Six Million Farmers Throughout U. S. Producing World's Largest Food Crop

War Material Vital, but Soldiers and Workers Must Get Nourishing Food

Uncle Sam's farm—the whole United States—will produce this year the biggest food crop in the world's history! Harvesting of this planned production for the war effort has begun and the immensity of it all is an all-time tribute to the American farmer.

Off Uncle Sam's farm assembly line every minute of every day throughout 1942 are coming something like 108,000 quarts of milk, 45,000 pounds of potatoes, 73,000 pounds of beef, veal, pork and lard. Think of it! EVERY MINUTE.

If you saw the U. S. navy riding majestically in a sea of milk, chances are you'd call it a nightmare. But could be! Our farmers this year are scheduled to produce 57 billion quarts of milk—more than enough to float not only our navy but every battleship, aircraft carrier, cruiser, destroyer and submarine owned by the United States, Britain, Russia and all the other United Nations combined.

If you are good at mental pictures, maybe you can visualize 50 billion eggs. That's enough eggs to make a line reaching seven times from the earth to the moon.

Or 22½ billion pounds of meat—enough to pave seven four-lane highways an inch thick from New York to San Francisco—seven of them.

Or 91 million acres of corn—an area one-fifth larger than Italy and Sicily combined.

But why all this production of food and fiber? It isn't a part of our victory plan to drown the Nazis in milk or to bombard the Japs with eggs and potatoes.

Farmers Build Planes and Ships.

Well, food and fiber are not merely so many bags of wheat and so many bales of cotton. They are Flying Fortresses and big battleships, like the Washington and the North Carolina; and aircraft carriers, like the Wasp; and General Grant tanks; and workers in the factories and brave men at the front. Those are the crops our farmers are harvesting this year in 3,022 counties of the United States.

Take that swift-winging army Aeronca plane up there. In its wings, tail and fuselage are 650 square feet of cotton linen.

Yes, Uncle Sam's farmers are turning out war crops this year. Corn and wheat, for example. Most of it goes for feed and food, but some is used in making ethyl alcohol which in turn is employed in making explosives, synthetic rubber and other products.

Peanuts and soybeans are used to make oil which replaces other oils employed in cooking, and releases them for use in nitro-glycerine explosives. Oil from soybeans and flaxseed is used in the paint and varnish covering our ships and planes. Flax is a source of linen for parachute harnesses and rigging.

Wool from our sheep makes uniforms for soldiers and clothes for civilians. Aviators' jackets, pants, helmets, and boots are lined with shearling sheep skins. In fact, the average soldier uses 100 pounds of wool a year, against an average of 2½ pounds for civilians.

But vital as are these materials for our weapons of war, they are much less important than the food which nourishes our workers and sustains our fighters. Food is one essential without which no man can fight or work.

Bataan Proved It.

Look at Bataan to see how true that is. Look at Bataan to see the importance of food. According to reports, mule meat and rice were all our forces had to eat from early February until the time of ultimate surrender. We just couldn't get through to them with enough pork and beef to do them any good. And what happened? Our last counter-attack failed, not because of bullets or bombs, but because of sheer exhaustion. A shortage of food and sleep had drained out almost the last dregs of vitality. Bataan fell only after its defenders no longer had the physical strength to stand.

That time, food worked for the enemy. Given the shipping, six million American farmers are determined that from now on food shall work for us. They know that today a tractor used in production of food is just as important as a tank on the battlefield. They know that what they do on their farms is important.

The number of planes, tanks and guns turned out this year will be determined largely by the kind and amount of food our workers eat. The newest type planes need high octane gas no more than our war workers need highly nutritious foods.

Milk and Shipping

In 1942 we are building 8 million tons of shipping—a tremendous amount. But the farmers of Minnesota and Iowa alone will produce more than 8 million tons of milk in 1942.

Better Food Means More Guns.

Good food, in fact, can be translated more or less directly into guns. For example, the British minister of labor has said to our agricultural officials: "Give us the meat, eggs, and cheese, and we'll increase production 15 to 20 per cent."

Again, an appalling loss of production is suffered annually through sickness of workers. In 1941 more than 20 times as many man-days were lost by sickness as by strikes. The most common sickness is the ordinary cold, and the best preventive for it is a good diet.

