

Herald and News FARM NEWS

CONRAD L. LOHOEFER
Farm Editor



National Potato Letter

7.4% Acreage Cut Called for in 1950 National Spud Crop

By A. L. FITZSIMMONS

Recently announced 1950 potato acreage allotments call for a 7.4 per cent reduction in a commercial acreage compared with the 1949 goal. These allotments cover commercial acreage only and do not include plantings of less than three acres which are not considered as commercial acreage.

Support for the 1950 crop is continued at 60 per cent of parity, the same percentage as has applied during 1949. In dollars and cents, however, this is expected to be about \$1.60 per hundredweight which would be 20 cents under the 1949 support.

Headaches
Some growers and shippers have been running into headaches in their efforts to compare the 1950 commercial allotment with the total acreage in 1949. To be of any value, the comparison of the 1950 allotment would have to be made with the 1949 commercial acreage which the department of agriculture has not reported in its press statements.

But the department of agriculture does say that the 1950 allotment is 7.4 per cent below the 1949 commercial acreage. With the use of some of our high school arithmetic this figure, the 1949 commercial acreage as about 1,220,000 acres.

The potato industry's claim of voluntary acreage adjustment and close compliance with goals in past years gives a false picture. These claims ignore the shift from non-commercial to commercial acreage.

Production
If two acres of 100 bushel land are retired in a non-commercial area and one acre of 200 bushel land is added in a commercial area, acreage is down but production is unchanged. Also if one 100-bushel acre is retired and growers increase the yield on 10 acres by 10 bushels per acre, acreage is down but production is unchanged.

These changes have occurred, not on single acres but on thousands of acres. They are one of the main reasons, barring the effects of favorable growing seasons, why big crops have prevailed despite acreage reductions.

The department claims that the formula used in distributing acreage is the same as was used in 1949, with statistical data advanced one year. Also there were changes in some of the statistics.

Cuts
By percentages, the acreage cuts range from zero in Idaho to 15 in Upstate New York and Maine. The majority of states show reductions ranging from 6 to 12 per cent. In the early and intermediate groups, the more important states range from an increase of about one per cent in New Jersey to a reduction of 16 per cent in Maryland.

These variations are explained by two principal factors. One is that

the yield data include 1947, 1948 and 1949, all of which are high years and above all records previous to 1946.

Not all states have enjoyed yield increases to the same extent, however. In Maine, yields jumped frantically. In Idaho, the yield increase has been negligible. These differences in yield gains contributed heavily to the sharp cut in Maine, at the same time a decrease of less than one per cent is charged to Idaho.

Changes
To these yield changes, are added changes in the relationship of commercial and non-commercial acreage. But acreage allotments are based primarily on production, so the higher acreage allotments in some states do not assure that greater production will be likely next year. They indicate mainly a realignment of commercial versus non-commercial acreage.

The allotments for 1950 have included recognition of price support purchases in the three years 1946 to 1948. These included two of the biggest surplus years and emphasize the warped production pattern of 1947, when supplies were heavy in the East and short in the West. The natural result is a relatively heavy reduction in the Maine allotment and a light reduction in the Idaho allotment.

State Cuts
The acreage changes as specified for the other states, and their relationships to each other, are explained almost wholly by one or another combination of these factors. Every state expected a cut so the only states in which growers are satisfied with the allotments are likely those receiving either increases or very small reductions.

These include Long Island and 10 other late states, and 16 early and intermediate states. The other states have been given cuts of five per cent or more, and growers in some of them probably will complain of these reductions.

Miscellaneous
Dade county in Florida is reported to have lost more than one-third of its winter acreage to heavy rains. This report is as yet unconfirmed and should not be accepted as final as early trade reports often are exaggerated.

Some shippers expected that easing the strike situation would bring better demand for potatoes. This has not happened, which accentuates the absence of the usual pre-holiday market spurt. Early crop marketing agreement for California is being discussed again. The current interest may amount to something, since department of agriculture "bigwigs" have been on the coast recently.

Surplus
Maine's potato offerings to department of agriculture price support buying has been only a third



4-H CLUB WINNER—Roberta Harris, Summer Lake, is among the 15 Oregon 4-H club members attending the national 4-H club congress in Chicago. Her award was for home improvement.

Local Girl Attends 4-H Congress

Roberta Harris, Summer Lake, is among the 1600 4-H club members attending the national 4-H club congress in Chicago this week.

Miss Harris was state winner in the home improvement field of 4-H work. Miss Joan Howell, Klamath county extension agent, met the group in Chicago.

Three Oregon members were national winners at Chicago. Margaret Schaefer, Milwaukie, one of six winners in the national canning contest; Don Phillips, Grants Pass, one of 10 winners in the poultry contest; and Eugene E. Evers, Hillsboro, winner in the dairy production contest.

The group will spend one day seeing Chicago before returning this week-end via the southern route.

of the tonnage offered to this date last year despite what appears to be heavy local surplus, plus the Canadian threat.

If growers show a tendency to play the market until support reaches the top, the department of agriculture could invoke its time limitation provision and ease an otherwise intolerable late season situation.

Canadian imports still are draggy. They may get a boost when support increase more than offsets the duty increase in January.

When making pancakes that call for corn meal and have no extra flour added, be sure to stir well each time you take a spoonful of batter up for frying.

USE MORE PUMICE TILE

- Strength, Durability
- Low Maintenance Cost
- Self Insulating
- Attractiveness
- Fire Proof
- Inexpensive

Klamath Pumice Tile Co.
1640 Owens Phone 4619

1950 Price Support Announced by PMA

A 1950 price support program for Irish potatoes, continuing price support at the 60 per cent-of-parity level in effect this year and setting a lower national commercial acreage allotment of 1,137,800 acres for 1950, was announced by the production and marketing administration.

