IMPORTANT NEWS

On The HOME-FRONT

Call To Arms

Your Government needs and asks its citizens in this 165th week of the war to:

1. Answer the emergency call for 8,000 Medical WACS. Women from 20 to 50 are needed immediately for non-professional medical work in U. S. Army hospitals.

2. Help to relieve the doctor and nurse shortage by taking a Red Cross Nursing course to learn how to care for your own family.

3. Remember—1944 income tax return forms do not provide for payment of the unforgiven portion of your 1942 tax due March 15. Separate statements are being mailed.

4. Write your serviceman cheerful, re-assuring and frequent letters. Use V-mail when you write overseas.

5. Beware of complacency. When the war news is good, redouble your efforts on the home front. Set an example your boy can be proud of.

Reminders

MEATS, FATS—Red Stamps Q5, R5, S5, Last date for use March 31
Red Stamps T5, U5, V5, W5, and X5, last date for use April 28.
Red stamps Y5, Z5, and A2, B2, C2, D2, last date for use June 2.

PROCESSED FOODS—Blue Stamps, X5, X5, Y5, and A2 and B2, last date for use March 31.
Blue Stamps C2, D2, E2, F2, and G2, last date for useApril 28.
Blue Stamps H2, J2, K2, L2, and M2, last date for use June 2.

SUGAR—Stamp 34, last date for use Feb. 28.
Stamp 35, last date for use June 2.

FUEL OIL—East, Periods 4 become good February 5, 1945. Mid-west, Periods 4 and 5 become good February 5, 1945. Far West, Period 4 becomes good February 5, 1945. South, Periods 4 and 5 become good January 29.

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

Civilian Supplies Will Be Low

Supplies of meat, butter, sugar, canned and packaged foods, clothing and many durable goods will be smaller in 1945, OPA advises. Records buying and increased military demands in 1944 greatly reduced reserves, which have so far helped meet demands. The present scarcity of metal household equipment and appliances will remain acute until peacetime production can be resumed. At the same time more people will be eager to replace equipment and household furnishings that are now nearly worn out. Shortages always generate an urge to pay higher prices and get more. This increases the dangers of inflation. In 1945, OPA states, supplies will be large enough to meet essential civilian needs but much smaller than the amount people could buy with the money they will have to spend. The OPA program to meet this situation asks rigid compliance with rationing regulations and price ceilings, plus restraint in buying and a high level of savings, including war bond purchases.

Ration Free Shoe Sale Coming Up

Limited quantities of men's and women's shose may be sold to consumers ration free at specified price reductions during the two weeks period of February 19 through March 3, OPA announces. Two-fold purpose of the temporary ration holiday, OPA states, is to give consumers the benefit of extra shoe mileage that otherwise might remain unused on dealers' shelves, and to help dealers clear their stocks of the normal accumulation of odds and ends and broken sizes. Before rationing, such shoes were customarily disposed of in seasonal clearance sales. OPA estimates that about 4,500,000 pairs of shoes will be sold in this special ration-free "sale."

Cut Automobile Ration

A cut of one-third will be made in the number of new passenger cars avialable for rationing in February, when the quantity will amount to 2,000 cars on a national basis, or 1,000 less than in preceding months. OPA reports. The action will leave about 12,000 new cars in the nation's stockpile.

"War Bonds Keep Farm Debts Safe"

"Encourage farmers to maintain a proper balance between making payments on mortgages and investing in War Bonds," says the American Bankers Association in a bulletin addressed to the rural bankers of America.

Banks are advised to "encourage farmers to maintain a proper balance between making payments on mortgages and investing in War Bonds. If a person pays a mortgage all up now, and then has to get another one after the war he may not be able to get terms as favorable as those he now has."

The bankers also call attention to the fact that "wear and tear on farm machinery and buildings must be paid for eventually, whether or not the mortgage is all paid off. A farmer will probably be in a safer position to end up the war with a moderate sized mortgage at a low interest rate and a good nest egg in War Bonds than no mortgage, no bonds, and badly run-down buildings and equipment."

This is a part of the program of the American Bankers Association aimed at getting farmers to build up large enough War Bond reserves to give them financial protection in the post-war period.

'45 Farm Equipment Supply Near Year Ago

During the 1945 crop year it is expected that American farmers will obtain approximately the same amount of new farm machinery and attachments as they did in the previous year and nearly $20,000,000 more in repair parts, the Office of War Information said today in a report on farm machinery production and distribution. The supply probably will not meet greatly expanded demands.

