

National Potato Letter

Early Commercial Spud Production Under Figure For '48, Over US Average

By A. L. FITZSIMMONDS  
Total early commercial potato production at 67 million bushels is almost 10 million bushels under last season but still nearly nine million bushels over average.

The late spring group of states shows a small drop, from 29.6 million to 29.0 million. The summer group is reported for the first time this season at 22.0 million bushels, about 8.3 million under 1948 but less than half a million bushels over average.

Largely because of the inclusion of New Jersey in the latter group, these figures have some significance for August and September but cannot be regarded as conclusive because a considerable volume of July-August supplies will come from late areas not included in this estimate.

Long Island potato crops are 10 days early and in good condition. Arizona probably will have close to last year's crop, around 2000 cars or a few less. Washington is believed to have reduced early acreage as much as 30 per cent but still will have an influential volume.

Idaho has a smaller acreage, compared with a year ago, and will start its movement to market in early July. Colorado's northern section has reduced early plantings compared with 1948. Several of the summer areas customarily hurt their deals by rushing the harvest, and will be more inclined than usual to do so this year if predictions of a bare spot in late June materialize.

Growers usually do not delay digging if their crops have steeled and the market is hot.

**Movement and Markets**  
Rail shipments last week spurted to the highest total since the close of the seed movement in April. Total for the week was 6715 cars, up 1276 cars over the previous week. After allowing for price support tonnage, commercial movement for the week was 6430 cars, up 1143 cars over the previous seven-day period.

The past week has shown the largest commercial movement by rail for any period since the corresponding week a year ago. However, shipments likely are much heavier because of the greater volume moving by truck.

For the week, California, Arizona and North Carolina accounted for 6963 cars of the total. Virginia shipped only 210 cars but will move up rapidly. California likely is 80 per cent finished. Timing of the various segments of the crop appears to be about as near to perfect as the potato industry can hope to experience at this season of the year.

Last week's generally firm markets have deteriorated. This reaction had been anticipated for some time with no apparent reason for the continued strength of the several previous weeks.

California declined from \$2.75 to \$2.30 in two days, and over the week-end and up to Tuesday has suspended digging to enable the market to recover.

North Carolina and Virginia have suffered similarly, with declines of 50 to 60 cents. For North Carolina this seems to be a rather normal seasonal experience, with the market about steady at the lower prices at Elizabeth City but with practically no demand and too few sales to establish a market at other points.

Virginia reported as unsettled and weak, with growers slowing their digging. With California passing its peak, there is a chance, however, that markets will hold fairly close to these lower levels. Shipping point prices still are 50 cents over floor in California and 70 cents over the floor in the east.

**Price Support Legislation**  
Recent proposals to the house agriculture committee by the National Potato council appear to be not too highly regarded by members of the committee. This is regrettable as industry representatives had been given 15 days in which to produce a "strong program," carrying penalties strong enough to end over-production.

The council's proposal that the Hope-Aiken act, with its 60 per cent of parity support, plus a fixed formula for distributing the national acreage goal and some gadgets for taking care of new land, has brought forth no favorable comment. We doubt very much that it meets the requirements laid down in earlier hearings by the committee.

You can get any kind of a report you want on the Brannan plan under political discussion this week at Des Moines. So far, no single senator or congressman has stepped forward to champion Brannan's price support proposals. Strategy now is to hold the plan over for use as a campaign issue in 1952.

At least the Des Moines meeting has made it very apparent that there are many who favor high-level supports, at least for one more year, and who want farmers to get their price in the market, place rather than from the public treasury. Only real difference between the two is that cost of high prices in the markets is borne entirely by consumers and hits the poor man hardest; support from tax revenues hits the rich man hardest. The total support value of the crop would be the same in either case.

Almost final figures on 1948 crop price support purchases put the total at 128.3 million bushels at a cost of about 220 million dollars. Purchases from the 1949 crop to date amount to 1.3 million bushels at a cost of around 24 million dollars.

