Weekly Review for MINNESOTA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
University Farm, St. Paul 8, December 8, 1944

W. E. Morris has been named on a national committee of university veterinarians and livestock specialists charged with the responsibility of working out uniform recommendations for dosage and methods of treating livestock with phenothiazine. The committee first met in Chicago recently in connection with the annual meeting of the American Society of Animal Production and will continue its work under the leadership of Dr. C. D. Lowe, extension animal husbandman with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FARM REAL ESTATE MARKET. Farm real estate values continued their upward movement during the 4 months ended November 1, 1944, with an increase of about 3 per cent for the country as a whole. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain and Pacific states, while little or no upward movement was reported in many areas in the remainder of the country. Preliminary data indicate that the total volume of voluntary transfers since last March is about 10 per cent less than was true in the corresponding period of 1943. Although a relative slackening of market activity is apparent, the level of sales in most regions continues abnormally high. The volume of resales (that is, sales of properties acquired within the preceding 2 years) is high, particularly in the Far West, where resales were 20 per cent of all sales in the third quarter of this year.

SURVEY SHOWS 18-1/2 MILLION VICTORY GARDENS GROWN IN 1944. Continued interest in Victory Gardening and home food preservation for 1945 was revealed recently in a survey made public by the USDA. The survey showed that nearly 18-1/2 million gardens were grown this year, and virtually all of the gardeners expect to continue in 1945. No estimate has been made on total yield from Victory Gardens this year, but officials of the department said that the garden production has probably been as much as a year ago.

DORMANT HOG CHOLERA STILL DANGEROUS. The combined efforts of swine growers, veterinarians, and the anti-hog-cholera serum industry appear to have brought hog cholera under unusually effective control this year. U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinary officials warn, however, that this infectious disease, though apparently dormant in many areas, is still a serious danger to swine that have not been immunized against it. Probably less than half the hogs in the U.S. are immune to cholera. The total serum released for use during the first 9 months of 1944 was approximately 1,286,405,000 cubic centimeters. This amount, if all used and allowing for exports, would be sufficient for about 40,000,000 pigs if treated at weaning age, or fewer if treated when half grown or larger. For several years losses have been relatively low. Should history repeat itself there is likelihood of an increase soon, especially if vigilance and protection by immunization are relaxed. The Department therefore urges all possible precautions. Immunization is the most dependable protection.

FLAXSEED NEED CRITICAL: WHEAT ACREAGE DIVERSION ASKED. A critical need for flaxseed has caused WFA to request a million-acre cut in wheat acreage in the states of Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, and North Dakota in order that the ground be made available for flax production. Flaxseed is used in the production of paints, varnishes and many other war-essential products.

The states were asked to trim spring wheat acreages as follows: Minnesota, 275,000 acres; Montana, 100,000; North Dakota, 500,000; and South Dakota, 125,000. The suggested cut in wheat acreage would not imperil supplies of the grain inasmuch as this year's crop was much larger than had been estimated.

PUBLISHED IN FURTHERANCE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTS OF MAY 8 AND JUNE 30, 1914. P. E. MILLER, DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COOPERATING WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHY THE BUTTER SHORTAGE? Why do people have trouble buying butter when they have the money and ration points? One reason is that more people are able to buy butter today than ever before, according to WFA. Another is that civilians are drinking from 20 to 25 per cent more milk than before the war, and although milk production is expected to be about 15 billion pounds above pre-war levels, this increase is going into fluid milk and such dairy products as cheese, evaporated milk, and milk powder. The armed forces have asked for upwards of 50 per cent more evaporated milk than in 1943, have doubled their needs for whole milk powder, and have asked for more cheese.

Out of every 100 pounds of the 1945 butter supply 95 will be consumed by Americans, 80 by civilians and 15 by the armed forces. Only 5 out of every 100 pounds will go to the Russian army, chiefly for hospitals.

LINSEED MEAL. The 1943 U.S. and Canadian flaxseed crop is only about 50 per cent of the 1943 production and Argentina has the smallest crop in 20 years. Even the small exportable Argentina surplus may be converted into fuel oil for domestic use.

PARITY PRICES. Following are the United States farm prices of principal products as percentages of parity on October 15, listed in order of their rank:

Wool	130	Milk	115	Oats	97
Apples	126	Potatoes	115	Wheat	95
Beef cattle	126	Veal calves	112	Barley	91
Soybeans	125	Hogs	111	Rye	89
Chickens	123	Butterfat	109	Eggs	89
Lambs	122	Corn	104	Hay	75

CORN. Based on an indicated acre yield of 42.5 bushels as of November 1, the 1944 crop of corn in this state is an all-time record, being 249,858,000 bushels and compares with the high 1943 production of 215,468,000 bushels. The very unusual mild fall and a record acres harvested made this possible.

For the United States, preliminary production of corn as of November 1, this year, is also a record crop, being 3,258,378,000 bushels with an average acre yield of 33.4 bushels, compared with 32.5 bushels, the 1943 final yield, and production of 3,076,159,000 bushels.

POTATOES. The Minnesota potato crop this year, due to wet weather in the early fall and considerable blight which reduced the November 1 average yield from earlier estimates, is 7,687,000 bushels less than produced last year. Production this year is 15,884,000 bushels and acre yield only 76 bushels, which compares with the 1943 final production of 23,571,000 bushels and acre yield of 97 bushels.

For the United States, the total production of potatoes, not including sweet potatoes, as of November 1, this year, indicates a crop of 387,857,000 bushels, with an acre yield of 128.7 bushels, compared with the 1943 final production of 464,656,000 bushels and acre yield of 139.9 bushels.