture has asked eligible public and charitable institutions to apply for allotments of surplus early potatoes, if they have not already done so and if they are within practicable shipping distance of the areas of current harvest. These are potatoes which the Department is required to purchase under the mandatory price-support program.

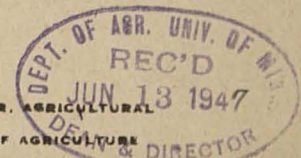
Eligible to receive these surplus potatoes, in addition to school lunch programs, are charitable institutions operated at no profit and supported by tax grants or donations at no cost to recipients, and relief agencies which distribute potatoes free to relief clients. The surplus potatoes are supplied to eligible institutions in car lots without cost and with transportation charges paid, and in truck lots free at Government point of purchase.

Although the surplus potatoes are mainly No. 2's and B's, which are discounted in commercial marketing, they are entirely satisfactory for human consumption if they can be moved before spoilage sets in. The surplus situation in early potatoes, Department officials said, in general should not be as troublesome this year as last, since this year's early crop is indicated at about 30 million bu. less than last year's 85.5 million. Through May, the Department was compelled to buy a total of only 188,000 bushels of this year's crop, as contrasted with nearly 14 million bushels that moved through regular commercial channels during the same period.

The Department hopes to confine disposal operations to localized or "spot" situation, such as that in mid-May in Alabama, where a local surplus of 86,500 bushels developed.

USDA PURCHASES 109 MILLION POUNDS OF NONFAT DRY MILK. The Department of Agriculture announced that price support purchases of nonfat dry milk from March 1 through May 31, 1947 totaled approximately 108 million lbs. and that it has made arrangement to sell the total quantity. Of this total, ten million lbs. already have been purchased by UNRRA for use in overseas relief feeding, and the remainder has been contracted for by the U.S. Army for civilian feeding and relief purposes in foreign areas. An additional 13 million lbs. expected to be purchased under the support program during early June has also been contracted for by the Army.

(over)



THE DEMAND AND PRICE SITUATION. Demand for farm products continues at high levels. Most measures of domestic demand have been unusually stable during the first four and one-half months of 1947. Industrial activity, employment and consumers' incomes have changed little so far this year. Foreign demand also remains strong. Agricultural exports during the first quarter of 1947 were higher in dollar value and about as large in volume as in the same quarter of 1946. After reaching record highs a month or two earlier, wholesale prices of all commodities, prices received by farmers, and prices paid by farmers have declined gradually.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES. For the first time in 8 months the parity index (prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes) declined. As of May 15 this index stood at 229 compared to 230 a month earlier the Bureau of Agricultural Economics announced. At the same time the index of prices received by farmers dropped from 276 to 272, so that the parity ratio, or average relation of prices received to parity, declined slightly. The downturn in the parity index resulted from lower prices for feed, food, household supplies, and seed, which were not fully offset by slightly higher prices of building materials and furniture. The decline in prices received by farmers was led by lower prices for dairy products, meat animals, and oil bearing crops. These were only partially offset by higher prices for cotton and some vegetables.

SLEEPING SICKNESS REPORT. Only 2,805 recorded cases of horse sleeping sickness in 1946 are noted by Bureau of Animal Industry. It is the lowest number of cases of infectious equine encephalomyelitis during the preceding 12 years. The average mortality was somewhat higher (34 per cent) than in recent years, however. The authorities say about 400,000 animals were vaccinated with two doses each in 1946, and 26 animals were said to have taken the disease even after vaccination.

PRESERVE AND CONSERVE. The bad food situation abroad has served this spring to focus public food interest on cereals and cereal shipments. But in regard to food there is another line of thought that should touch more intimately at least 60 per cent of our population. Yes, we're talking about home food preservation. Now is the time to begin urging the public to can, freeze, dry, or store all the fruits and vegetables that can be grown on the home place, or that can be bought the most reasonably in season.