

Herald and News FARM NEWS



National Potato Letter

Spud Distribution Sets Market Trends; Storage Shipping About Complete

By A. L. FITZSIMMONS

Increase in the current potato production estimate over the September forecast was expected, but the increase was expected to be much smaller and more evenly distributed over the country.

Conjecture now is concerned with whether or not all factors have been fully appraised. For one thing, the crop in the Middle West still could be underestimated for Idaho, it may be pegged too high.

As for Maine, final yield figures are uncertain. Gossip says that plenty of fields are running between 500 and 600 bushels per acre against the state average estimate of 425 bushels. Accurate figures will not be available until next month or even until the December final estimate.

Other reports indicate that with 90 per cent or more of the harvest completed in Maine, there still are plenty of storages with empty space. This may be so as Maine growers do not seem to have changed their bullish ideas as to price.

These considerations will affect the situation only to a degree, however, and will not change the fact that the potato crop is too big again, and not well distributed geographically. They do mean, even with the larger production now forecast, that price support will be on a smaller scale and less costly than last year.

Movement and Markets
Rail shipments last week dropped off by about an even 500 cars. At the same time, price support buying was stepped up slightly, so net commercial movement slid off to a total of 4002 cars, which is not much for this time of the year.

This decline in commercial tonnage was well timed as the weather has been unseasonably warm and larger shipments almost as surely would have damaged the markets. Real fall and even winter weather are due, however, and a better demand for rail movement is at hand. Wind-up of home-grown trucking will also help the improvement by stimulating trading in the surplus areas.

The lighter shipments appear to indicate that movement into transit and terminal storage has ended. If so, rail shipments from now on will provide a more accurate measure of sales.

Markets are following a pattern very much like the crop distribution. In the East, where supplies are heavy and Canadian stock is offered at highly competitive prices, the demand has been slow. Markets have tended to weaken slightly to a seasonal low point.

Markets in the Middle West held about steady. In contrast, the West has shown some tendency to wobble but at levels 65 cents over the floor in Colorado; about double the floor in Washington; and slightly under double in Idaho. Idaho markets should strengthen if the next crop estimate for the area goes any lower, although lack of size may limit the upturn.

Legislation

The Congressional Conference Committee finally has developed a revised version of the Anderson bill, a compromise between rigid high supports and the immediate inauguration of flexible supports. For potatoes, this involves no change from the present flexible to 90 per cent of parity support provisions.

1948 Support Program

Price support figures by states, for the 1948 crop year, show the first 10 states in order of quantity bought are: Maine, New York, Idaho, New Jersey, Colorado, North Dakota, California, Washington, Minnesota and Virginia.

Percentages of the total crop purchased by the department of agriculture show the first 10 states as: New Jersey, Maine, North Carolina, Washington, Virginia, New York, South Dakota and Massachusetts (tied), Colorado, Rhode Island and North Dakota. For all of these 10 states, 1948-49 price support purchases took 34 per cent or more.

Cow Mastitis On Upswing; What to Do

The number of cows bothered with an old dairy problem, Mastitis or Garget, is again on the upswing. Mastitis appears to become more prevalent as the pasture season tapers off and the cows are kept more closely confined.

Mastitis is an abnormal condition of the cow's udder, which results



JUST A SMALL SEGMENT of the big crowd which filtered through the exhibit building at Merrill where spuds and garden produce held interest of Potato Festival goers last weekend. It was not only a good opportunity to view the results of the 1949 fall harvest, but a fine chance for friends to get together for a visit. Community and private booths lined the big building.

in stringy, watery, or thickened milk. It is accompanied by an average reduction milk flow of 20 per cent or more. Udders of infected animals may be swollen, inflamed, and usually have a hard, meaty feeling.

This dairy problem is contagious and 80 to 90 per cent of the cases are caused by a streptococcus bacteria. These common bacteria usually become established in a cow's udder as a result of injury due to improper milking or as the aftermath of bruising. Milking machines are a frequent source of mastitis infection, when they are allowed to run on cows longer than necessary.

Mastitis prevention is more important than the cure. This five step control program is recommended:

1. Prevent udder injuries.
2. Test for Mastitis at least four times yearly if the disease is prevalent.
3. Segregate infected animals and milk them last.
4. Use a chlorine solution to wash udders; another one in which to dip teat cups.
5. Practice clean, rapid milking.

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Time to Give Garden Fall Cleanup and Spray

Experienced gardeners know that an effective fall cleanup and dormant spraying is essential in controlling infestations next season. The importance of dormant spraying is usually not understood by many home gardeners and that is probably the reason they overlook or neglect it. Commercial growers of fruit maintain a year round schedule of spraying their trees in order to produce a marketable crop.

The first thing to do is to clean out all the dead wood, broken limbs, etc. that can afford protection to overwintering pests. Then give your selected plants and trees their fall dormant spray... to control such plant pests and diseases as peach leaf curl and others normally treated at this time. Fall dormant spraying is also recommended for controlling many overwintering insect pests.

Pest Control

Timing the fall spray applications is important in control of pests. For peach leaf curl, for instance, spray in areas where the disease is serious before the fall rains. Again, in late January or early February, apply a dormant spray just before the buds begin to swell. This late dormant treatment is particularly important and should be applied in any case if peach leaf curl is to be prevented from infecting the new foliage. Once it infects the green

growth, it establishes itself in the very tissues and is difficult to control then.

A dormant spraying should be done to get effective control of scale insects for the next growing season. Also, spray for overwintering mites and similar pests.

Rose Mildew

One of the new sprays (Orthox) on the market has been giving very good results in controlling rose mildew this season. The ingredients in it that are doing the job are calcium polysulfide and a special wetting agent. The latter ingredient has proved to be the key to success as rose mildew and other fungus pests must be thoroughly covered

Gives Chickens Fresh Air

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The neat ventilating system, thermostatically controlled, in the new Murray Cushman chicken house enables him to house 1000 birds in an area that normally would accommodate only 600.

Cushman farms northeast of Vin-ton, Iowa. The ventilating system, includes an 80-foot long aluminum duct bisected by an insulating material to provide separate channels, air the other for blowing out stale air.

A 20-inch fan at one end of the building pulls in the fresh air. The house is kept closed.

by the spray to be controlled effectively. This spray can also be used this dormant season for peach leaf curl, rose rust, scale insects and certain mites.

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