So, it's the job of our farmers to keep our men fit—as fit as our machines. It's their job to provide the vitamin A which helps fliers see at night; the vitamin B which helps curb sea-sickness, nervousness and digestive troubles; the vitamin C which wards off scurvy, bad teeth, irritability, listlessness and plagues which in the World war took a bigger toll of lives than bombs, bullets, shells and gas combined.

Yes, vitamins and good food are war weapons. But to get them—and especially to get the right amounts of the right things—is a colossal task.

That is why goals are just as necessary for agriculture as they are for plane or tank manufacturers. We want a specific number of fortresses, or medium bombers, or pursuit ships, or training planes.

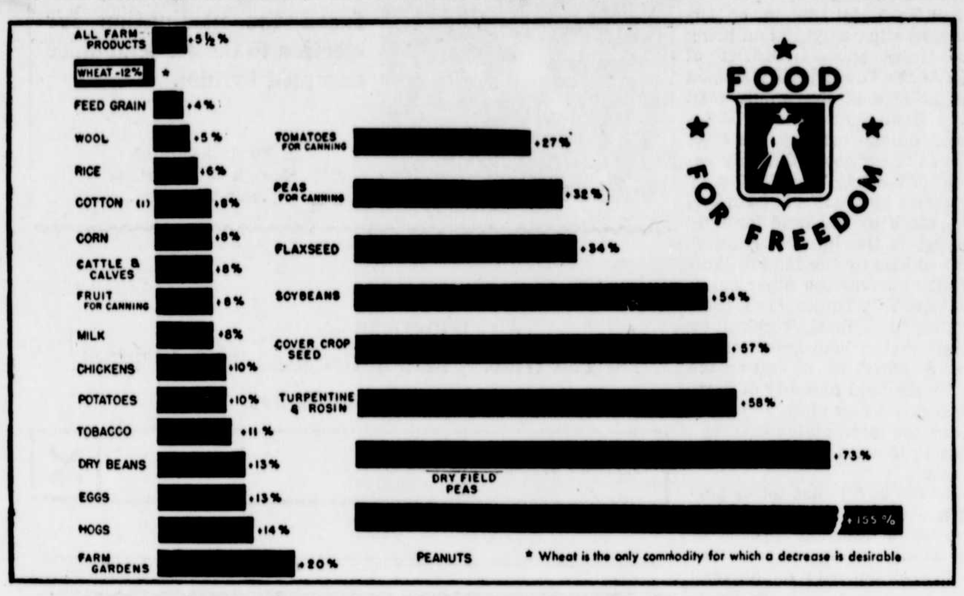
So, too, in agriculture, we want a specific amount of pork, of beef, of milk, and all other farm products. Fortunately, our farmers are ready for the job. Eight months before Pearl Harbor they began turning out war products requested by the British for lend-lease shipment. Three months before Pearl Harbor, farmers were fully organized on a war-time basis.

Farm Production Is Planned Production.

On April 3, 1941, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard called for a big expansion in the products which the British had just made known they would need under lend-lease: evaporated and dry skim milk, cheese, eggs and pork. And our farmers set out to see that neither our own folks nor the British would run short.

During the summer of 1941—still several months before Pearl Harbor—the department of agriculture went to work on a plan to get war production goals for **all** farm products. The production goal idea had been used for years by Triple-A on basic crops, but it was a new departure to apply it to all farm products. It meant estimating our own needs, those of our Allies, the allowances necessary for food reserves, and finally the ability of farmers to produce. It meant breaking down the national goals into state, county, and finally into individual farm goals. It meant the contacting of practically every producer by a Triple-A farmer committeeman.

Size of this undertaking is almost beyond comprehension. The six million farm plants in the United States are more than twice as many as all the other business establishments in the country — factories, mines, oil stations, country stores, city retail shops. To get six million farmers co-operating in war production is by far the biggest job of subcontracting of the entire war. But it has been done—and the United States is the only nation that has gone into this war with plenty of food ammunition.



American farm goals for 1942, showing increase over 1941 production.

—ACAA Photo

Threshing wheat in Bartholomew county, Indiana. This picture was taken on the Perry Thompson farm at the height of activities.