Data for the comprehensive report were supplied by the War Food Administration, War Production Board, Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Foreign Economic Administration.

Highlights of the report follow:

1. Approximately 90 per cent of the farm machines (except tractors) rolling off assembly lines in the United States during the 1945 production year (July 1, 1944, to June 30, 1945) will be available to American farmers.

Approximately 10 per cent will go abroad—approximataely 7 per cent in commercial exports, and 3 per cent through Lend-Lease, according to the Foreign Economic Administration.

2. For the 1945 production year, farm machinery compaines have scheduled slightly more production in dollar value—a total of $697,000,000—of new machines, repair parts and attachments for domestic and foreign use than they had in 1944, WPB reported.

The 1945 production program is divided as follows: $455,000,000 for new machines; $204,000,000 for repair parts and $38,000,000 for attachments. This total was $682,000,000. The 1944 total included $465,000,000 for new machines; $185,000,000 for repair parts and $32,000,000 for attachments.

3. As long as the war continues, farmers will not be able to buy as much new farm machinery as they will need in order to maintain their facilities at greatest efficiency, the War Food Administration reported.

WFA said that in 1945 supplies of new farm machinery, even if manufacturing schedules are met, will not meet essential demands. No more new tractors, side delivery rakes, combines or other haying and harvesting machinery will be available during the 1945 crop year than were available during the 1944 crop year.

Because emphasis is on military production, no action has been taken on the supplementary farm machinery production program as submitted by WFA to meet farm machinery needs that had developed among American farmers after the present production schedules were set, WFA reported.

Current problems of farm machinery manufacture are indicated by the fact that for the first quarter of the 1945 production year (July, August and September, 1944) production of new farm machinery, exclusive of wheel tractors, repair parts and attachments, was approximately 25 per cent behind schedule, according to the War Production Board.

This lag in production was caused by manpower shortages and the difficulty in obtaining components, chiefly malleable and gray iron castings. In the Middle West, where the bulk of the American farm machines are made, the labor supply is very inadequate and is likely to remain so while urgent war production continues, WPB said.

4. Production of new farm machinery units is now at an annual volume that approximates that of 1941, the largest pre-war production year. During the 1943-44 census year (November 1, 1943, to October 31, 1944), however, American manufacturers of farm machinery nearly doubled the dollar value of total production as compared with the 1942-43 census year.

American farmers are making greater use of individual farm machines during the war. The exchange of cooperative use of some machines, such as tractors and combines, has increased markedly.

The custom use (operation for hire) of other farm machinery, especially combines, corn pickers and windrow pick-up balers, also has increased. Many farmers who bought new equipment while machinery was rationed during 1943 and the first nine months of 1944, agreed to share use of the machines with others as a condition of obtaining purchase certificates.

More intensive use of existing farm machinery is one factor that has helped to increase wartime food production in the United States. The food output reached an all-time high in 1944. More than one-third more food was produced during 1944 than in the pre-war period of 1935-39, although farmers were handicapped by shortages of farm machinery and labor, the War Food Administration reported.

The mechanization of American farms has increased since 1941 despite the curtailed production of farm machines. The number of certain key machines on farms has increased. Among them, however, are machines that have passed their normal period of usefulness and would have been disposed of by farmers except for wartime conditions. Approximately 7 per cent of the tractors and a comparable number of other machines on American farms on January 1, 1945, would have been replaced had new machines been available, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported.

In 1941, farmers replaced approximately 100,000 tractors. During the war the rate of replacement has been as low as 60,000 a year, the bureau said.

There were approximately 12 per cent more tractors on farms on January 1, 1945, than there were on the same date in 1942. Percentage increases in the number of tractor cultivators and tractor row crop planters were greater than for farm intactors. But the production of most machines for preparing and seeding of land increased less rapidly than the output of tractors, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimated.

Production of manure spreaders, either horse or tractor-drawn, has not been sufficient to cover replacements. The number on farms in 1945 will be slightly less than in 1942, the bureau said.

Farmers must continue to rely chiefly on their existing farm machinery in 1945 even though rationing and distribution controls over new units have been removed, WFA emphasized. The shortage of raw materials that early in the war limited the amount of farm machinery that could be made has been followed by the present inadequateness of manpower and components. Military production has priority call on both, the War Production Board said.

To keep existing farm machines in operation, manufacture of repair parts and attachments has been considerably increased. The scheduled production of repair parts and attachments in 1944 amounted to approximately 28.3 per cent of total farm machinery manufacture, as compared to 14 per cent in 1940, WPB said.

