

# Eastern Spud Damage May Be High; Shipments Fall Off Sharply; Prices Up

Eastern potato areas still are bone dry, despite small local showers here and there. The moisture deficiency can be made up now, only by general and extended rains, and even the fortunate few who have irrigation are running short of water.

New Jersey, Long Island, Pennsylvania, up-state New York and lower New England are hardest hit. All of these sections are moderate to heavy potato producers and their crops are in serious trouble.

In New Jersey, where only about 10 per cent of the potato land is irrigated, unofficial reports say that Cobblers are past the point where they can respond to rain. This means that at least one-fourth of the New Jersey crop will run to B-size potatoes.

Other varieties also are showing weather injury and are at a critical stage. One observer, probably too pessimistic, talks of a New Jersey crop only 20 per cent of normal. This may be true of the Cobblers, but some of the other varieties will turn out much better.

Damage in other eastern potato sections may be somewhat less severe than in New Jersey, but the situation is serious everywhere. A few more days without rains could turn the 1949 crop year into a major disaster for eastern growers other than in Maine.

Maine, in contrast with other eastern areas, is in very good shape. Total seed use in Maine this year is reported as near normal despite the reduced acreage, and with ample rain so far the Maine prospect is for a record or near record yield.

Mid-West potato areas also are reported in good condition. The far west, however, presents a picture of contrasts.

Fields were reported in Idaho last week-end. Fields were not cut down but were reported blackened and damaged enough to seriously threaten yields.

Klamath basin reported temperatures as low as 19 degrees at Tulelake, although official airport temperatures showed a low of 31 degrees.

Damage reports so far are incomplete and provide no basis for an accurate estimate of the drought damage. The official crop estimate, due next week, will give the first fairly dependable forecast of the 1949 potato crop and even this will not show damage subsequent to July 1.

Shipments last week fell off sharply, declining from 5346 cars of the preceding week, to only 2822 cars. Southern California alone accounted for 1384 cars of the decline in tonnage. This sharp decline in California shipments was predicted in our last week's report and was pretty well discounted in advance by the trade.

The southern section gained a total of 335 cars over the previous week. North Carolina is practically through but its tonnage has been replaced by Virginia, Texas has shipped its first few cars and will increase rapidly.

The past week's smaller shipments will not be reflected quickly in the terminals, as shipping averages more than a week for California potatoes to reach the markets. In addition, there is a market factor in the cold storage holdings of potatoes. This tonnage of unknown volume was shipped earlier but is held available for consumption by operators who anticipated the current reduction of shipments.

Shipping point markets all are

## New Alfalfa Seed Ready

Farmers who want to plant the new Talent alfalfa this fall or next spring will find a limited supply for distribution through the county agent's office from Oregon State college.

The new alfalfa developed at the Southern Oregon branch experiment station will be harvested for seed from the 123 acres at the station. Much interest has been shown in the new variety named Talent, in honor of the pioneer for whom the town of Talent was named. He was active in the early development of Rogue river valley agriculture.

This strain starts earlier in the spring than most alfalfas and grows later. It shows regrowth after cutting much quicker than other varieties also, and grows so densely as to keep it free of weeds and grass. Harold H. White, in charge of crops work at the station, recommends this type alfalfa for its strong disease resistance.

Purpose of the awards is to emphasize selection and production of top quality meat and one of the contests will be a special pig feeding competition.

L. J. Allen, state 4-H club leader, states that four pigs must be exhibited from the same litter. Local county agents must be notified of the entry by the 4-H club member, before pigs to be entered are 10 weeks of age.

Judging will be done on the following basis: dressed grade and cutting yield, 50 points; live score, 25 points; cost of gain, 10 points; record book, 10 points.

## Four-H News

The Bonanza Can Can club and The Bonanza Cozy Roomers enjoyed a picnic held at Moore park. The club took a potluck lunch. During lunch the club sang Happy Birthday to Lois and Louise Hubble as they each opened a gift from the club. A cake was decorated for Lois and Louise Hubble by Janey Dixon.

After lunch the members played games and toured the park. An afternoon meeting was held. After the meeting Arleen Reimann led the club in songs and Lois and Louise Hubble led the yell.

Members and guest present were Lois and Louise Hubble, Ruth and Betty Ralph, and Hazel Bradshaw, Janey Dixon, Nancy Givan, King Hubble, Mrs. Jo Givan, and Mrs. Esther Brown.

