Weekly Review for MINNESOTA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, June 8, 1944

CURRENT INFORMATION LETTER. The Current Information Letter series is still in use and ready to supply agents on request with needed information of state-wide interest. While Farm and Home Science and Weekly Review supply some information that otherwise might be handled in the Letter series, the Extension Editor's office is still acting as clearing house for requests from agents on subjects that they would like to have probed and handled in Current Information Letters. Such requests will be immediately referred to specialists for review.

BLUE NETWORK FARM HOUR DISCONTINUED. It has been announced from Washington that the National Farm and Home Hour on the Blue Network will be discontinued in its present daily format as of June 19. Minnesota has furnished many guests for this program in the past, especially for the 4-H features. From now on the program will be carried only on Saturday. It is not known at present whether any Minnesota stations will carry the show.

NEW VICTORY GARDEN FILM. A new victory garden film has been produced by the International Harvester Company. Copies are available at all International Harvester distribution offices. The company will be glad to have county agents, victory garden leaders, and others concerned with the victory garden program consult these offices regarding local showings of the film. It is 2 reels, 16-millimeter, color, sound. Although the film is primarily for urban groups, it may be of interest to rural groups as well.

LUMBER SUPPLY IS SHORT. War Production Board estimates that lumber requirements for the third quarter of 1944 are greater than probable supply by nearly 1½ billion board feet. Officials said the problem is how to make certain that unpredictable military needs and other essential needs are met. Control of lumber is difficult. There are approximately 37,000 commercial sawmills in the country. Millions of farmers and home owners and hundreds of thousands of industrial consumers and contractors buy lumber from some 25,000 retail and wholesale distribution yards. Proposed over-all control will take the form of an amendment L-335, which will place a ceiling over lumber consumption for various end-uses, plus directions to producing areas, controlling production and distribution.

BURLAP SUPPLY IMPROVED. WPB has eliminated quota restrictions on acceptance of new burlap bags. In view of the somewhat improved burlap supply from India and the tight supply of cotton shipping sacks, more commodities may now be shipped in new burlap sacks. The items include fertilizer, refined sugar and meat tankage. Some of the more detailed restrictions on the shipment of wool have been eliminated.

HOME CANNING CLOSURE PRODUCTION GOOD. Production of home canning closures between October and March averaged 77 per cent more than that of the same period the year before.

HEATING STOVE RATIONING CHANGED. OPA has authorized local war price and ration boards to issue ration certificates for coal and wood heating stoves to eligible applicants without regard to quota restrictions. Production is about equal to the total number of persons eligible to buy them, and spring and summer production normally exceeds consumer demand.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING, PAUL E. MILLER, DIRECTOR, PUBLISHED IN FURTHERANCE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTS OF MAY 8 AND JUNE 30, 1914.

LARD RATIONING RESTRICTIONS REMOVED. Although point free since early March, lard remained technically under rationing. Effective May 25, all rationing restrictions on the product were removed.

FOOD ORDERS AFFECTING MILK PRODUCTS. WFO-79 - Quotas for fluid milk sales and limitation on sales of cottage, pot, and baker's cheese, and fluid cream to 75 per cent of the June, 1943 sales of each handler. Recent action has relaxed the limitation on cheeses and cream, and increased the quotas for May and June, permitting sales equal to 100 per cent of June, 1943.

WFO-8 - Limitation on milk solids used in frozen desserts. The amount of solids used in frozen desserts under recent amendment has been increased for June from 65 to 85 per cent and for July from 65 to 75 per cent.

WFO-2 - Butter set-aside. Requirements for May are 40 per cent, June 50 per cent, as contrasted with 50 per cent for both May and June, 1943.

WFO-15 - American cheese set-aside. Set-aside requirements for American cheese are 60 per cent as contrasted with 75 per cent for this period last year.

WFO-54 - Set-aside requirements for skim milk. Roller process, 50 per cent; spray process, 75 per cent; as contrasted with 75 per cent requirements for both in 1943.

WFO-93 - Set-aside requirements for dried whole milk are 90 per cent. No. restriction was placed on this product last year.

WFO-92 - Limitation order on foreign-type cheeses limiting manufacturers to their production in 1942 on a quarterly basis. There was no restriction on these cheeses in 1943.

THE FEED SITUATION. Carry-over of feed grains at the end of the present feeding year probably will be the smallest for any year since 1937. Prospects for the 1944 production of feed grains appear to be more favorable than earlier in the year. Widespread accumulation of beneficial moisture during February, March, and April, followed by warm favorable farming weather in mid-May makes prospects for good yields brighter. Wet weather caused delays of from 10 days to 3 weeks in spring work; these delays will probably result in some shifting in acreages of crops planted from those planned earlier. A smaller oats acreage, for instance, may be largely offset by added corn and soybean acreage.

NO TIRES YET FOR STEEL-WHEELED TRACTORS. Although additional rubber tire production facilities for large-size tires are now coming into use, tractors now operating on steel wheels will have to stay on steel for a while longer, the WFA reports. All of the additional facilities for big tire production are needed to make tires for military vehicles and for trucks....Harvesting and marketing of agricultural commodities depend to a great extent on large trucks....Rear tires for tractors require the same manufacturing plant facilities as tires for domestic trucks and military equipment. For an unpredictable length of time, large tractor tires are expected to be available only in sufficient quantities to meet the bare needs for equipping new tractors and for replacing worn-out or damaged tires on tractors already operating on rubber.