These steps, taken in recognition of decreased potato consumption and increased yields per acre, are designed to effect a better balance between potato production and requirements.

Under the provisions of the agricultural act of 1949, Irish potatoes must be supported at a level ranging from 60 to 90 per cent of the parity price. The 60-per cent level announced today for 1950 is a continuation of the percentage level used in 1949 but will result in a low cause of the new parity computation.

On the basis of data now available, the average support price for Irish potatoes in 1950 will be \$1.60 per hundredweight (about 96 cents per bushel). The support price cannot be less than this figure and may be slightly above it, depending on the actual parity level on January 1, 1950, on which the support price will be based. The average support

price for 1949 - crop potatoes was \$1.80 per hundredweight (about \$1.08 per bushel).

The national production allotment for 1950 is set at 335 million bushels. This is enough to provide an average per capita potato supply of about 110 pounds, as compared with an estimated average food use per person of 103 pounds from the 1948 crop. The 1949 crop is currently estimated at 387 million bushels.

Alsike Clover Seed Price Increases

In October, Oregon farmers were receiving about 30 cents a pound for alsike clover seed which is higher than last year, but still lower than prices of red clover seed and other grain crops.

Compared to the ten year 1938-47 average, the price received for alsike clover seed was 30 per cent higher. Yet, at the same time, wheat was 73 per cent above average, red clover seed was 57 per cent higher, and barley was 36 per cent over average. Oats, at 28 per cent more than average, were in the poorest position of the five crops.

Thus the position of alsike clover seed has improved this fall, though not as much as other grains and seeds.

Montanan Elected To Credit Group

John A. Wilson, Central Montana farmer and stockman, has been re-elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the farm credit administration of Spokane. Fred A. Knutsen, general agent, announced today.

Wilson was elected by the 30 production credit associations in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

OSC Gets National High Rating

The highest national professional rating possible has just been attained by the agricultural engineering department at Oregon State college as a result of its accreditation by the Engineering Council for Professional Development.

The OSC department is one of the first in the United States to receive this outstanding recognition following elevation of agricultural engineering to full professional stature when instructional work is administered jointly by the schools of agriculture and engineering.

The announcement was made by O. W. Gleason, dean of engineering, and J. B. Rodgers, head of agricultural engineering. This is the fifth course in engineering at OSC to receive national recognition. Courses in chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, have been accredited for several years.

Revision of courses in agricultural engineering at OSC to conform with national professional standards started several years ago. The present curriculum includes the basic fundamental sciences of engineering plus specialized agricultural engineering courses. Options are available to students in power

Insects Needed For Pollination

With many wild insects practically gone the way of the buffalo and the passenger pigeon, entomologists of the U. S. department of agriculture warn that seed production in this country is threatened with a serious lack of insect pollinators.

Scores of our fruit, vegetable, and legume crops simply won't set seed satisfactorily unless insects carry

and machinery, soil and water conservation, and farm structures. Agricultural engineering is now recognized generally as one of the professional branches of engineering, Rodgers explained, and more and more agricultural engineers are becoming registered professional engineers through state licensing laws.

the pollen from one plant to another.

Long ago fruit growers discovered that hives of honey-bees located in orchards provide dependable hired hands to increase fruit yields. Legume seed growers have turned to the same prodigious pollinators for help in boosting alfalfa and clover seed crops.

BRIDGE PLAYERS?
If the boss is a bridge player, why not chip in and present him with the works. A fine bridge table, matching chairs, cards, score pads, pencils and a set of rules.

HOTELS
OSBURN • HOLLAND
EUGENE, ORE. MEDFORD
Thoroughly Modern
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Early
and Joe Early
Proprietors

If Your Car Lays Down on the Job—

Often improper or neglectful servicing is so blame when motor cars need attention. But you can waste a lot of time and money without getting a really SCIENTIFIC SERVICE ANALYSIS. Our Service Department personnel has been carefully trained in locating the source of troubles. We have provided scientific Testing Equipment, the proper tools, and besides—We KNOW Fords BEST!

We Do NO GUESSWORK Here!

BALSIGER MOTOR CO.
Main at Esplanade Phone 3121

PRICE-SMASHING SALE!

Lady's Helbros Watches with 2 Genuine-Sparkling DIAMONDS

Here is elegance beyond anything we've offered at the low price. It's fashion's newest watch creation enhanced by the brilliant beauty of 2 genuine diamonds. It's the watch any woman would be thrilled to own and it's YOURS—to take right with you when you've opened your easy-payment account.

For a Limited Time Only!

Special at only **\$27⁷⁵** plus fed. tax

Never Before! Perhaps Never Again!



IT'S SENSATIONAL!
IT'S Dainty!
IT'S ACCURATE!

SMALL DOWN PAYMENT AS LITTLE AS 1.00 A WEEK

HARWIN'S

THE JEWELRY STORE OF OUTSTANDING VALUES

701 Main, under the largest clock in Southern Oregon

Phone 4221

LIKE ALL GOOD THINGS, WE NEVER HAVE ENOUGH! BETTER HURRY IN!

ATTENTION HUSBANDS!
Here's a brand new gift from Fyock's that will make a hit in any household...

THE NEW G-E PORTABLE DISHWASHER

NOW 169⁹⁵
Terms if desired.

GENERAL ELECTRIC PORTABLE DISHWASHER

It's NEW - It's Amazing!

You can't realize the time and work it saves until you use it in your own home.

FYOCK'S GENERAL ELECTRIC STORE
1001 Main Phone 5400