

Washington Farm News

AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER

(By Bureau of Agricultural Economics.)

1. Lease-Lend food shipments moving in volume; exports increasing.
2. Four-for-Freedom Campaign calls for increased production of milk, cheese, eggs, meats, and other products.
3. Fats, oils in best demand in many years.
4. Outlook is for increased dairy production, prices, income in 1942.
5. Hog production increasing; 1942 slaughter may be largest on record.
6. Income of cotton growers may total one billion dollars; highest since 1929.
7. Increased plantings of most vegetables expected in 1942.
8. United States has two years' supply of wheat; prices, income up.
9. Fall harvesters assure abundant feed for livestock this winter.
10. Larger marketings sheep and lambs this fall than last.
11. Cattlemen urged to increase marketings during coming year.
12. 1942 outlook for fruit growers is best in decade or longer.
13. Poultry products output in 1942 may be largest on record; prices up.
14. Farm prices and income around top figures for recent years.

FARM PROSPECTS BEST IN YEARS.

The best economic outlook for farmers in many years is reported by the United States Department of Agriculture in its October roundup of the agricultural situation.

Prices, income and purchasing power were reported at high levels. But costs of production — farm wages and materials used in production — also are rising.

Continuing good consumer demand for farm products, increased Government buying of food, and Government loans and other supports to prices were cited in the farm outlook for 1942.

Fall harvests now being made assure dairymen, poultrymen, hog growers and cattlemen abundant food for stock this winter. Feed and food granaries and warehouses were reported well stocked for winter needs in this country and for export of food to Britain.

Department economists called attention to the "biggest food production program in our Nation's history," and to national goals calling for high record production of milk, cheese, eggs, meats, vegetables and other foods in 1942. They said that with good weather and the "all-out" cooperation of farmers in making needed adjustments for national defense, the 1942 food production goals will be reached.

Secretary Wickard was quoted as saying that the "most urgent need" is for increased production of milk; that "we need to consume more dairy products in this country for improved health and strength," and that "the British will need enormous quantities of cheese, evaporated milk, and dry skim milk."

Reporting on the outlook for fats and oils, the economists said that domestic requirements for these products "are likely to be greater in 1942-43 than in the present crop year," that the trend of prices of fats and oils, particularly food and soap fats "is likely to be upward during the remainder of 1941 and in 1942."

High record supplies of meats in 1942 are practically assured, since cattle production has been increasing for several years, and pig crops this fall and next spring are expected to break all-time seasonal records.

Dairymen, it was indicated, will start the new year with an increase in the number of cows. By feeding these cows larger quantities of grain and concentrates, the flow of milk is expected to exceed former high records. This means larger quantities of milk, cream and manufactured dairy products for us and for Britain.

A similar situation was reported as to eggs. Poultrymen will start the new year with high record numbers of layers. With good care of poultry flocks, heavy feeding and good weather, it is expected that the national goal of 4 billion dozens of eggs in 1942 will be reached.

As to fruits — "emphasis will be placed on better distribution and the prevention of waste." Fruit growers may expect "the most favorable demand situation in more than a decade." Besides good domestic demand, a "considerable expansion in export demand" as result of lease-lend is expected.

Vegetable growers also were reported as standing in good outlook position. "With generous demand and increased supplies and export demand," the economists expect "a large percentage of truck crops

1942. Producers of vegetables in general may expect to receive higher prices and income in 1942.

"Wheat prices in 1942-43 are expected to continue well above the export price level of other surplus-producing countries." Government loan program and the advancing general price level were cited as principal price-supporting influences. World wheat prices are expected to continue at low levels since "world wheat supplies are large and trade is restricted."

The outlook for domestic consumption of cotton was reported as "exceptionally favorable this season. But the outlook for exports will remain unfavorable so long as a large portion of the world's spindles remain under Axis control."

The outlook for prices and income to tobacco growers has been "materially improved," that "substantial quantities" of flue-cured tobacco owned or controlled by the Commodity Credit Corporation may be shipped out under lease-lend, but that total exports next year "are expected to continue at a low level."

