

National Potato Letter

Agriculture Department Under Pressure To Buy Up More Spuds; Shipping Off

SUPPLY
Department of agriculture still is under constant pressure to buy more potatoes despite the smaller remaining stocks than a year ago, and the fact that the current imports from Canada also are smaller. Added to these supply factors is the delay in maturity of the early crop in all areas and damage in some. These factors available from now until some time in May should not be too big to handle through commercial outlets.

New crop reports from Alabama are conflicting. Some indicate a considerable reduction in tonnage prospects, while others claim a pretty good crop except for limited areas that were drowned out. South Carolina quite definitely will show a reduced acreage and low yield. North Carolina could have a fairly good crop, weather cooperating. West Texas is mostly late. Mississippi probably will have a very small crop. If seed deliveries to commercial growers are an accurate index of average, Louisiana has very small acreage because of too much water at planting time. All of these areas along the Gulf are late, the delay varying from two to four weeks. Potatoes have a way of catching up with themselves in favorable weather, however, and it can safely be assumed that maturity dates will be less delayed than planting dates. In California, the first digging has shown smaller yields than was anticipated. However, weather was bad for a considerable period and growers may just have jumped the gun. Yields are bound to improve, but it will be some time before the pattern for the season is established.

MOVEMENT
Potato shipments were down sharply last week, especially in Minnesota and Maine. Both Maine and the Red River valley had been shipping more than the markets could stand and at a faster rate than is needed to get the crop moved on time. Cars reported for the government held about even with the previous week at 589 cars, so the entire drop was in the commercial movement. Maine averaged 466 cars daily last week, whereas best available estimates indicate that 350 cars daily to May 15 would move the crop.

In the shipping areas, final official reports for the season say that Colorado wound up with light demand, a dull market, and prices about unchanged at 80 cents over the floor washed offerings. Final report for Idaho was better, showing a good demand, the market stronger, and prices up 10 to 15 cents at \$2.10 over the floor washed stock. Colorado probably has no more than 500 to 800 cars left to move by rail. Idaho estimates show a wide range from 2000 to as many as 4000 cars, but most observers feel that between 2000 and 3000 is closer. At the shipping rate of the last week, Colorado will be through in three to four weeks. Idaho in four to six weeks. Maine reports the de-

mand improving to moderate, the market firm to stronger, and prices up 15 cents from the low of March 31 at a dime under the floor. (Actually, size A is quoted at the floor, and all quotations are on size A). Dade county, Florida is the only early crop market reporting. Demand there is good, the market firm, and prices up 50 cents at \$2.25 over the floor for washed Florida digging has been interrupted by rain, which may account for some of this strength, although shipments for the past week were only 16 cars below the preceding 7-day period.

MISCELLANY
DoA finally has warned farmers about using benzene hexachloride, the insecticide believed responsible for giving potatoes a very bad flavor. DoA says it should not be used on foodstuffs, and names spuds and vegetables specifically. We think this warning should have come sooner. . . . DoA purchases now amount to the impressive total of 29.6 million bushels from a crop apparently only 8.4 million above needs. The 20 extra million are a combination of abnormally distributed production and over-estimated needs at present support prices. Too bad the crop grew the way it did. We needed normal distribution of production as a test for the prevailing idea of how much the country will eat at a price. . . . DoA spokesman at recent California meeting made strong talk about compliance with acreage goals, which is not California's strong point this year. Talk was received soberly, as it hinted at use of the provision for authorizing dealers to take reimbursable losses on commercial sales. More on this later, when we get the straight of it. . . . BAE's farm price report for March shows potato parity price stationary for the first time in many months, having been \$1.84 per bushel each of the last two months. Actual price received by farmers was put at \$1.96 per bushel, or 107 per cent of parity, up two points from the 105 of February 15. This price is about 115

Garden Needs Good Soil

Soils and soil fertility are all important as far as successful home vegetable gardening is concerned. Start your garden right. Good vegetable quality and yields don't just happen. They are planned.

Perhaps the most important need of the average vegetable garden is organic matter. Too many vegetable gardeners expect to plant their garden year after year in the same spot without putting anything back into the soil. Soils wear out like anything else.

Barnyard manure is a valuable source of organic matter and is one of the best garden fertilizers. Spread the manure before the garden is spaded or plowed. It is important that the manure be well mixed with the soil. Poor mixing or large concentrations of manure will cause burning to young plants. Barnyard manure also does much to improve the soil structure. The soil will be more easily worked and will not have so much of a tendency to run together or puddle. The water holding capacity of the soil will be increased.

Such bulky organic material as leaves, lawn clippings, also add organic matter and improve soil structure.

Black Locust Plantings Good

Black locust farm plantings to supply fence posts are proving a good investment. This species grows rapidly and produces a durable post even without treatment.

There is a new bulletin available on this subject issued by Oregon State college, obtainable at the county agent's offices. It is called, "Poles and Fence Posts for Oregon Farms."

Classified Ads Bring Real Results!

Oil Used In Killing Out Quack Grass

Growers contemplating the use of oils to control quack grass might well plan to begin in April or May before the grass has made a considerable growth, thus resulting in a saving of oil as well as time on the first application and extending the season over which these applications can be made.

Fuel oils when sprayed over quack grass at the rate of 2 to 3 gallons per square rod will prevent seed formation, and if repeated often enough will eventually kill a patch.

