

National Potato Letter—

Stored Late Crop Potato Supplies Holding Up Well; Alabama Spuds Are Good

Stored late crop potato supplies are dwindling rapidly although banking on longer than most observers anticipated. Late shipments have declined to around a quarter of the total, and in two more weeks should be about out of the picture. Most remaining stocks are in Maine and the Red River valley, but Michigan still has rural to move.

Among the early states, Alabama continues harvesting a crop better in both volume and quality than was expected. Georgia and South Carolina have light crops. Maybe the poorest on record—but are not getting the price benefit that might be expected because of more than usual overlap. These states are late, while Alabama is about on time and North Carolina is early. North Carolina and Virginia may harvest record crops, and are early, while California is behind schedule, thus piling up the overlap to the detriment of June markets. Louisiana and Mississippi probably will be small factors this year, with light crops. The next big change will come when North Carolina hits its stride right along with Kern county's peak about the first week in June. The country can stand about a thousand of the smaller carloads, but California alone should reach 700 cars by next week, and can put out a thousand cars if needed.

MOVEMENT
Late shipments continue heavy only in Maine and the Red River valley. Maine has had much rain which prevented field work and encouraged heavy flooding, about a fourth of which went to DOA mostly for starch. California averaged 488 yields daily, and unless rain light yields cause a slow-down in digging, will increase sharply next week. New crop movement will dominate from now on, and barring unexpected weather developments will be very heavy from now through August.

DEMAND AND MARKETS
Maine is still in the market, but official quotations ceased May 21 with the market unchanged at support. Looks now that the old crop will clean up quietly. Florida also wound up the season at Hastings without excitement, prices having been steady at 95 per cent over the floor throughout May. California showed improvement for one day last week, then returned to a nickel over the floor and wound up this week at a nickel below the floor. South Carolina is getting a very small play, although quality appears satisfactory. Last quotation was 30 cents over floor, but the market is dull. Alabama has had an unusual situation. Alabama Bliss ordinarily bring a substantial premium but until recently have been outbid by Sebagoes by 50 to 70 cents. However, beginning Monday the Sebago market dropped sharply to the level of Bliss. The customary early-season hot demand for good Reds did not show up nor can we understand why the unusual Sebago premium dropped so fast.

MISCELLANY
Biggest Washington potato news right now is that potato producing interests finally have shown some interest in legislation. We said long ago that potatoes could be left out in the cold if the industry failed to get busy. But this week—very late but maybe in time—a large delegation of industry representatives descended on the capital to get their ideas in order and present them to selected members of congress. Session was officially sparked by Maine agriculture commissioner, but there were other fingers in the pie. We guess they will plug for specific

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recognition of potatoes in pending bills, with support at a sliding scale and provision for control of some sort of acreage and marketing of low grades, a lot like the basic commodities. In fact, there is considerable opinion in favor of making potatoes a basic commodity, and congress might do this instead of trying to write something special. Time to have done something like this was when the hearings were in progress, but it probably is not too late because of the very uncertain fate of all long-range proposals in the present session of congress. If we had to gamble, we would choose a relatively simple bill largely containing present authority as the most likely outcome. Red River Valley Potato Growers association has begun work on a very ambitious research program seeking the causes and cures of mechanical injury during handling and storage. Involves furnishing of a farm and trackside handling plant by the association, and technical staff and direction by DOA and state experiment stations. An extensive breeding project also is part of the plan. To our mind, this is really a worthy kind of undertaking, not just old stuff under a new name. It started in the country, not in some agency eager to further its own ideas of needed research. Looks very doubtful that DOA will enjoy the large export outlet available last season for summer crop spuds. Argentina had a crop failure last year and made an outlet big enough for a large part of the DOA summer purchases. This year it looks like a strictly home talent job, and our guess is that potatoes will be dumped. We have canvassed the prospects, and cannot see that we have the domestic outlets to absorb the probable surplus. In all earnestness we say that if any dumping occurs before action is taken on the long-range agriculture bill, the chances of favorable treatment of potatoes will diminish almost to the vanishing point. Congress just does not like dumping.

Walt Spawn Buys Palomino
WOCUS, June 3 — Walter G. Spawn, local cafe owner, is now the proud owner of "Carmel," three-year-old Palomino stallion, recently purchased from Mrs. Aaron Hoffman, of the Hoffman ranch in Wocus. The young stallion is the son of "Flicka," a golden sorrel mare the Hoffmans purchased in the east a little over four years ago and brought to their ranch for the purpose of raising blooded saddle stock colts.

"Carmel's" new home is on a ranch on Miller Island road, owned by Spawn.

