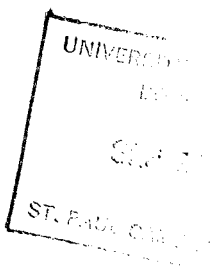


The Minnesota
FARM OUTLOOK

for

1944

**W.
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★ 1944 Food Production Program Series

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HIGHLIGHTS

of ★ the

1944 OUTLOOK

● **NATIONAL INCOME**—about 119 billion dollars in 1942 and 146 in 1943—may be nearly 160 billion in 1944. People will have a large amount of money to spend.

¶ **FARM CASH INCOME** from the sale of agricultural products—about 16 billion in 1942 and 20 billion in 1943—in 1944 may exceed that of 1943 by over two billion dollars.

● **EXPENDITURES FOR WAR**—50 billion dollars in 1942 and about 82 billion in 1943—may reach nearly 90 billion in 1944, but will depend greatly on duration of the war in Europe.

¶ **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION** will increase somewhat in 1944, but about 70 per cent of it will go into the war effort. Civilian supplies will be far below recent years.

● **LEND-LEASE AND MILITARY FOOD** requirements may increase. They were about 25 per cent of our total production in 1943.

¶ **PRICE CONTROLS**, priorities, and rationing may be extended to retard price rises and to protect the war effort and civilians from the effects of a serious inflation. Public support is necessary. Even so, prices generally are likely to move upward—a result of large consumer purchasing power, shortage of civilian goods, and an inadequate tax or forced savings program.

● **CIVILIAN MANPOWER** will grow scarcer in 1944 as more men are drafted for military service. Output of less-needed commodities and services will be curtailed further.

¶ **FARM MANPOWER** will continue to be a problem in 1944. Still greater food production is requested in 1944, but little extra manpower is available.

● **TRANSPORTATION** presents one of the major problems for 1944. It will be inadequate to move the less-essential commodities and will be especially tight during peak marketing seasons. Curtailment of unnecessary travel will help.

¶ **PROCESSING CAPACITY** will be adequate for most farm products in 1944, but the marketing of some will have to be “leveled out.”



MINNESOTA farmers will be called upon to increase production of several commodities in 1944 even though resources will be limited. Maximum production can be obtained only by skillful management and the most effective use of available land, labor, machinery, transportation, feeds, and other productive facilities.

PRODUCTION OUTLOOK . . .

Feed Situation ~~~~~★

Minnesota farmers will make their greatest contribution to the war effort by producing a large volume of cereal foods and livestock products. The factor most likely to limit livestock products is feed supply.

Nationally, the supply of feed grains, grain by-product feeds, and high-protein feeds available for the feeding season of 1943-44 (beginning in the fall of 1943) is the second largest on record, but is 4 per cent less than in 1942-43. However, grain-consuming animals on farms have again increased greatly in 1943 so that the concentrate feed supply per animal is 12 per cent smaller than in 1942-43. Practically all feed reserves will be needed during the feeding year of 1943-44. In general, a tight feed situation appears probable, especially in some areas, before the 1944 crops of wheat, oats, and barley become available. In the past feeding year 13 per cent more feed was used per unit of livestock production than the average of the four preceding years. Through good feeding and management and proper culling, every effort should be made to produce at the higher feed efficiency level of 1937-41.

In Minnesota, livestock production has increased more rapidly than feed production in recent years. Indications are that Minnesota farmers will have to cut down on the number and marketing weights of meat animals, especially hogs, and will have to cull poultry flocks carefully. In some areas shortages will develop before the 1944 harvest and feed will be difficult to buy. Supplies of hay appear to be fairly adequate in most parts of Minnesota.

Farm Supplies ~~~~~★

It is expected that there will be enough farm machinery to meet 1944 needs, but not enough to meet the 1944 demands. Steel and cast iron have been allocated for the manufacture of 80 per cent as much farm machinery as was manufactured in 1940, much more than in 1943. Certain component parts such as ball bearings, forgings, carburetors, steel disk blades and shovels, which contain essential materials, will be scarce.

Restrictions have been removed on repair part production, but considerable time may be required

to obtain parts, so farmers should carefully overhaul machinery and order repair parts at the earliest possible time.

It is expected that fencing materials will be available in sufficient amounts. The wire will be of lighter gauge and simplified design.

There should be a considerable increase in the use of commercial fertilizers as a means of reaching some of the increased production goals for 1944. Nitrogen supplies will be about 33 per cent larger, superphosphate about 20 per cent larger, but potash supplies about 5 per cent smaller than in 1943. Increased amounts of commercial fertilizer up to the maximum recommended by the state college will be allowed for A crops and limited amounts, based on previous rates of application, for B crops. Farmers should apply to dealers early.

Some insecticides and fungicides, especially rotenone and pyrethrum which must be imported, will be limited in 1944 and will need to be used sparingly. In general, it is expected that enough materials will be available to protect 1944 crops from normal insect and disease attacks.