Triple-A Committeemen Enlist Farm Cooperation

Even while Japanese bombs were exploding on Hickam Field and spreading ruin over Hawaii and the Philippines, Triple-A committeemen were covering the country enlisting farmer co-operation—voluntary co-operation.

There were shortages to contend with—shortages of labor, shortages of machinery and equipment, shortages of burlap, baling wire, and dozens of other supplies. The state and county war boards have worked with every available agency to keep shortages from holding production.

Most of the goals were set higher than production had ever been before. Only a few were lower. Wheat, for example, was down 12 per cent from the 1941 level because there was already a two-year supply of wheat on hand. We couldn't afford to use land, labor, and materials for a crop that isn't needed, any more than we can now afford to build pleasure cars and luxury gadgets.

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ASK ME ANOTHER
A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Does February ever have five Sundays?
2. To what political party did George Washington belong?
3. Does a beam of light from the sun travel equally as fast as a beam of light from a candle?
4. What had the following women in common—Lot's wife, Bluebeard's wife and Adam's wife?
5. How many Pilgrim Fathers landed from the Mayflower?
6. What capital city of what country has had three names all within this century?
7. What is the date of the year following 1 B. C.?
8. What is a shaddock?

The Answers

1. Yes. It will again have five in 1948 and 1976.
2. The Federalist party.
3. They travel at the same speed.
4. Curiosity about forbidden matters led to disastrous consequences.
5. One hundred two.
6. St. Petersburg, Petrograd and Leningrad, in Russia.
7. 1 A. D.
8. A pear-shaped citrus fruit.

Household Hints

Rancidity in lard can be prevented by keeping it away from air, light and warmth. Store in tin or crockery containers in a cool place.

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To protect garden shoes keep them well greased or oiled with neat's-foot oil or cod or castor oil, tallow or wool grease. Let dry in a warm place.

• • •

That fish may be scaled much easier by first dipping them into boiling water for a minute.

• • •

Food bought in season will help to keep that part of the budget within reason.

• • •

Salt fish are quickest and best freshened by soaking in sour milk.

• • •

Onion juice should be added after a mixture is cooked rather than cooked with the mixture if the best flavor is desired.

• • •

To keep bread in the best condition, store it when cool in a clean, well-aired, covered, ventilated container and keep in a cool, dry place.

• • •

Each time bed sheets are changed the mattress should be turned end-for-end or upside down.

From an old French word "mes" derived from the Latin word "missus" meaning a course at a meal, comes the Army's name "mess" for its breakfast, dinner, and supper. Favorite meal with the soldier is chicken dinner—his favorite cigarette, Camel. (Based on actual sales records from Post Exchanges.) A carton of Camels, by the way, is the gift he prefers first of all from the folks back home. He's said so. Local tobacco dealers are featuring Camel cartons to send anywhere to men in the armed forces. —Adv.

Recorded Acts

Someone has said that everything that is done is photographed. In morals that is a truth of great moment, but it is not a high motive to right-doing. The great Photographer records our acts, and preserves the record; but we must love the right because it is lovely, and do the right because of its lovableness.—Dr. J. Duncan.

ALL-BRAN FUDGE SQUARES—BEST YOU EVER TASTED!

Every mother in the land will want to bake these scrumptious cookies. Children will demolish a plate of them in a wink. Grown-ups rave about their "different" taste and new crunchy texture. They're made, of course, with the famous cereal, Kellogg's All-Bran.

KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN FUDGE SQUARES

3 squares unsweetened chocolate — 1 cup sugar
½ cup butter — ⅔ cup flour
2 eggs — ½ cup All-Bran
1 teaspoon vanilla extract — ½ cup nutmeats

Melt chocolate over hot water and add butter. Beat eggs well, add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Add melted chocolate and butter. Stir in flour, All-Bran, chopped nutmeats and flavoring. Pour into greased pan, making a layer about one-third inch thick. Bake in moderate oven (375°F.) about 20 minutes. Yield: Sixteen 2-inch squares (8 x 8 inch pan).

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○ With men in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, the favorite cigarette is Camel. (Based on actual sales records in Post Exchanges and Canteens.)