

National Potato Letter

Potato Supply Prospects Present Most Balanced US Picture In Several Years

By A. L. FITZSIMMONDS
Potato supply prospects present the most balanced picture we have had for several seasons.

Geographic distribution of this year's crop is better than last season. The early crop, which normally moves to market, accounted for a larger percentage of the production than was the case last year.

Current crop estimates indicate that the Western frezes have been adequately discounted. Midwestern areas have declined somewhat despite reportedly favorable weather.

This rather sharp decline in the Minnesota yield forecast is surprising in view of the fact that North Dakota yields still are estimated at the July 1 level. The potato areas in these two states have had about the same weather conditions and this variation is not at this time understandable.

Market Conditions
Most favorable factor in the long-range situation is the strong August market. Strong markets in August are a rarity. True, beginning of the late crop harvest in September could weaken markets sharply although there is nothing in the supply prospect to indicate the need for such a slump if there is even

fairly orderly marketing of the crop during the harvest and into-storage season.

Main factor in maintaining a satisfactory market condition during the late crop harvest is the sentiment of growers and shippers. Currently the temper of growers is on the bullish side. The effect of this feeling is likely to bring ample resistance to bargain prices at harvest time to carry the deal into the out-of-storage months upon a satisfactory basis.

Movement
Rail shipments advanced slightly during the past week to a total of 3291 cars, an increase of 72 cars over the previous seven-day period. Of this total, however, 2932 cars were for commercial outlets which is an increase of 143 cars in the commercial movement. Price support took 359 cars, 71 cars under the previous week's tonnage.

Washington was the major contributor with 928 cars, of which 39 were for government outlets. Idaho moved 645 cars of which only 13 were government cars. Oregon moved 409 cars with none to government buyers.

Only in the Long Island area and in New Jersey was government buying heavy. Price support took 100 of the week's 188 cars from Long Island and 145 of the 149 cars moved from New Jersey.

Shipping Point Prices
Shipping point quotations have ruled above support levels during the week. In the West, Washington's Yakima area reported a moderate early demand, easing to very slow by the end of the week, but with prices up slightly over the pre-

ceding week at \$1.75 to \$2.00 for Long Whites, 50 to 75 cents over the floor. Russet Burbanks at \$2.10 to \$2.30 were 85 cents to \$1.05 over the floor with some No. 2 stock moving at a nickel over the support level.

Colorado reported a good early demand, tapering to fair at the close, and barely steady to slightly weaker. Bliss Triumphs, quoted at \$1.50 to \$2.00, were 40 to 60 cents above the floor. Cobblers brought mostly \$1.45, 45 cents over the floor.

In the East, Long Island demand has been about equal to the supply, after deducting heavy price support purchases. Hot weather has retarded digging with the market holding about steady for No. 1 stock but slightly weaker on size A offerings. Size A was quoted at \$2.65 to \$2.75, 85 to 95 cents over the floor, with No. 1 lots at \$2.15, or 35 cents above support.

New Jersey demand has ruled moderate to fair with the market mostly steady at \$2.70 to \$2.75 on Size A, 90 to 95 cents over the floor, and \$2.25, or 45 cents over support on No. 1 offerings.

Miscellany
Potato price support legislation is still being worked through the uncertainties of congressional procedure. High cost of supports to date is given by some members as a reason for giving no further support to potato growers. Only two of the many possibilities appear assured: that there will be continued potato supports at approximately the present percentage of parity and that the Brannan plan for direct subsidy payments is dead for at least the 1950 crop marketing season.

Senator Brewster of Maine has introduced a bill proposing to restrict imports of Canadian potatoes to a total of two million bushels annually whenever the September estimate of domestic supply exceeds normal by as much as five million bushels.

As yet we have found no department official who has a kind word for the plan and there is sure to be vehement objection to it from both growers and handlers of potatoes. Actually the scheme proposes a Brannan plan in reverse with the subsidy applied after ship-

FUNNY BUSINESS



"Good heavens, dear—I just threw the doormat down to have you shake it out!"

Corn Crop Is Big Factor In Meat Output

Last year's big corn crop is really getting to the butcher's counter now.

The last quarter of 1949 will see more meat on the market than the same months of 1948 says the U.S. department of agriculture. The increase is likely to get under way in September as the first of this year's spring pigs come to market. There will also be more good-quality corn-fed beef this season than a year ago, according to estimates by the bureau of agricultural economics.

An increase of about 15 per cent in the spring pig crop is the principal item in the prospect for more meat in the months ahead. This combined with the ample supply of corn from the 1948 harvest was also a result of the bumper crop of 1948. Hog growers were sure of an abundance of corn to feed the larger number of pigs. Mid-summer prospects for a big corn crop this year have encouraged hog and cattle feeders.

meat inspection. "It appears likely," says the bureau, "that numbers of cattle breeding stock will be held even or possibly increased slightly in 1949." This will follow a period of shrinking numbers of breeding animals.

This year the increase in the number of hogs marketed may come earlier than usual, with some farmers sending spring pigs to market a little earlier than usual in hopes of avoiding the drop in market prices which is anticipated when the main supply starts moving.

In addition to the somewhat heavier weights and better quality of beef expected, the bureau points out that the increases in chickens and turkeys will also build up the meat supply for the final quarter of 1949.

Children will enjoy a milk shake made with mashed ripe bananas and sweetened with molasses for an afternoon treat. Use a fully ripe medium-sized banana, a cup of chilled milk, a dash of salt, and a tablespoon of molasses for each serving. Beat or shake the ingredients well together and give it an extra chilling before serving.

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Office at 306 North 7th St. Phone 5246

Dance
Saturday
Aug. 27

Malin
Music by
Pappy Gordon

ment instead of being paid to the grower.

Price support purchases of potatoes through August 15 totaled 4,936,517 bushels compared with 18,068,136 bushels purchased to this same date a year ago from the 1948 crops.

Heat frankfurters in simmering water, slice them thin, and add them to potato salad. Season the salad with thinly sliced scallions or finely grated onion, salt, freshly ground pepper, and paprika. Serve whole sweet gherkins or mixed pickles with this dish.

The word, meander, comes from the winding Meander river of western Asia Minor.

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