

1962 Crop To Have Smallest Acreage In Past 53 Years

Washington—(UPI)—The 1962 crop will be harvested from the smallest total acreage in 53 years, the Agriculture Department has announced in its first big production report of the year.

Although the department delayed until next month an estimate of a production index, indications were that this year's output of food and feed would be abundant. Crop prospects of "good to excellent" were reported for many major producing areas, crop development appeared to be ahead of last year's, and yields of major crops were estimated to be close to the high yields of a year ago.

The department estimated the harvested acreage this year would be 288 million acres—8 million or 3 per cent less than the 1961 total and the smallest since 1909. The planted acreage of 300 million acres is 10 million less than last year and the lowest since 1929.

The reductions are the result of government efforts to reduce output of surplus crops, chiefly wheat and corn,

and the ability of the American farmer to produce efficiently and abundantly on fewer acres.

The 1962 corn crop—recently planted—was estimated at 3.5 billion bushels. This is 3 per cent less than in 1961, primarily because of a 2 per cent reduction in acreage. The prospective yield of 61.2 bushels an acre is second only to last year's record 61.8 bushels and is 15.5 bushels above the 1951-60 acreage. The corn crops last year and this were planted under a program which called for large acreage reductions to clear away the surplus.

Department officials said corn consumption during the current feeding year would total about 3.9 billion bushels. Production last year was 3.62 billion bushels. This means the current carryover will be down about 300 million bushels. Tuesday's estimate of the 1962 crops apparently means that the 1962-63 feeding season will cut another 300 million bushels from the corn carryover, assuming there will be little or no change in consumption volume.

Less Wheat Carryover

The 1962 wheat crop, estimated at about 1.05 billion bushels, means the wheat carryover next July will be down 150-200 million bushels.

The acreage reductions this year about equally divided between the food and feed grain groups. Corn, oats, and barley show smaller acreages than last year while a small expansion of all sorghums

is expected. In the wheat, rye, and rice. A new record high soybean acreage other than durum are down and an expansion of flaxseed from 1961, more than offset

shortened 1961 crop more than offset declines in cotton and peanuts in the oilseed groups. Total hay acreage is slightly below last year. Tobacco, sugar crops, dry beans, and sweet potato acreages increased, but declines are indicated for each seasonal group of potatoes.



CAUGHT IN ACT—While two men armed with pistols held up the St. Clair Savings and Loan Co. at Cleveland, Ohio, a hidden movie camera recorded the bank robbery. More than \$13,000 was taken. Note the robber in the background with a drawn pistol. (UPI)

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LAY MISSIONARIES

New York—(UPI)—The Protestant Episcopal church is studying the possibility of enlisting Americans living abroad as lay missionaries. The Rev. Samuel Van Culin Jr., assistant secretary of the denomination's overseas department, said: "The question is how to make these lay people, in the international community through government, business and educational exchange, more attentive to their roles as missionaries."



Your Money's
Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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'VISIT U.S.'—A TRICKLE OF SUCCESS

On its first official birthday, the "Visit U.S." program—designed to increase the number of foreign visitors to this country from a trickle to a flood so we can earn a lot more from tourism and thereby help cut the deficit in our international financial accounts—is still in the "trickle" stage.

The program is alive, it's getting results in several directions, which is encouraging for the long range—but it's a success on only the most modest of scales. Yet today the need for giving the program a great forward push is greater than ever.

It was a year ago that Congress passed the International Travel Act of 1961 and set up our government's first official travel promotion agency—the U.S. Travel Service under the Dept. of Commerce. Many lofty motives were given for the step—such as "promoting understanding and good will among people of foreign countries and of the United States"—but the primary motive was strictly money.

For the difference between what Americans spent as foreign tourists and what foreigners spent as U.S. tourists (including the costs of their tickets) came to a towering \$1.1 billion in 1961 alone.

This "travel gap" represented approximately 40 per cent of the total deficit in our balance of payments. Obviously if tourism here could be vastly expanded—doubled, tripled, quadrupled—the favorable impact on our balance of payments position could be enormous.

Thus, the USTS was created with a first-year budget of \$2.5 million—peanuts compared with what other countries spend to promote tourism within their borders. Now what has happened and is happening to tourism?

In the first four months of 1962, overseas visitors to the U.S. rose 16 per cent over the comparable 1961 period to a total of 147,000. They spent an average of \$520 each to give us a total revenue of \$76.4 million. Visitors from France climbed 52 per cent; from Switzerland, 25 per cent; from the United Kingdom, 11 per cent; from Germany, 9 per cent.

On the other hand, visitors from Japan fell off 14 per cent, even though the USTS has set up an office in Tokyo. Japan's currency restrictions virtually prohibit all but businessmen from traveling here, however; so spending time and money promoting U.S. travel to those who couldn't come no matter what their desires seems rather futile.

It's hardly an inspiring record, despite the fact that Voit Gilmore, USTS director, insists on stressing "the long-range nature" of the program. But there have been accomplishments.

The USTS has opened eight offices with multi-lingual staffs—in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Rome, Sao Paulo, Mexico City, Tokyo, Sydney, and it will open one in Bogota soon.

It has distributed 4.5 million pieces of literature all over the globe, in seven languages, and has started an advertising program aimed at convincing foreigners that traveling here can be inexpensive. This program has been sharply attacked as not only misleading but also dishonest. Sample from a recent ad in the Times of London: "Expenses for a party of four traveling by car come to less than \$12 a day. That includes food, sightseeing, and lodging in motels with swimming pools." Four people traveling by car getting all that in this country for less than \$12 a day? Other samples from the ad: you will sleep at "Indian trading posts... Photograph bald eagles on the wing... For lunch, catch your own Chinook salmon and cut-throat trout... Go maple-sugaring... Watch an ox-pull... Eat Apple Pan Downy." Oh, well, Gilmore says that travel experts agreed a "blockbuster" of a campaign was needed to convince the British they could afford to come here, and they are receiving 300 inquiries a day at their London office.

Most importantly, it has sparked additional "Visit U.S." promotions and special economy deals by commercial organizations, it is spurring hotels, stores and banks throughout the U.S. to develop multi-lingual staffs for foreign tourists and it is making headway in slashing the red tape which repels foreigners from the start.

Says Gilmore, "World travel habits cannot be changed in one season—and the U.S. has much homework still to do for the proper handling of our rising tide of visitors."

Correction, Mr. Gilmore: "It's a rising trickle now. That 'rising tide' is yet to come, and farther off still is the flood."



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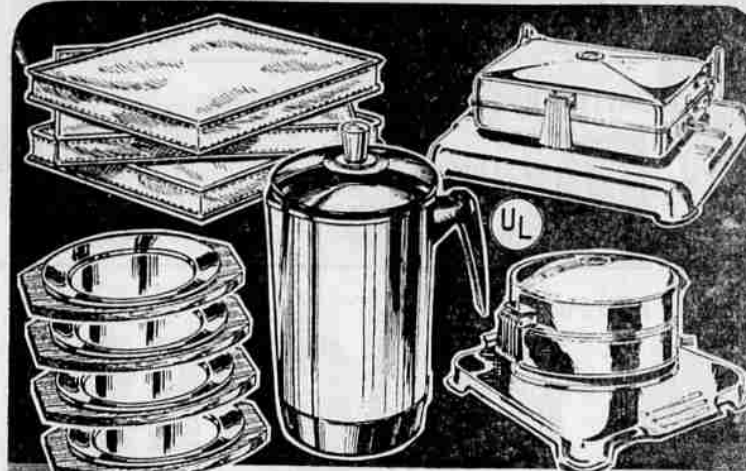
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