IMPORTANT NEWS

On The HOME-FRONT

Reminders

Housewives are urged to destroy all food ration stamps that have been declared invalid, the Office of Price Administration said today. Use of these stamps by consumers, as well as acceptance of them by retailers is a violation of rationing regulations, OPA said.

At the same time OPA explained that red ration tokens continue good and housewives may use them for buying meats-fats. Grocers will continue to give them to housewives as change for the red 10-point stamps.

Blue ration tokens, however, have not been good since October 1 and, therefore, cannot be used for canned fruits and vegetables. They are no longer needed as change for the 10-point blue ration stamps used for processed foods because point values for those items are set in multiples of ten.

Ration stamps which were invalidated as of 10:1 A. M., Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1944, and which are not good for consumer use are:

RED STAMPS—A-8 through Z8 and A-5 through P-5.

BLUE STAMPS—A-8 through Z-8 and A5 through W5.

SUGAR STAMPS—30, 31, 32, 33 and 40, along with all home canning coupons outstanding.

Stamps continuing to be good—and those soon to be made good are:

RED STAMPS—Q5, R5 and S5, whcih became good December 3. In addition, five more red stamps T5, U5, V5, W5, X5—will become good on Sunday, December 31.

BLUE STAMPS—X5, Y5, Z5, A2 and B2. In addition, five more blue stamps C2, D2, E2, F2 and G2—will become good on Monday, January 1.

SUGAR STAMP—No. 34, which became good on November 16. Another sugar stamp will become good on February 1, 1945.

Expiration dates have not been set for the stamps that still remain good.

GASOLINE—A-14 coupons good for four gallons.

FUEL OIL—East and Far West 1 and 2 coupons good for ten gallons per unit. Mid-West and South 2 and 3 coupons good for ten gallons per unit.

SHOES—Airplane Stamps 1, 2, and 3 in Book Three, good indefinitely.

Ration Action For Fairer Distribution

The mounting exactions of a lengthened war and the failure of past partial rationing to fairly distribute available foods to all Americans are causes reported by the Office of Price Administration for tightening and increasing the ration system on foods. Cancellation of unspent ration stamps validated prior to December 1 was done, OPA said, because supplies are just not large enough to permit spending both 1945 ration stamps and all those unspent in 1944. Stamps issued for this past December and for January are to provide for current needs. Major facts on the supply situation are:

Sugar—The home canning ration this year is severely tightened and coupons for no more than 700,000 tons can be issued in the 1945 season, compared with 1,150,00 tons last season. This reflects an excessive use of 1944 supplies and the fact that 1945 will see no more than 5,400,000 tons available for civilians as against 6,-100,000 in 1944, 5,700,000 in 1943 and 7,350,000 in 1941.

Butter—Civilians creamery stocks are at such a low level that supplies in the hands of wholesalers and retailers must be increased if a fairer distribution is to be obtained. The total available for 1945 is expected to be smaller than last year.

Processed Foods — Needs of the armed forces for canned fruits are expected to remain heavy and military procurement needs and set-aside requirements for canned vegetables from the 1944 pack were bigger than in 1943. The supply now on hand must be made to last until the next canning season. The present stocks of commercially canned vegetables on December 1, 1944, was about 56 per cent of the quantity on hand for civilians 12 months previous.

Meat—Prospects at present are for supplies during the first three months of this year are about 15 per cent below the last three months of 1944 and also the first quarter of last year. This applies to both rationed and unrationed kinds. Hog production available for slaughter is about 25 per cent below a year ago.

Says OPA: "Food rationing, in effect, must be placed on a pay-as-you-go basis. During the next few months, and perhaps throughout 1945, ration stamps will be only good on the basis of the supplies that can be made available to civilians without upsetting the fairest distribution obtainable. Shortages in some items, such as butter, may continue. The choice and variety of meats and canned fruits and vegetables may continue to be spotty in some cities. But as closely as possible point values will be maintained to assure the shopper a reasonable choice of rationed foods."

Lend-Lease Food Deliveries

War Food Administration reports that deliveries of food and other farm products for shipment to the Allies under lend-lease during November totaled 467,500,000 pounds, or 251,-800,000 less than in October. In November 1943 shipments were 1,015,-000 pounds. Of these totals the United Kingdom and British possessions received 52 per cent, Russia 41 per cent, and Greece, West Africa, North Africa, the Netherlands, Poland, Yugoslavia and the French Committee of National Liberation 7 per cent.