N. C. Farmers May Use Same Equipment and Land in the Food Drive

North Carolina farmers are being advised by State agricultural leaders to use their present farm equipment and cropland in the united effort to raise more food in 1942, says G. Tom Scott, Johnston County farmer and chairman of the State USDA Defense Board.

The Tar Heel delegation of agricultural leaders which attended a thirteen-state food-for-freedom conference at Memphis, Tennessee, last week agreed that North Carolina farmers could meet their share of the nation's food increase goals with "just a few new investments in land and farm equipment."

Chairman Scott declares, however, that farmers will work carefully with AAA fieldmen and committeemen in setting up 1942 farm defense plans which will provide the requested food increases brought on by the government's pledge to feed 10,000,000 more Britons next year and to feed its own people better.

Local committeemen have already begun the task of visiting every farm in the State to work out 1942 farm plans. Under the plans North Carolina is expected to increase production by: 59 million pounds of milk; seven million dozens of eggs; 10 million pounds of beef and veal; indefinite quantities of hogs, soy beans and peanuts; the increased beans and nuts to be crushed for badly needed oils.

In the food campaign next year, Chairman Scott continues, the first objective of workers and farmers will be to avoid the disastrous mistakes made by farm folk in trying to meet adjustments necessitated by World War I. "The plan is to observe good farming practices all the way through, to protect the farmer's land and his future markets," the defense board chairman said.

The days of sleeping in the swinging hammock are over, as far as the majority of Uncle Sam's sailors are concerned. Most of the new ships are outfitted with steel bunks which, when not used, fold against the casemate, or wall.

WEDDING DELAYED TWICE

Fort Wayne, Ind.—The marriage of Glenn Kessler to Lillian Kirkpatrick had to be delayed because the bride caught influenza. Before they could be married, the groom got appendicitis and it had to be postponed again. However, determined that there should be no further delays, the couple was married in the hospital, with the groom still in bed.

RATIONS

Because of "most generous assistance from the United States," Great Britain will increase its sugar and fat rations to citizens by 50 to 75 per cent, effective November 17.

SPECULATING

A. G. Black, Farm Credit Administration governor, has outlined a speculative boom in farm real estate at the present time.

PREFABRICATED

Large scale production of prefabricated poultry ships, requiring but 25 per cent skilled labor in construction, has been announced by a Washington State company.

UTILITIES

One farm home in Iowa had a telephone in 1940, as compared with one in three in 1930, figures released by the U. S. Census Bureau reveal, but electricity jumped from one in seven to one in three in 1940.

Sailors in the United States Navy and Naval Reserve do not lack for reading facilities. Practically every ship is outfitted with a complete library where members of the crew can read for either relaxation or study.

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Quality First In Sales Of Surplus Vegetables

Quality is the first essential in the sale of surplus vegetables, says H. R. Niswonger, Extension horticulturist of N. C. State College. "The purchaser has no more taste for inferior vegetables than the gardener, himself," Niswonger declared, "and the buying public will protest inferiority by limiting or refraining from purchasing them."

After high quality, the horticulturist said, the second consideration in marketing surplus vegetables is attractive appearance. If an article appeals to the eye, the sale is half made. The idea involves the grading of produce, with reference to size, color, shape, ripeness, soundness, and method of display, packing and packaging.

Third comes honesty in packing or bunching. Too frequently, Niswonger stated, the imperfect, specked, unclean specimens have a habit of hiding themselves within the package

or bunch of good products. The evil of this practice is readily apparent, he declared.

As a fourth consideration, the State College specialist said the package or bunch should be of convenient and desirable size. He suggested that asparagus be marketed in bunches of 2 to 3 pounds in weight, beets in bunches of 4 to 6 with tops unclipped, carrots in bunches of 5 to 10, depending upon size, or 3 large ones, weight 1 to 1 1/2 pounds; lettuce in bunches of 3 to 10, depending upon size; and turnips in bunches of 3 to 6, weight 1 1/2 pounds.

"Remember," Niswonger concluded, "the aim of the gardener should be to fully satisfy the consumer. Observation of this principle secures good prices, quicker sale, and increased demand, regardless of the quantity of inferior vegetables on the market."