Present day diesel oil is not as well adapted for this type of weed control as it was before oil companies improved it for motor fuel; however, it can be used to cut or thin heavier oils to make them work better in sprayers. Crank case oil can be used when thinned somewhat with a lighter oil, though some trouble from clogged sprayer nozzles is to be expected because of sludge.

New oils recently developed by two of the major oil companies show considerable promise as materials for killing quack grass, because of their ability to translocate or move through the stem into the roots of the weed for a short distance which tends to permanently kill a portion of the roots at each application. A feature much desired when fighting a perennial weed such as quack grass. Trials established last year, with these oils, indicate that four applications made during the normal growing season here, not only gave excellent control throughout the summer months, but also resulted in considerable permanent kill.

A device so sensitive it can weigh a fingerprint is one of the key research tools being used by scientists to test metals to improve jet engines.

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Livestock Brand List Received

A new copy of the state recorded livestock brands has been received at the extension office in Lakeview. This lists all registered brands in Oregon with the most recent ones included on type-written pages. All brands through 1946 are found in a bound volume. According to the county agent, the state will provide copies of this book to anyone interested for \$5.00 a copy, including the most recent supplements.

Gardening Data Here

Two bulletins that deal specifically with gardening conditions in Klamath county are now available. Both of these bulletins can be had for the asking from the county agricultural agents' office.

The first is the "Klamath Garden Plan." It contains a suggested planting plan; a vegetable growing reference table with planting dates, and a list of suggested varieties of vegetables and small fruits suitable for Klamath county.

The other bulletin is entitled "Fruit Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Annuals, Perennials, and Bulbs for Klamath County." In it are listed the varieties of fruit trees, flowers and ornamentals that do well in Klamath county, as well as information on growing the various species.

In our machinery stock we have a complete line of tractor disk harrows. There are McCormick-Deering regular heavy disk harrows and light, medium and heavy weight Offset Disk Harrows in the famous McCormick-Deering and Dyrill lines.

Iron Age Potato Planters in two and four-row models equipped with fertilizer attachments are also available now for immediate delivery.

The famous Martin Ditcher in 4, 5 and 7-foot sizes is also available in our stock of machinery at this time.

Ladies, remember that our "Bask" Spring Hardware Sale ends Saturday, April 17th, and plan to take advantage of the many bargains offered in our hardware department while this sale is in progress.

J.W. Kerns
724 South 6th Street
Klamath Falls, Oregon

Farm Loans Processed

The farmers home administration is now processing applications for real estate loans, Harry Clark, in charge of the office, said this week.

Loans are made from this office, Clark advised, for purchasing farms, improvements made to buildings, as well as for land leveling work and other farm developments, or purchase of additional real estate.

Loans are available to eligible farmers and veterans whose credit is approved.

Further information may be obtained from the FHA office, room 308, post office building.

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See 1948 Ag. Conservation Handbook

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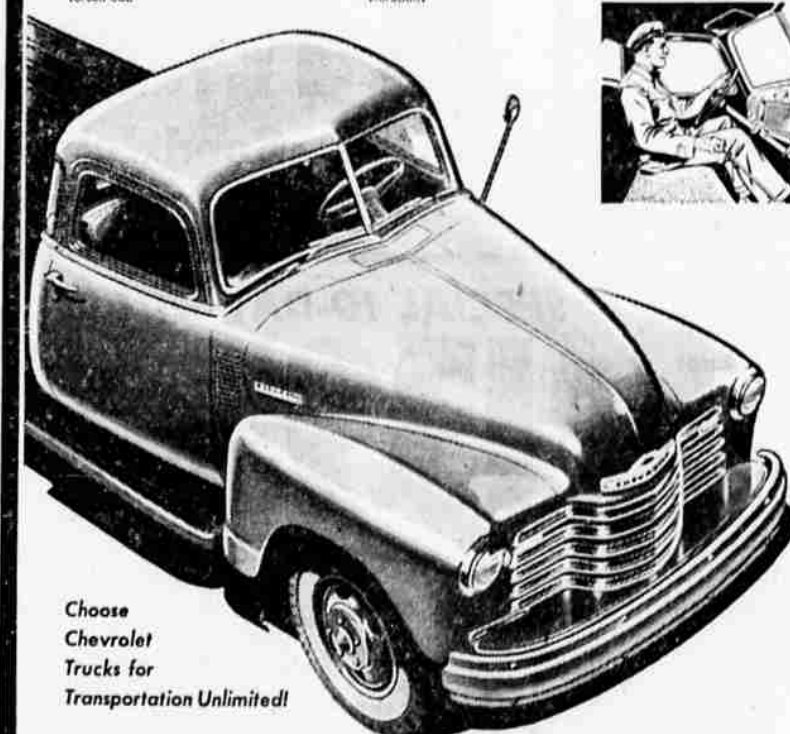
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• Advance-Design truck bodies and cabs are Uni-Built—Chevrolet engineered and produced in the world's largest exclusive commercial body plant—to achieve maximum uniformity, durability and economy. . . . Other features in this Advance-Design line of 107 models on 8 wheelbases are: All-round cab visibility with rear-corner windows* • Unweld, all-steel cab construction • Super-strength frames • Specially-designed brakes • Hydovac power brakes • Heavier, more durable springs • Ball-bearing steering • Wide base wheels • Standard cab-to-axle length dimensions • 12-color and two-tone options available.

*Fresh air heating and ventilating system and rear-corner windows optional at extra cost.



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