Production of new farm machinery units has been planned on the basis of farmers' requirements. Production of certain harvesting and tilling machines has been increased to as high as 150 per cent over 1940 and 1941 levels. To aid farmers in making crop shifts necessitated by war, more harvesting machines of certain types, such as peanut pickers, have been made. Manufacturers plan production of 360 items of farm machinery for domestic distribution on a percentage basis of the shipping weight of the machines they made during 1940 or 1941, whichever year was higher. During 1940 and 1941 more farm machinery was made in the United States than ever before.

Farm transportation is likely to be one of the farmer's serious problems in 1945, the War Food Administration said. Both motor truck and automobile replacements have been extremely small since 1941. To keep farmers' motor vehicles in operation during 1945, a better-than-average supply of repair parts, tires and services will be needed. The trickle of surplus Army trucks that will be available to farmers will not materially improve the farm transportation situation, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

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PRODUCE MORE

FOOD FOR FREEDOM

the CONSERVATION WAY

Conservation farming is here to stay and the predominating fact in the whole matter is that "it pays."

A comprehensive and workable conservation farming plan must be a correlation of the following items if it is to meet the needs of the day.

Labor: Labor today is a limited factor. With the labor available, the farmer must determine how much livestock, how much cropland and how much other incidental farm work this labor can take care of in an economical and profit making manner.

Today, we cannot depend on securing additional day labor for the simple reason that it is not to be had. It is therefore reasonable to assume that one must plan for his labor now available to carry on all the farm activities. If this is not done, then we are likely to find ourselves over-burdened with work at a time when neglect of one or all enterprises means financial loss for all.

Livestock: Livestock needs care as well as feed and shelter. The amount of livestock will determine the amount of labor that must be expended upon it for daily care and the amount of seasonal work that must be done to provide the feed required to carry this livestock from one period of production to the next.

Land: The land on the farm is capable of doing so much and no more. Some land will do more than other land and this capability must receive due consideration. Some land will require special treatment if it is to produce all that it is capable of producing and here we must bring in recognized conservation farming practices to do the job.

Neglect of any one of these three items: labor, livestock, land, may mean failure for the whole undertaking.

The supervisors of the Kent and Queen Anne's Soil Conservation Districts are in a position to aid all farmers in this work upon request.

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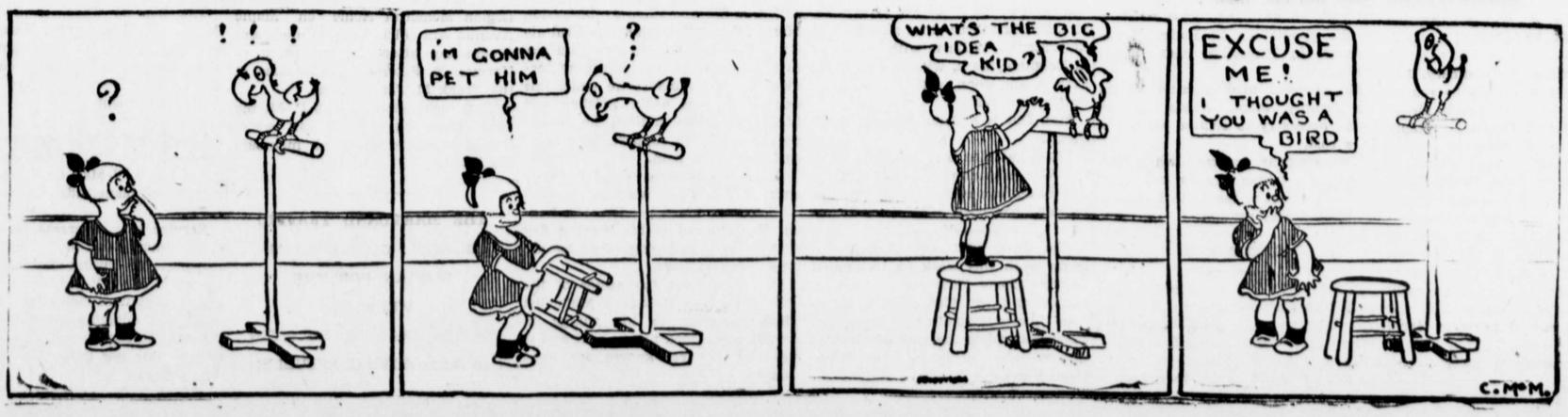

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