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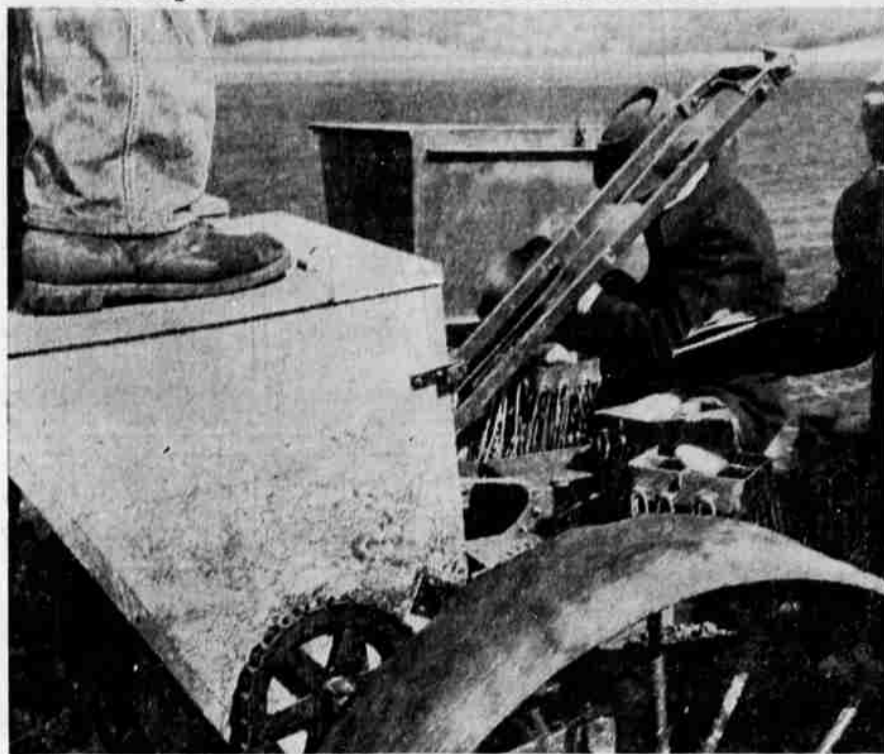
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Seed must be sorted to four-piece size for this operation. Seed is cut by striking against the blade with a padded glove. The object of this innovation is to plant all parts of a potato together so that diseased seed will be concentrated and not scattered throughout a field. This makes it easy to rogue out when the disease shows up.

Growers Who Want Support Need Facts

Burrell Short, chairman of the Klamath county agricultural conservation committee, urges all potato producers, who wish to take advantage of the 1948 potato price support program, to be sure they are familiar with their responsibilities as potato producers, which are set forth in the producer's application for certificate of eligibility.

There is a distinct advantage in applying for eligibility promptly, according to Short. Those who apply before July 15 will pay an eligibility fee of \$1.50 per acre. If application is made after July 15 but before September 15 the fee is \$3 per acre. No application for eligibility will be accepted after September 15.

Chairman Short advises all potato producers, interested in obtaining 1948 support prices on their potatoes, to call at the county agricultural conservation office located at the post office, room 205, if they do not thoroughly understand their responsibilities, as growers, under the 1948 potato price support program. The application blanks are at the office and must be signed. Checks must be payable to the Klamath county agricultural conservation association.

Hollyhocks were introduced from Syria into English gardens in 1573.

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Skinner Celebrates Birth Of Son

Francis Skinner was passing out cigars and candy on the second floor of the post office building Wednesday celebrating the birth of his son early in the morning.

The boy weighed one-half ounce less than his big brother Steven who is now 18 months old and tipped the scales at eight pounds 15 1/2 ounces when he was born.

This is the Skinners' second child. They reside on 1436 Crescent. Skinner is Klamath county 4-H club agent.

Winter Wheat Crop May Be 3rd Largest

If the winter wheat crop turns out as now indicated, U. S. farmers this year will produce the third largest crop in history.

Prospects are for a crop of 845,464,000 bushels, a total exceeded only in two other years: winter wheat production in 1947 was a record 1,067,970,000 bushels and in 1946 the crop totaled 870,725,000 bushels.

Insecticides Must Be Registered

Insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides are now required by law to be registered with the department of agriculture.

Agencies marketing these products are required to verify all claims made on labels and descriptive literature before the compound may be sold in interstate commerce. Such registration however does not constitute endorsement of any product by the department of agriculture.

The act requiring registration will be effective as of June 25, 1948. It includes mothproofing compounds applied by manufacturers as well as those to be applied in the home.

JAP KILLED
PEARL HARBOR, June 3 — Marines Monday shot and killed a Japanese who had been hiding on one of Kwajalein atoll's tiny islands since the American capture of that Marshall island base in February, 1944. And there may be another, still living, the navy said.

The navy announced after the Japanese was killed after he opened fire on marines sent to capture him on Hene island.

Gardens May Be Answer To Shortages

Keep your Freedom garden working until frost cuts it down. This advice, always good, is even better than usual in 1948. It fits food conditions sure to develop this year, says the U. S. department of agriculture.

A tight spot in meat supply is forecast for late summer, the office of food and feed conservation warns. Continued garden production for late summer and early fall will be useful, and will supplement effectively the food supply of this country and the world.

String beans, lima, tomatoes, beets and carrots are some of the vegetables that can be used to double-crop the garden spaces where early crops such as radishes, lettuce, peas, and spring greens have been harvested.

In the larger gardens cucumbers, squash, corn and potatoes can provide excellent summer and fall dishes. Owners of small gardens may find it better to leave production of these to farmers and market gardeners.

Late summer crops supply vegetables that combine well for good eating. The yield from gardens in the weeks before frost, plus the vegetables that can be stored or canned, can substitute mightily for scarcer foods in satisfying, healthful, and nourishing meals for the family. That is one of the principal ideas

behind this year's Freedom garden program. Gardeners save money and conserve other foods by double-cropping with succession plantings. This keeps the garden working until frost cuts it down.

One hundred and forty by-products are made from livestock.

Tulelake Ranchers Visit In Klamath
Mr. and Mrs. Lesley Penhall, Tulelake ranchers, were in town Tuesday shopping and stayed to attend the ball game in the evening.

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