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Weekly Review for MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul 1, September 25, 1947

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USDA LAUNCHES PROJECT TO CUT EGG LOSSES. A research project aimed at bringing about a reduction in egg losses during handling, processing, packing, transporting, and warehousing has been set up by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, E. A. Meyer, administrator, announced recently.

FARM LABOR. About 11 million persons were working on farms on Sept. 1, the same as a year ago. There were slightly fewer family workers engaged in farm work but a few more hired farm workers. There was no seasonal change in farm employment during August for the country as a whole. Usually August shows a moderate increase. The trend toward a shorter farm work-day continued.

GREATER BENEFITS FROM FARM WOODLOTS TO BE SOUGHT THROUGH RESEARCH. Development of new and increased uses of farm-grown timber and ways to get better service from wood products made from such timber has been approved by the Department of Agriculture for study under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946. The work will be carried on by the Forest Service largely at the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisc., E. A. Meyer, administrator of the new act, said in announcing approval of the project.

Several specific types of activity are contemplated, the objects of which are as follows: Improvement in methods of using lumber from woodlots in farm buildings; develop and test equipment that will permit farmers to get their own logs converted into a more finished type of lumber; improved chemicals and ways of applying them to preserve posts and other timber produced and used on the farm; determine possibilities for making pulp from farm-grown northern and southern hardwood species and suitable outlets for pulp and paper; better paints and painting practices for farm structures; new small-scale methods for hydrolyzing wood in the production of molasses and yeast for livestock feed.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION. Commercial hatcheries produced 24 per cent more chicks during August this year than last, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. A total of 34,237,000 chicks were produced during the month compared with 27,525,000 in August last year. During the first 8 months of 1947, about 1,127,424,000 chicks were hatched, 1 per cent more than the 1,116,053,000 hatched during the same months last year. There is a strong demand for chicks for commercial broiler production. Poultry meat prices strengthened considerably during the first two weeks of September. Hatcheries report that hatching eggs are scarce and high priced.

VERY SMALL MEAT EXPORT ALLOCATION. An allocation of 16.8 million lbs. of meat and meat products in the fourth quarter of 1947 for commercial export is announced by USDA. This is about one-fourth of one per cent of estimated national production in this period. The fourth quarter meat allocations are identical with those in the third quarter. If, as it seems now, the year's total meat exports will be less than 400 million lbs., it would be about equal to one week's present rate of domestic consumption here.

Last year, ending June 30, 1947, U. S. exported 500 million lbs. of meat (224,000 long tons). In 1943 U. S. exported 2.5 billion lbs. of meats against a year's production of 24 billion lbs. In 1944, 1.8 billion lbs. and in 1945, 1.2 billion lbs. were shipped.

(over)

UNCLE SAM'S MEAT INSPECTORS .. KEEP BUSY. Work of the Federal Meat Inspection Service doesn't get many headlines during the year, but this branch of our Bureau of Animal Industry has a year-around job. A perusal of its activities for the last fiscal year brings up following factual information:

During the year inspections were made at 1,117 establishments in 433 cities and towns. At year's end 498 slaughtering establishments, and 464 companies doing meat processing only, were operating under federal inspection. There was a marked increase in number of cattle, goats and horses slaughtered, a slight increase in calves and hogs, but a decrease in sheep and lambs. A large quantity of canned, cured and frozen horse meat was prepared for export. (Horses are slaughtered, and their meat handled, in establishments apart from those in which other animals are slaughtered.)

Some of the duties of Federal meat inspectors: They examine food animals prior to slaughter to eliminate diseased animals, and those with any other unwholesome condition. They thoroughly check each carcass after slaughter to eliminate diseased or otherwise unfit meat. All unfit meat and meat products are destroyed for food purposes. They supervise preparation of meat and meat food products and guard against use of harmful preservatives and other unacceptable ingredients. They certify meat and meat food products for export, and inspect those offered for importation into this country. They make sure that meat and meat food products meet specified requirements, when purchased by the government.

Meat Inspection Service also approved 21,380 new labels and sketches for labels at inspected establishments. But they withheld approval from 1,928 sketches and labels that did not comply with labeling requirements.

There were numerous investigations of alleged violations of the Meat Inspection Act and Regulations, 34 charges of violation were made, and 102 letters of warning issued.

In its year's work, the Service inspected about 84,000,000 animals .. both before and after slaughter. You can see why Uncle Sam's meat inspectors never lack for something to do.