Before going home the club enjoyed watermelon and sandwiches. Hazel Bradshaw News reporter

The Merrill Baby Beef club met at the home of H. B. Winebarger on June 28 at 8 o'clock. Lily Gasser the president opened the meeting. The club discussed having a picnic sometime in the future. Some unpaid bills were paid; the treasurer was ordered to collect from members owing money to the club.

The members present were Billy Gasser, Faye Gasser, Bobby Gasser, Dean Hill, Jimmy Dignan, Joan Noonan, Patricia Noonan, and Danny Barry. The meeting was adjourned to meet soon at one of the members homes. Danny Barry News reporter

The Jar Jammers Canning club met with Leader Mrs. John Kerns on June 28, 1949. Josephine Cobwell had charge of the meeting in the absence of the president, Elina Huribut.

There were six members and one guest present. Sydney Kerns joined the club at demonstrated the canning of cherries. Ida Sokruff gave a talk on her trip to 4-H summer school at Corvallis. Marilyn Stoneburg News reporter

The second meeting of the Malin Cannery club was held at Sally Smalley's home Tuesday afternoon, July 5. The meeting was called to order by the president, Sally Smalley and roll call was taken, each member answering by how many jars of fruit they had canned so far.

The canning club was named Malin Cannery club. Two new members, Joanne De Merrill and Shirley Dixon, were registered making the club a total of nine members.

Decline in business activity, particularly industrial production, and the increase in unemployment are causing concern, although few observers predict a serious depression soon. Farm commodity values may decline further but real people get panicky.

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above the support level. California prices have declined again after regaining earlier losses, but started into July at 20 cents over the floor even though the July support price is 10 cents under June.

North Carolina closed its reporting season with the market steady at 35 to 40 cents over the July floor for unwashed stock and 80 cents over the floor for washed offerings. Arizona has had very slow demand and mostly too few sales to quote, but closed June trading at \$1.30 to \$1.35 over the June floor.

Department of agriculture has bought 2.6 million bushels of 1949 crop potatoes so far, the weekly rate running about unchanged from a week ago U. S. No. 2 and B-size account for more than 84 per cent of the total bought.

Potato parity again remains unchanged at \$1.80 per bushel. However average prices received by farmers are off 6 cents, down from \$1.81 to \$1.75, or 97 per cent of parity.

Parity for potatoes was \$1.84 on December 15 and this is the basis for 1949 drop price support.

Owners of good quality potatoes anywhere in the East during the last half of July and August, should be pleased with their market prospects.

The Idaho-Klamath recent freak cold weather might give us another "cock-eyed" season with too few potatoes in the west and too many in the east. Too early to tell yet, but it could happen.

Unconfirmed reports say that rushed eastward from as far away as California. Some eastern growers figure that high priced irrigation equipment will pay for itself this season if the water supply in streams and ponds holds out.

Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers' association deserves much credit for a progressive program, financed almost entirely by its own efforts. Starting as a marketing organization, it now is doing a full job of breeding, production experiments, and research and publicity.

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They hope to have more new members register next meeting. The club judged fruit which Sally Smalley had canned and the club decided to practice judging each member's canned fruit at each meeting.

The next meeting was held at Shirley Dixon's home July 12 at served to these members and visitors: Barbara Cornett, Pat Tucker, June and Dorothy Saunders, Shirley Dixon, Joanne De Merrill, Shirley King, Sally Smalley, Mrs. Mildred Laboda, Edmona King, Mrs. Cornett, and Mrs. Smalley and Lily.

News reporter Edmona King

The Bonanza Can Can club met at the home of Mrs. Esther Brown in June to plan its work for

the remainder of 1949 and here is July 21—Arleen Reimann (a) demonstration (b) Social hour Aug. 4—Brown's (a) Judging practice (b) Demonstrations Aug. 11—Hazel & Ruth Bradshaw (a) Record book completion (b) Special story contest Aug. 18—Esther Brown (a) Arranging exhibit for the fair. Oct. 31—Halloween party The club talked about exhibits for the fair, all call was taken from each person on what was ready to be frozen. Arleen Reimann led the club in song and Louise Hubble in a yell. After the meeting games and dancing were enjoyed.

Hazel Bradshaw News reporter

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