Performance on the army flour



Chrysler's 1949 convertible coupe makes its bow to the public. The New Yorker model, shown here, accommodates six passengers comfortably. It is on a longer 131 1/2-inch wheelbase and has a Prestomatic Fluid Drive Transmission.

An electro-hydraulic mechanism lowers or raises the top in 15 seconds or less. The convertible coupe is available in 14 body colors, six types of upholstery and three color options for the top. The convertible also is obtainable in the Royal series.

Strawberry Leaf Rollers Cause Trouble

Strawberry leaf rollers are causing quite a bit of trouble to local strawberry growers. These worms web strawberry leaves together and then feed within the protection afforded by the leaves and the webbing. In this stage they are very difficult to poison and control as material does not get to the worm.

In cases where the worm is prevalent, and the bushes are full of fruit, any treatment is almost impossible. After the crop has been harvested and a number of the worm larvae are still present, spraying may be done with lead arsenate at the rate of three pounds to 100 gallons of water. Some calcium caseinate, about 1/2 to 1 pound, should be used in the solution to act as spreader.

In using this material, it must be remembered that this is a deadly poison and cannot be used if there is any fruit on the bushes that will be used. Another method that might be favorable would be to use a dusting of 10 per cent DDT powder, after the berries have been removed. This dust loses its poisonous properties completely after two weeks of sunlight.

It would not be advisable, however, to use any of the berries after DDT dusting until after the two weeks period and then they should be washed thoroughly.

This insect can be easily recognized because of the habit of the worm of getting on a leaf and pulling the two halves of the leaf together and fastening it with a sticky substance. This habit gives it its name of leaf roller.

Farm Labor Picture Good Over Basin

Supply and demand of general farm labor is running about equal this season, according to the farm labor manager at the Klamath Falls state employment office.

Ranch pay is ranging slightly lower than last year, according to reports coming in from some of the ranches, however the pay varies with individual ranches and in some cases board and room is deducted from the pay and in others included. General farm labor is getting \$5 to \$6 per day plus board and room.

Highest pay this year was \$8, paid for a short time only, at the beginning of the season.

Most of the labor used in this basin is local, but there is some migratory help this year as usual. Since the request for cherry pickers in the northern part of the state has been broadcast, around 30 persons, some local and some transients have left for that work, reports at the employment office show.

Klamath Haying Operations Start

Light haying operations are under way in the Klamath basin these days, especially on dry land farms where rye and alfalfa are being cut.

Some irrigated alfalfa and grass is also being cut now but operations are still light.

Other activities for late June in the farming areas include crop dusting for disease on spuds, on clover for weevil and thrips and on the upper Klamath marsh for grasshoppers.

Alta Fescue Stand Subject Of Survey

A 31-year-old stand of alta fescue—the original planting of a grass developed at the OSC experiment station—was viewed by more than 200 persons who attended a June field day to view past accomplishments and present work of the college in the field of soil conservation.

Alta fescue is considered perhaps the most nearly universally adapted grass and hence the most promising single grass in America for use as a soil saver, soil fertility improver and all-around forage producer.

The visitors also viewed plots where irrigation and rotation experiments were started in 1907 when many farmers believed that irrigation in western Oregon would "kill the soil." Instead the experiments have shown that fertility can be improved through a practical program of irrigation, rotation and fertilization. Some 80,000 acres in western Oregon are now irrigated.

The first pasture-sized field of irrigated ladino clover in Oregon was also viewed by the visitors who saw the original 11 acres seeded in 1927 on land that had been abandoned for ordinary crop production.

Through this and later trials the experiment station demonstrated that an acre of irrigated ladino and grass will yield four times as much

usable feed as an acre of tame grass pasture and eight times as much as even good native grass pastures.

Schieferstein Is Farm Bureau Guest

Harold Schieferstein, county weed and rodent supervisor, spoke on weed control at the June meeting

of the Bonanza farm bureau center. Schieferstein classified and advised control methods for various weeds brought by the members from their gardens.

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