Farm Labor ~~~~~★

No crop of any significance was lost in Minnesota in 1943 because of a farm help shortage. Many farmers were "short-handed" but they worked longer hours, used inexperienced help, and utilized more family labor. Farmers will remain "short-handed" in 1944 and for the duration of the war. Generally, in the United States, the requirement in 1944 is about 3 per cent more manpower for livestock enterprises and 5 per cent more for crop enterprises. About 50,000 more year-round and 400,000 more seasonal workers will be required for the United States as a whole. This labor demand can be met by shifting labor from areas where it is temporarily available to where it is needed, importing foreign labor, recruiting more inexperienced local labor, including young boys and women, and utilizing family help to an even greater extent. The labor recruiting forces set up to coordinate the farm labor program will make special efforts during the winter and spring season of 1944 to prepare for the production of the next farm and food crop. Farmers should plan their labor needs early and report them to the local farm labor recruiting office.

Labor-saving practices should be used to the utmost. Use self-feeders for hogs and free-choice feeding for chickens. Arrange self-watering facilities for livestock—reduce carrying to a minimum. Cull out low-producing cows and hens. Raise hogs and poultry on clean ground to control disease and parasites.

Some enterprises require much more labor than others and labor peaks for different enterprises come at different seasons. Plan to expand production in those lines which require labor when it is most readily available.

Milk cows take most labor in late autumn, winter, and early spring. The seasonal peak in hogs varies with the time of farrowing and can be adjusted to the farm labor and marketing situation. Poultry requires most labor during the brooding and early rearing season. Labor required by beef cattle is highest in winter and spring, lowest in late summer and autumn.

The labor requirements of crops vary from week to week. Small grains have two peaks—seeding and harvesting. Alfalfa requires substantial amounts of labor at each cutting—the first during corn cultivating and the second about the same time as small-grain harvest. Corn reaches its labor peak in late autumn when little is needed for other crops.

MARKET OUTLOOK . . .

Farmers must not only produce more but they also must help regulate the flow to market so the transportation and processing facilities can handle the load.

Transportation Critical ~~~~~★

Transportation facilities will be extremely short in 1944. Railroads are now operating at capacity during peak seasons. The demand for box cars is placing a severe strain on the railroads. Some lead-

ing railroads are without a single serviceable reserve locomotive.

Trucks are in an even more critical situation than the railroads, and the 1944 outlook is less favorable than actual conditions have been in 1943. Large numbers of trucks will wear out, while the shortage of new equipment and replacement parts will continue to cause serious trouble. Tires will furnish a great bottleneck shortly. In addition, it will be difficult to get truck drivers, helpers, and garage mechanics. The conservation of trucks and tires must receive major emphasis in our war effort for 1944.

With a shortage of transportation in 1944 we will need to rely more completely on locally produced products. Products normally shipped in during "off-seasons" may not be available. Local production should be planned to make fresh fruits and vegetables available during as long a season as possible. Local surpluses of perishable products should be carefully preserved.

If special transportation restrictions are to be avoided, farmers will need to adjust production and marketing so as to avoid the seasonal transportation peaks as much as possible. Curtailment of all unnecessary travel also will help.

Processing and Storage ~~~~~★

Some additional facilities are necessary for the production of dry skim milk in favorable milk areas. A lack of experienced labor in slaughtering plants has been somewhat of a bottleneck in 1943 and may continue to be in 1944. Packing plant facilities will be adequate except during extreme peaks in the marketing of hogs in late 1943 and early 1944. Farmers can assist in spreading marketings more evenly over a longer period.

Storage facilities will be used quite fully for the expected large production in 1944 but are expected to be fairly adequate. Farmers will need to store more than the usual share of their crops on the farm or at other country points, to facilitate more orderly marketing and distribution. Cold storage facilities have been increased in 1943 and in general are expected to be sufficient.

Containers and Packaging ~~~~~★

The limited supply of tin, together with military and lend-lease requirements of canned products, will allow only a limited supply of canned fruits and vegetables for civilians in the first half of 1944. The situation is expected to ease somewhat in the second half.

Food Is an Effective Weapon in Winning the War
Plan to Have Your Family Make the Maximum Contribution in 1944

A shortage of containers made of paper, wood, fiber, and cloth may be the chief difficulty in the coming year to confront shippers of many agricultural products and processed foods.

Shipments of some vegetables in wooden containers are already restricted by quotas. Burlap can replace wood only to a limited extent; however, new types of packages must be developed so that it can be used in further replacement. Special effort is necessary on the part of producers and dealers to return, resell, and re-use wooden containers in 1944.

Prices in 1944 ~~~~~★

Prices received by farmers in 1943 averaged about 20 per cent above 1942. Purchases for military, lend-lease, and foreign shipments and larger dollar incomes in the hands of most consumers will increase the demand for farm products in 1944. Left uncontrolled, this demand will force prices to higher levels. Military and foreign requirements as well as the policies of the price stabilization agencies may change from time to time. Apparently some effort will be made to protect the country against a violent inflation by holding prices at somewhere near present levels except for those products where additional price incentive is necessary to increase production.

Adequate Food Supply ~~~~~★

Per capita consumption of all foods in 1943 was approximately 5 per cent above the 1935-39 level, although 5 per cent below the record consumption in 1941. The 1943 diet was also richer in the essential nutrients. The net effect of smaller civilian supplies of meats and dairy products in 1944 will mean a diet slightly lower in calories, protein, and calcium. However, because of higher levels of enrichment of bread and flour now in effect, the diet may contain more iron and the B vitamins.

It is roughly estimated that over 20 per cent of total food production is still lost through wastage and spoilage—on the farm, in processing, in the wholesale and retail channels, and in the home. Concerted effort should be made in 1944 to cut food wastage and spoilage to the very minimum.

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