How Farmers Can Get Lumber

Farmers who need lumber for emergency maintenance and repair of farm dwellings may now apply to the War Food Administration for preference ratings instead of to War Production Board field offices. WPB's Office of Civilian Requirements has transferred to WFA 15,-000,900 board feet of lumber from its allotment for the first quarter of 1945 to provide lumber for emergency maintenance and repair of farm dwellings.

Fewer Trucks To Be Made

Less than one fourth of the motor trucks estimated as needed to meet essential war and civilian transportation requirements during 1945 will be produced and distributed to commercial operators, the Office of Defense Transportation announced today. The estimate is based on the 1945 civilian truck program approved by the War Production Board. Increased demands by the armed services for all types of motor transport was given as the chief reason for the severe reduction. The total authorized program amounts to 186,792 light, medium, heavy and heavy heavy trucks, or 24.1 per cent of the ODT stated requirement of 773,935 vehicles.

War Bonds as Investment for Farmers

by Warren W. Hawley, Jr., President
New York State Farm Bureau Federation

IN CHECKING figures of the Farm Credit Administration, I find that farmers are paying off mortgages faster than at any other period in the history of the Federal Land Bank.

At the same time, farmers are building up cash reserves, but the wise investment of this money is an extremely hard job for farmers to undertake. The temptation is to try and obtain as high an interest rate as possible.

Many of us see no reason why we should not get as much interest on our money now as we had to pay the bank when we were forced to borrow during the depression.

The answer is that today money is cheap—"expanded", as the bankers express it. Therefore interest rates are low except in very speculative securities. Naturally no farmer wants to risk losing his hard earned cash.

We farmers know our own business and we can invest money in it safely because we understand it. However, when we branch off into other fields, especially the highly technical field of investments, most of us encounter sad experiences.

In these days it is virtually impossible for farmers to put their surplus cash back into the farm. War-time conditions prevent us from repairing buildings, and buying new machinery, automobiles, trucks and other equipment we must eventually have if we are going to stay in business.

So the smart thing for farmers to do is to invest their surplus money in War Bonds where it is as safe as a dollar bill. These bonds increase in value the longer they are held; they can be cashed after sixty days in case of need, and they will provide a reserve for investment after the war in the business the farmers know best—the business of farming.

I confidently predict that if farmers will do this, the dawn of peace will signalize a new day for agriculture.

U. S. Treasury Department

—V—

PRODUCE MORE FOOD FOR FREEDOM

the CONSERVATION WAY

Thousands of farms throughout the country are without sufficient food and cover to hold and support a good population of upland game birds throughout the winter months.

Bobwhites are far less resistent to starvation than pheasants, and cannot be deprived of substantial food for more than a few days at a time without danger.

If farmers do not wish the depletion of game from their farms, they must provide food on the home range during the season of shortages. Food patches are one solution.

Few farmers are wholly free from eroded or rough land unsuitable for cultivation. If natural vegetation were allowed to grow in such places, erosion and gullying would be stopped, and at the same time cover and food would be supplied to game. The farmer could assist nature by judicious planning and the planting of grasses, legumes, trees, shrubs, vines and other erosion resisting vegetation.

Feed patches are often maintained on cultivated land. Food plants selected should bank high in their ability to produce heavy yields. A number of sorghums, sudan grass, sunflower, millets, buckwheat and corn, are such plants. In areas of heavy snows, plants that will hold their seed above snow and sleet should be used. The preference rating of wildlife food plants are 1. Yellow corn, 2. Squaw corn, 3. soybeans, 4. German millet, 5. Siberian millet, 6. Japanese millet, 7. Wheatland milo, 8. Greeley kafir, 9. Darso sorghum, 10. Minnesota sorghum.

It may be necessary to provide feeding stations and permanent shelters where grain can be placed. If stations are to be constructed, this should be done between November 1 and December 1 so that the game birds will know their location and include them within their daily feeding range. For bobwhites, one feeding station per 40 acres is sufficient; for ring-necked pheasants, one effective station per square mile is sufficient. Each week the bobwhite should have at least ¾ pound of grain each. Pheasants, will require as much as 2 pounds.

