Weekly Review for MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul, August 12, 1944

PERSONNEL NOTES. Norton Ives has resigned as extension engineer to accept a position at Ames, his Alma Mater. . . Glen Johnson of Anoka is off for the Navy with a commission. . . his place is being taken by Maynard Speece, formerly of U. Farm seed lab. . . Lillian Nordell is also going from Meeker to Anoka as HDA. . . Vernon Baldwin has transferred from Koochiching to Swift county where he takes the place of Harold Anderson, now in the service.

BLUE RIBBON WINNER. The May issue of Farm and Home Science won the national award of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors for excellence in the experiment station quarterly class. Minnesota also picked up a national blue ribbon award in the techinical bulletin class with the "Alfalfa Plant Bug."

CATTLE MARKETING CLIMB. The big movement of cattle from the range States is now under way. Marketings are expected to reach a peak in October, taxing slaughterhouse capacity as did the heavy hog runs of last winter and spring. Scarcity of skilled labor is the bottleneck at packing plants.

Cattle slaughtered at 32 Federally-inspected centers for the week ending July 22 totaled 208,327, the heaviest slaughter of the year and one-fourth greater than the comparable week last year.

Slaughter of calves also reached a new high of 111,555 more than double the comparative week a year earlier. Meanwhile, for the third straight week, the number of hogs slaughtered fell below a year earlier with prices advancing sharply....Cattle marketed during the next five months will be mostly grass-fattened animals with less fat or marbling than from those fattened on grain.

Indications point to fairly large feed crops this year and more cattle going to feed lots this fall than a year earlier. This undoubtedly will mean more grain-finished beef for consumers during the first half of 1945.

EIGHT STRAIGHT YEARS OF RECORD FOOD OUTPUT IN SIGHT. Present signs point to an eighth straight record-breaking year of food production by American farmers. Total 1944 food production is now being estimated at 38 per cent above the pre-war (1935-39) average output, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Last year's record production was 32 per cent above 1935-39.

Thanks to another production "miracle" which has become almost commonplace for the farmer, U. S. civilians this year are eating as well as they did last year and 7 per cent better than before the war, BAE reports. The rest of the increased production goes into the war program for our armed forces, Lend-lease, and liberated peoples. Most of the prospective increase this year is in wheat, fruits, truck crops, and meats. Major decrease is in vegetables other than truck crops.

BEEF SET ASIDE. Beginning July 30, federally inspected slaughterers are required to increase from 35 to 45 per cent the quantities of beef meeting army specifications which must be set aside for government procurement. This has become necessary in order to make available to the United States military forces the necessary quantities of beef.

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BARLEY CEILING PRICES REDUCED. A reduction in ceiling prices on barley at all levels amounting to an average reduction of 3 cents a bushel in production areas, was announced recently by the Office of Price Administration, which said the new prices will return parity prices to producing farmers during the 1944 crop year.

These new prices were effective August 1, 1944. The base price for Minneapolis and Duluth is $1.14 per bushel, bulk, for number 2 barley with a test weight of 46 pounds per bushel.

NEW OATS CEILING REFLECTS PARITY. New ceilings on sales of oats amount to a reduction averaging 5 cents a bushel below recent prices in production areas, OPA says. The new ceilings will, however, reflect full parity to farmers during the current crop year.

HEAVY TRUCK TIRE SHORTAGE SEVERE. The War Production Board announced July 27 that to avert a shortage of heavy-duty military tires, there will be a sharp reduction in the quantity of heavy truck and bus tires available for essential civilian transportation in this country during the next two months. This announcement came after the full board of WPB reviewed the entire heavy tire situation and agreed that the Army's requirements for heavy tires must be met at all costs, even though that involves serious risks in the field of absolutely essential civilian transportation.

NEW CEILINGS ON WHOLESALE EGGS. New maximum prices for wholesale grades of shell eggs for the period beginning July 31 and ending September 30, 1944, were announced by the Office of Price Administration. This action was taken further consideration of the complete revision of the shell egg regulation (Maximum Price Regulation No. 333). Prices established in the new measure conform to corresponding maximum prices for consumer grades of eggs during the same period in 1943.

LARGE POST-WAR IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK INTO EUROPE UNLIKELY. A great post-war demand from European countries for livestock from U. S. farms is unlikely, according to Dr. O. E. Reed, Chief, U. S. Bureau of Dairy Industry. Dr. Reed points out that after hostilities cease it will probably be a year or more before these countries could begin importing livestock. Rehabilitation of herds and flocks will be primarily a matter of encouraging domestic production as soon as feed is available.

Countries which want to obtain dairy cattle after the war are interested chiefly in cows for utility purposes and not in registered breeding stock, except possibly for a few outstanding proven sires. Breeding-stock demand probably will be limited to breeds already in the country.

FEED RATIO. The corn-hog ratio in the north central states is now, and has been since Jan. 1, 1944, less favorable than the long-time average. In the period 1923-42, the average ratio was 12.9 bushels of corn for 100 pounds of live hogs. In the first five months of 1944, 100 pounds of hogs would have bought from 12.1 to 12.7 bushels of corn, as compared with the purchasing power of 14.3 to 17.3 bushels of corn for 100 pounds of hogs in the same months of 1943.

NEWSBITS. New electric irons, expected to begin appearing soon in retail stores, will not be rationed, nor will certificates of need be required.

Production of commercial truck crops this summer will be about 13 per cent greater than last year and about 9 per cent above the 10-year average.

About 300,000 tons of raw potatoes, or approximately 3 per cent of the 1943 late crop, were dried in beet sugar plants for livestock feed and for industrial alcohol.