

Vegetables Are Now Plentiful

Good news for consumers is contained in the latest vegetable situation report, says the State Agriculture Department.

The total quantity of truck crops commercially produced for fresh market shipment this year will exceed the record-large tonnage last year, the agency stated, and is 34 per cent above the 1934-44 average for the first three-quarters of 1946.

In addition, it is estimated from tentative forecasts of the 1946-47 canned vegetable peak aggregate that it, too, will be very close to the record 234,663,000 cases canned in 1942-43.

A peak of commercially frozen vegetables is expected this year three to five per cent larger than last year. Increases are probable, the agency disclosed, for all items except carrots and perhaps asparagus. Lack of a sufficient number of adequately equipped retail outlets will be a significant factor limiting expansion of this industry in the next year or so.

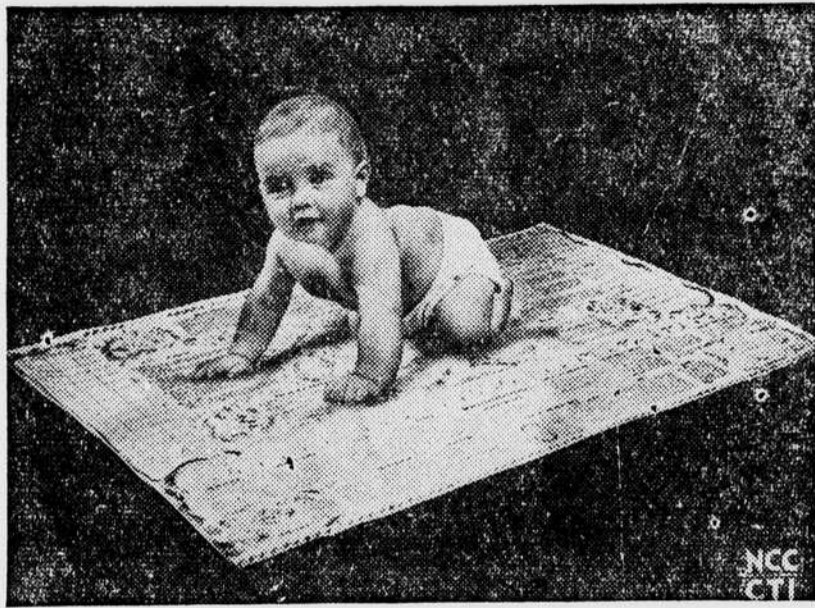
Beginning with the large shipments of 1946-crop potatoes in mid-spring, prices received by growers have been close to support levels. To keep prices from dropping below support levels, the U. S. Department of Agriculture made extensive purchases during the period of the peak movement of the early crop, especially in June and early July. Purchases were heaviest in North Carolina, California, Virginia, Arizona and Alabama and were diverted mainly to the manufacture of alcohol. If the intermediate and late crops turn out as large as was indicated July 1, prospects for prices will probably remain close to support levels for the rest of the season.

Consumers may expect to continue supplying their tables with vegetables at reasonable prices and in substantial variety, the agency concluded.

State Importing Slaughter Cattle

Despite the fact that the production of beef cattle in this

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State is increasing, 9,751 head were imported from other areas for slaughter from January thru June, Dr. William Moore, head of the Veterinary Division of the State Agriculture Department, reports.

He said that 1,361 dairy cattle were brought into this State, and 200 beef cattle, bringing total importations for the first six months of this year to 10,555, compared with 1,216 for 1944, and 1,333 for 1943.

Dr. Moore explained that the total number of slaughter cattle imported this year likely would run 25 per cent higher than those for which his office has importation certificates.

Due to the low salary schedule followed by the State in the employment of veterinarians, Dr. Moore finds it difficult to keep an eye on the imported slaughter cattle and many of them are not going for slaughter, but are spreading disease among local livestock, herds, he said.

At the present time, the Veterinary Division has six veterinarians, including Dr. Moore, and on

September 1 this number will be reduced to five.

Pointing out that around nine veterinarians are needed full time to combat livestock disease, Dr. Moore declared that the livestock industry in North Carolina has been placed in a hazardous position.



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