These game birds are our friends and helpers so let all of us plan to set aside shelters and good patches and during severe winter weather, feed grain to see them through. The supervisors of the Kent and Queen Anne's Soil Conservation Districts will aid you in locating planting areas and supply winter bearing wildlife food plants.

—V—

"The function and responsibility of the Land-Grant College is education with a view to helping people to help themselves; in other words, to prepare people for doing things themselves, or doing them better. On the other hand, while the educational phase of many cooperatives, in fact, of all the most successful cooperatives, is extremely important and effective, they do have as their basic purpose the doing of things by farmers collectively that could not be done at all or done as efficiently by their individual efforts." This statement was made by Dr. T. B. Symons, Director of Extension at the University of Maryland, at a dinner meeting of representatives of the Southern States Cooperative and the University of Maryland, held recently at College Park.

In concluding his remarks, Dr. Symons said: "Our first duty is to do everything in our power to win this war. You have greatly assisted our farmers in the many problems with which they have been confronted with respect to supplies, as well as in marketing their products, through this crucial period. We must carry on in 1945 with even greater vigor than in 1944. . . Maryland farmers will continue to meet all obstacles and produce to the utmost for our heroic soldiers and civilian population everywhere."

—V—

Why do cows leave home? Dairy Herd Improvement Association records for Maryland show that cows were cold or culled for the following reasons: Low production, 92; dairy purposes, 56; Bang's disease, 24; mastitis, 18; sterility, 16; died, 12; old age, 8; and other reasons, 6. This report has been received by Extension officials at the University of Maryand.

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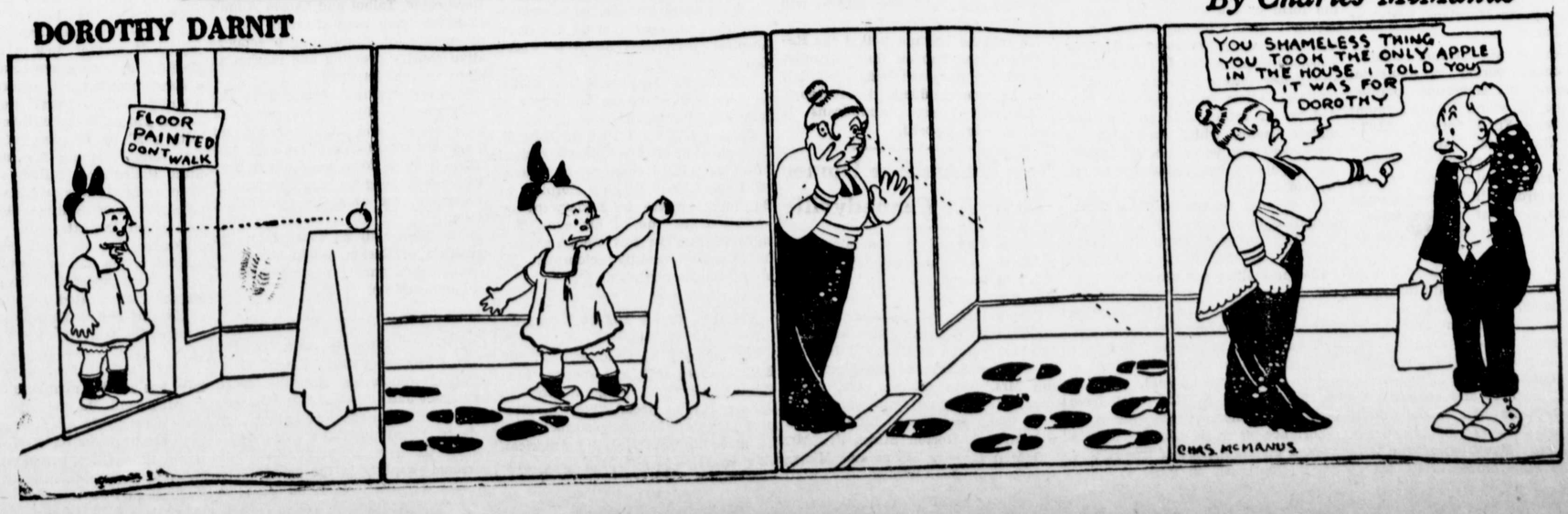

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