

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION WORK
Washington 25, D. C.

July 8, 1944

TO STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Hartford Tragedy Hits Extension:

The disaster which struck Hartford, Conn., so suddenly last Thursday afternoon, removed from our midst an able and tireless coworker who has devoted his life to agricultural improvement through extension work and leadership. He was E. G. Woodward, State Director of Extension, University of Connecticut. The tragedy not only took Director Woodward's life, but that of Mrs. Woodward and their grandchild; also the lives of Mrs. Paul Putnam, wife of Paul Putnam, extension farm labor supervisor in Connecticut, and their young daughter. I know that the entire Extension Service joins me in extending our sympathy to the survivors of these extension families stricken by the disaster.

As regional chairman of the Northeastern State Directors, Director Woodward had arranged plans for the regional conference of State directors which will be held at New York City next week.

Higher Loan on 1944 Wheat:

Announcement of increase in wheat loan rates on the 1944 crop from 85 to 90 percent of parity as of July 1, 1944, was wired to all directors yesterday afternoon. Enclosed is a copy of the release (USDA 2671-44).

Important Memorandum:

Under separate letter we are sending, this afternoon, a copy of General Departmental Circular No. 45, regarding prohibition against political and lobbying activities. This is a very important circular and should be called to the attention of all your supervisors immediately, and of all cooperative extension workers as soon as possible.

Turkey Set-Aside Order:

A set-aside order to get a sufficient supply of turkeys for our armed forces is nearing final approval. It is indicated that the order will apply to all States west of the Mississippi, plus Wisconsin, Delaware, Illinois, and specified groups of counties in other States where turkey production is highly concentrated. Essentially the order is similar to last season's set-aside.

As soon as details of the program are available it is suggested that, in all counties coming under the order, county agents cover the story thoroughly and follow through with a circular letter to growers.

Winter Cover-Crop Seed Production:

A program for winter cover-crop seed production for the season ahead is nearing the approval stage. It will include goals and an accompanying statement on price support, and is expected to be ready in the near future.

Post-War Planning:

We are enclosing for your information a copy of a letter to chairmen of regional committees on post-war programs, which sums up recent national post-war planning information and activity. Though we have sent you much of this material in our previous weekly letters, we feel that you will be interested in keeping up with the type of information going out to the various post-war planning groups.

Family Life Problems:

A committee of workers at the Extension Conference on Family Life Problems-- Immediate and Post-War, reports gratifying progress on the work undertaken at the conference.

Plans, methods, and materials which can be used by extension workers in their efforts to help rural families become adjusted to their many problems, were developed. A report of the conference was mailed to extension directors and conference members earlier this week.

This conference benefited greatly from the discussions on the program of the joint meeting of the American Home Economics Association, the National Conference on Family Relations, and the National Council of Parent Education, held on the three days preceding the Extension Conference.

Extension Service Review:

Commencing with the August issue, the Extension Service Review will have a smaller page size as a contribution to the paper-conservation program. There will be somewhat less reading matter. To compensate for loss of space a more compressed style of writing, together with closer scrutiny for timeliness and essential facts, will be substituted. The Review's coverage of all fields of extension work will be maintained.

Great Strides at Beltsville:

This week the professional staff of this office spent a day at Beltsville, Md., to familiarize itself with the latest research developments in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The leaders of both bureaus emphasized the importance of even more cooperation between research and extension work in the future than in the past.

The progress made in these bureaus since Pearl Harbor foreshadows some revolutionary developments in the whole field of agricultural technology. Once the military need for several new products and methods developed by

BEPQ has been supplied, at least one entirely new insecticide and new methods of insect control will be available to agriculture. The insecticide, known as DDT for short (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), is a synthetic material derived from coal tar, salt, and alcohol, and experimentally has been shown to kill seemingly every insect from mosquitoes and cockroaches to pea aphids and many other economic field insects. Besides keeping our own troops more comfortable, the material is at present used in the Army's delousing work in occupied areas. It has prevented at least one typhus outbreak in Italy.

The entomologists cautioned us that they have not yet completed the testing of DDT with respect to its limitations in agriculture. They say it needs further testing. They are busy doing so, however, and extension workers may well look forward to hearing much about it and taking a leading part in its introduction to farmers. Outstanding test plots we saw were those showing control of thrips on peanuts and onions.

A second important development is the aerosol process for spraying plants, orchards, and field crops. The process came in response to the great need to protect soldiers against malarial mosquitoes in the Pacific and tropical areas. The demonstrations we saw at Beltsville convinced our people that, once military requirements are met, the entomologists will have something new and less laborious to offer farmers for protection against the many, varied insect pests of farm and field and home.

The progress we saw in BPISAE was equally remarkable. The Bureau has done considerable work in turf experiments. Stimulated by the wartime need for tough turfs on military landing fields, the Beltsville and related projects will provide many new mixtures that can be used for roadside plantings and other soil conservation work, also better combinations of grasses for summer pastures as well as for lawns, parks, and golf courses.

