

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

December 23, 1944

For your information:

TO STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Developments

Christmas Spirit - 1944

Before me lies an announcement from Under Secretary Grover Hill, inviting all departmental workers to a Christmas party in the patio at 11 o'clock this morning. An orchestra composed of personnel will lead departmental workers as they sing the customary Christmas carols. The announcement says:

"Let's make the most of this Yuletide moment by expressions of good faith that have always been the foundation of the Christmas spirit in America. The right to celebrate Christmas is one of the freedoms we are fighting for."

I want to pass Grover Hill's thoughts on to all of you as we approach, perhaps, the most serious Christmas of our lifetime. Though the moment is serious, we search our inner selves and find that the spirit of Christmas, since it began, has always stood for the peace and human decency which we are seeking in the present conflict. Therefore, may our prayer this Christmas season be that, in the coming year, a Christian Victory and a truly Christian peace may return to Earth and that struggling mankind may set about to build the better kind of world which Christian principles make possible.

First Supplemental Appropriation Bill, 1945:

This bill was finally passed by Congress on December 18 and sent to the President with the following items of particular interest to you:

Farm Labor.- Continues the authority through December 31, 1945, appropriates \$20,000,000 in addition to the estimated balance of \$8,000,000, provides that not less than \$7,000,000 and not more than \$11,000,000 of the \$20,000,000 shall be apportioned among the States, and makes available \$605,228 additional for administrative expenses.

Conservation and Use of Agricultural Land Resources.- Increases by \$13,000,000 the limitation on expenditures under the 1944 program of soil-building practices and soil- and water-conservation practices to provide for payments to farmers at announced rates.

Penalty Mail.- Reduced the Extension Service item for handling penalty mail during the period July 1, 1944, to June 30, 1945, to \$832,500. We will be required to keep within this appropriation consequently it is necessary to make a substantial reduction in the material mailed under the Federal penalty privilege during the next six months. It will probably be impossible to continue the permission extended to the States to print the Federal penalty indicia on folders, and the like, which are being mailed without envelopes.

Agriculture in Alaska:

Widespread public interest is being shown in the potentialities of Alaska and especially its possibilities as a home and place of business for veterans after the war. Since State and county extension workers probably will receive queries as to the agricultural opportunities in the Territory, this office has prepared a brief on the subject. A copy has been forwarded to your State publications distribution officer with a request that he order the number of copies desired. Director Oldroyd is supplying us with enough copies of his Circular No. 1 to provide one for each of you.

Agricultural Loan Guarantees under the G. I. Bill:

Final details as to operating procedures under the regulations recently sent to you have not been completed. We expect the operating procedures to be completed and copies ready for distribution within a few days. This office has prepared a senipopular version of the main provisions which should be of interest to county agents and others. We hope mimeographed copies will be ready for forwarding to you about the first of the year. A reasonable number of copies can be made available for use within the States. We believe this abstract of the regulations and procedures will be adequate as a general working reference.

Lists of Names of Outstanding Farm Men and Women in the States:

We have received lists of outstanding farm men and women from several States in response to my request of November 30. This prompt response is appreciated. I readily understand that some time is required in assembling a truly representative list of names of this type, and I know that several States have recently been involved with annual conferences and other matters preventing immediate attention. I hope those States that have not sent in their lists will find it possible to do so in the near future.

Census Bureau Poster:

Enclosed is one copy of a Census Bureau poster. This has been rather widely distributed throughout the country. The Census Bureau is planning to send one copy direct to each county agent's office as soon as the holiday ban on bulk mailing is lifted.

1945 Census of Agriculture:

No doubt, you have noted that the Congress did not approve a \$5,000,000 deficiency item for the Bureau of the Census to complete the 1945 Census of Agriculture. This will in no way interfere with the plans for taking a census of agriculture, as the Bureau of the Census has sufficient funds to carry its program well through the current fiscal year. No doubt, a second deficiency appropriation request will be made to the new Congress for funds to permit the complete tabulation of the information obtained.

Fat Salvage:

Since there is little definite information concerning the amount of used fat that may be salvaged from rural homes, 8 State extension services are being asked to conduct a spot survey to find out approximately the amount of fat that may be available. The proposed survey will be made by home demonstration agents or war food assistants in 10 counties in each State. Each agent or assistant will be asked to obtain information from about 15 farm homes. The survey is expected to be completed by January 15.

Soil Conservation:

Last Saturday Karl Knaus met with representatives of Kiwanis International, Soil Conservation Service, and Harry Ferguson, Inc., at Chicago to consider sponsorship by Kiwanis of an educational program in soil conservation. Briefly the idea is that the new motion picture on soil conservation, It Can Happen Here, produced by Harry Ferguson, Inc., be shown at Kiwanis' sponsored meetings of businessmen and that this be followed by demonstrations, tours, and related activities.

Another meeting for consultation about this program is to be held in Chicago on January 4.

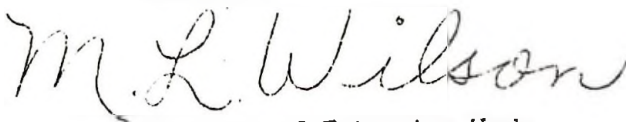
We understand that no public announcement on this matter will be made until late in March. We will keep you informed of developments.

County Agent and Home Demonstration Talks:

Enclosed are copies of my talks, given before the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association.

The Department's Weekly War Letter for Agriculture: (Enclosed)

Sincerely,



Director of Extension Work

Enclosures
(Copy to extension editors)