THE CHESTERTOWN TRANSCRIPT

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MARYLAND'S FARM FRONT WEEKLY REPORT

Corn Trial Continues

Kent County continues as one of the areas for trial of the corn crop insurance program in 1946. In 1945 Kent County was one of 14 counties in the nation which had a trial insurance program. In 13 of the 14 counties surrounding areas, the group found with tobacco, 20 counties are expected to have a trial corn insurance program.

In a national meeting of AAA county and state committeemen and Federal Crop Insurance workers who worked with the farmers of the 14 counties on the 1945 corn insurance, the problems and prospects of the corn insurance program were discussed last month. In 13 of the 14 counties insurance premiums covered losses nicely. Excessive rain was the major cause of corn crop loss, both in the insured counties and in surroundnig areas, the group found out. Heavy rains in Carroll County, Missouri, one of the 14 counties with a trial insurance program, wiped out a 250,000 bushel prospective crop. As a result of this huge loss, the total premiums of 350,000 bushels of corn were almost swallowed by the 325,000 bushels in losses, on the narrow base of 14 counties.

1945 Results

The year 1945 brought the beginning of adjustment in farming to peacetime markets in place of the feverish demands of war. And while the changes in wartime have been great, changes with peace will also be great, but should not bring farmers as much concern as changes after World War I.

Floors under prices for many products are being held long enough to allow farmers to make changes in their business to offset decreased markets for special products. Gains in soil and other types of conservation made in past decades can be maintained through the organizations farmers have set up.

The AAA committeemen, working with farmers during the past year, have helped them to carry out more soil and water conservation programs than ever before, to protect more crops under the Federal Crop Insurance Program than ever before, and to make plans for possible extension of insurance to different field crops. Moreover they have been able to produce, with the guidance of goals and special production payments, the volume of food needed for wartime efforts, and for feeding destitute peoples abroad.

Dairy Feed Payments on October, November and December production will be made during January and February. Rates will be 70c per cwt. for milk and 17c per pound for butterfat.

1945 ACP Payments began reaching Maryland counties about December 20th. Through December 28th, over 5,000 farmers had been paid over $430,000.00. Properly prepared applications have not been held in the State office more than three working days. Continuation of prompt payments depends on the filing of performance reports by farmers. It is the responsibility of each community committeeman to see that his neighbors take full advantage of all programs. Unless farm reports are filed by February 15th, no payment will be made. We suggest that each committeeman secure from the county office a list of farms in his area for which performance reports have not been filed and that he make every effort to get all farmers to file their reports before the deadline date.

Price of Eggs will be supported during the heavy production period next Spring by the program recently announced by the United States Department of Agriculture. The average support price will be 29 cents a dozen. The principal means of supporting the price will be through Government purchases of dried eggs from processing plants. Frozen and shell eggs will also be purchased if necessary. Eggs bought by the Government will be disposed of by shipments abroad, sales to other Government agencies and through school lunch prgorams and public institutions. County offices will be asked to furnish egg prices each week beginning January 9. The 1946 egg goal recommended by the Department is 15% less eggs than were produced in 1945.

A Sudden Interest in securing ammunition for the destruction of "predatory animals and birds" was noted when the Maryland squirrel season came in!

How About Taking Advantage of the AAA 1946 Pasture Practice and establishing a permanent pasture on that hill-side, instead of having it wash away under row crop cultivation?

A Recent Survey of livestock feeding in the United States showed about 25 per cent fewer lambs and 7 per cent more cattle on feed than this time a year ago.

Dudley C. Aist, who in July 1944 gave up his position as Administrative Assistant in this office to volunteer his sevrices to the Navy, is with us again. Formerly serving as Fieldman for southern and western Maryland, Mr. Aist was handling Special Services at the time of his enlistment. These services included handling farmers' requests for scarce materials such as building materials, farm machinery and protein meals. He will now handle Crop Insurance. Mr. Aist has many friends among the farmers and businessmen of the State, who will remember him as a competent and resourceful administrator.

FARM CROP SEED MEETING HERE WEDNESDAY

A discussion of many varieties of farm crop seeds adapted to growing conditions in this section will feature a public farmers meeting to be held in Fireman's Hall, Chestertown, Wednesday evening, January 23, at 8 P. M. This event is being sponsored by Kent County Farm Bureau Cooperative of Chestertown, and Southern States Cooperative.



Ira S. Willis

The principal talk will be made by I. S. Willis, Baltimore, Director of Hybrid Corn Service. During the evening, the guests will have an opportunity to ask Mr. Willis's advice on their particular problems regarding seeds and seeding. Albert T. Nicholson will speak on "The Advantage of Growing Hybrid Corn."

Among the prizes to be awarded is a silver dollar for the farmer who brings to the meeting the largest ear of corn.

H. S. Leaverton, president of the Board of Directors of Kent County Farm Bureau Cooperative, will preside, and District Manager F. D. Puncke of Newark will show the sound movie, "Story of Southern States Hybrid Corn."

Refreshments will be served.

Farm Population

A net decrease of nearly 17 per cent in the U. S. rural population since January, 1940, has been shown in the farm population estimates recently concluded by the U. S. department of agriculture. The estimates reported a farm population of 30,000,000 in 1940 compared with slightly over 25,000,000 in 1945, which indicates that about one of each six persons had left the farm in the five-year period.

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