Progress in plant breeding work at the Bureau is shown in the tremendous increase in hybrid-corn acreage in the past 10 years. In 1933 only an estimated 143,000, or one-tenth of 1 percent of the total United States corn acreage, consisted of hybrid varieties. By 1943, 49,964,000 acres, or 51.6 percent of the total United States corn acreage, was estimated to be of hybrid varieties. Dr. Aamodt and his staff took our people to the many hybrid-corn test plots at Beltsville, and also to the various tests being run in connection with forage crops and grasses. Stress was constantly placed upon the cooperative work with State experiment stations.

Wartime research is making tremendous strides. Wartime extension work should begin now to shape and adapt its programs and plans for the tremendous job of reconversion in agriculture under a technology that will be revolutionary in many respects.

Publications:

Twelve Points in Grading Dry Edible Beans (AWI-99). This bean-grading leaflet, prepared by Willis B. Combs, extension marketing specialist, has recently been printed. It should be helpful in connection with the bean-marketing program in the important dry-bean producing States. The leaflet

is well illustrated, brief, and is written in a clear, understandable manner. A copy is enclosed. If you need a supply for distribution to your county agent offices, kindly advise us and we will forward the quantity desired.

Minimum-Wage Budgets for Women (MP 549). This semitechnical publication is a guide for making budgets for women as bases for minimum-wage laws. A copy is enclosed, and copies are also being sent to State home demonstration leaders, extension nutritionists, and home-management specialists. A small supply is available, and if you desire a few additional copies, please let us know as soon as possible.

Fact Sheets and Background Statements:

Fact Sheet on Food--This statement outlines the facts on the ever-changing food situation. A copy is enclosed, and enough additional copies are available to supply one for each of your county offices. Please let us know by July 22 whether or not you desire copies.

Background on Eggs - For Extension Service--Explains why the WFA has discontinued buying current-receipt shell eggs, a program started several weeks ago to support farmers' prices. A copy is enclosed, one is also being sent to extension editors, poultry husbandmen, and economists.

Fact Sheet on Need To Conserve Paper Bags--Sent to directors, editors, State home demonstration agents, and home-management specialists.

Policy Releases - sent to you during the week or enclosed:

Increases in present ceiling prices of rotenone and pyrethrum products (OPA-T-2271).

Sales of cucumbers except at retail (MPR 426 - Amdt. 35).

Revised maximum price regulations on alfalfa hay (2d Rev. MPR 322).

A nation-wide survey recently made by OWI indicates that three out of four women plan to can fruit and vegetables at home this season (OWI-3353).

Production of farm machinery during May totaled \$61,147,014, the highest monthly volume reached this year (WFB-5964).

Natural storage to be used for Government foods (USDA 2654-44).

WFA further amends potato price-support program (USDA 2649-44).

Approximately 1,400,000 part-time or 700,000 full-time workers must be recruited for the canning of millions of tons of fruits and vegetables this summer (PM-4623).

Authority has been given to OPA regional or district offices to allow payment of usual fees by processors of fresh fruits, berries, and vegetables to brokers (OPA-T-2280).

REA loan allotments now more than half billion dollars (USDA 2633-44).

New Ties Across the Border - Address by Secretary Wickard, Mexico City, July 4 (USDA 2626-44).

To expedite the steady flow of farm products, the ODT announced yesterday that it is authorizing and urging producers, carriers, and handlers of farm products to establish industry transportation advisory committees (ODT-607).

Potatoes and onions (RMPR 271-Amdt. 17).

Statement on the subject of shipments of food as lend-lease (OWI-3358).

Two changes in the cotton ginning services price regulation announced today (OPA-T-2303).

Releases sent to States concerned: New machines are speeding plant harvests (USDA 2653-44).

More counties added to flood list (USDA 2663-44).

Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska counties eligible for flood aid (USDA 2645-44).

Milkweed pod harvest starts in five States (USDA 2651-44).

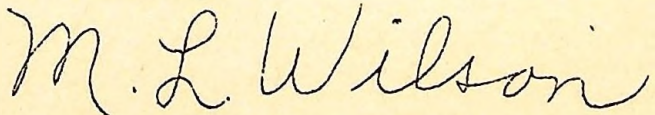
Restrictions removed on 1943 flue-cured tobacco (USDA 2652-44).

The Department's weekly War Letter for Agriculture:

Transportation--New ODT administrative order referring to commercial transportation of farm products.

Wartime Extension Work.

Sincerely,



Director of Extension Work

Enclosures

(Copy to extension editors)

P.S.: National Farm Safety Week — A copy of the list of State chairmen for this program is enclosed and sufficient copies of a banner 4 by 18 inches in size, for distribution to your county offices, will be sent you early next week.