Most men of the house know that this is the time of the year when their better halves require new outfits.

The minimum age limit for enlistment in the U. S. Navy is 17. All applicants under 21 years will be required to have the consent of their parents or guardians.

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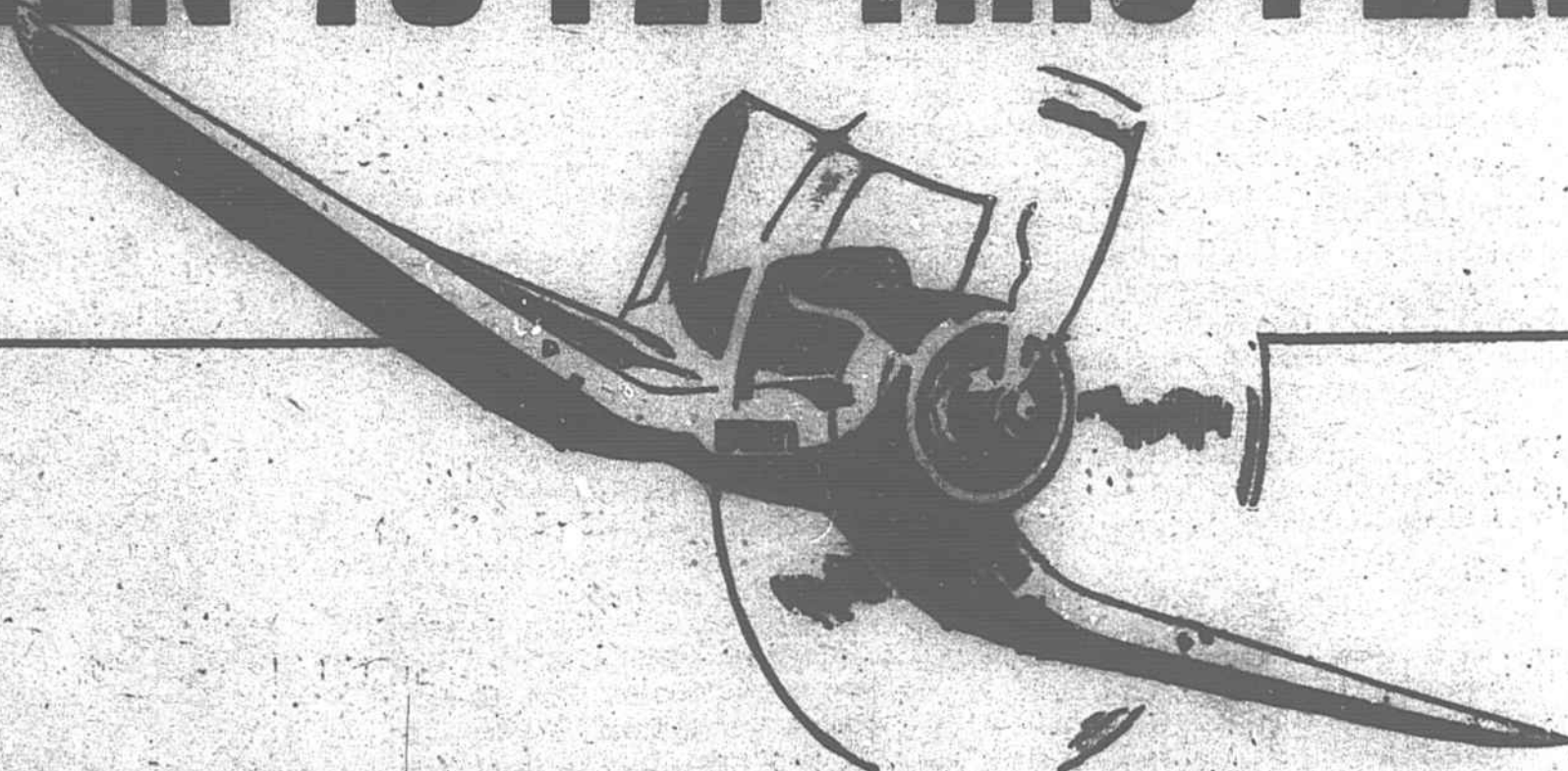
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