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State Agricultural Mobilization Committee meeting minutes

T. M. Patterson

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
State Agricultural Mobilization Committee

State Office
Post Office Box 1251
Jackson, Mississippi
December 18, 1951

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
STATE AGRICULTURAL MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

Date: December 13, 1951

Place: Room 114, Masonic Temple, Jackson, Mississippi

Members present:

C. L. Neill, Chairman, FMA, Jackson
W. M. Gerrard, Jr., Delta Council, Indianola
J. S. Smith, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Jackson
F. J. Hurst, Farm Credit Administration, Jackson
R. L. Sullivan, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Jackson
D. A. McCandless, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Gulfport
C. B. Anders, Soil Conservation Service, Jackson
J. V. Pace (representing Dr. Clay Lyle), Division of Agriculture, State College
H. C. Woods (representing E. R. De Silvia), U. S. Forest Service, Jackson
T. B. Fetherree, Farmers Home Administration, Jackson
J. A. Hardy, FMA State Committee, Columbus
G. A. Hopson, FMA State Committee, Michigan City
LeRoy F. Percy, FMA State Committee, Greenville
J. M. Sessions, FMA State Committee, Woodville
L. J. Padgett (representing W. G. Bruce), Agricultural Research Administration, Gulfport

Members absent:

J. A. Rogers, Mississippi Cottonseed Crushers Association, Jackson
S. E. Evans, Mississippi Seedsmen's Association, Greenwood
J. E. Owens, Fertilizer Advisory Committee, Jackson
Charlie McNeil, Mississippi Federated Cooperatives, Jackson
Boswell Stevens, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Jackson
H. E. Mauldin, Vocational Education, Jackson
Si Corley, State Department of Agriculture, Jackson
A. A. Leggett, State Forest Service, Jackson
W. A. Martin, Rural Electrification Administration, Florida
T. M. Patterson, Secretary, FMA, Jackson

Others present:

L. A. Olson, FMA-State College Contact Officer, State College
Dumaine Rosenkrans, Extension Editor, State College
C. W. Sullivan, FMA, Jackson
S. C. Cooper, FMA, Jackson
B. D. Pepper, FMA, Jackson
Juanita Terry, Stenographer, FMA, Jackson

The chairman on behalf of the entire committee expressed regret of the absence of Mr. T. M. Patterson due to illness, and all members present wished for him a speedy recovery.

Progress Report on USDA Office Consolidations

Mr. C. B. Anders of the Soil Conservation Service reported that 34 county USDA offices have been consolidated. Of that number there are 10 offices separated by a few feet, a hall, or a narrow street which prevents complete consolidation, but they are as nearly consolidated as can be at the present time. Consolidations are in process in seven other counties. He pointed out that in most cases cooperation on the county level has been good, but in a few instances consolidations have been made in spite of opposition to the move by local groups.

1952 Outlook

Mr. J. V. Pace of the Agricultural Extension Service presented the 1952 outlook material, stating that the major factor affecting the 1952 outlook is the defense program. Regardless of the outcome of the Korean affair, the Government will continue to step up the defense program. Indications are that in 1952 Government spending for defense will be between 60 to 65 billion dollars. Employment opportunities will increase, putting more money in the hands of consumers. Heavy employment and increased income with increased purchasing power will stimulate increase in the demand for consumer goods and services which will probably result in rising prices despite Government efforts to prevent further price rises. Shortages of many raw materials may bring more controls and allocations. Supplies of durable goods like automobiles, refrigerators, and others in which steel is required, will be reduced.

Demand for agricultural products will continue strong with probably a very slight increase in the price of agricultural products. The increase in price will not be in proportion to the increase in production costs which will result in the net income of farmers being about the same as in 1951. Purchasing power of farmers will be lower than in 1951 because of the increased cost of living. Nitrogen and potash supplies will be slightly higher than in 1951 but phosphate supply will be less. Because the demand will exceed the supply, fertilizer prices are expected to rise. Insecticides will be fairly adequate with possible shortages in some areas because of inadequate distribution. Shortages of certain raw materials will cause a tight situation in regard to farm machinery. Farmers need to give more attention to repairing the machinery they now have. The shortage of farm machinery will probably be more acute in the first half of 1952 than it was in 1951.

If estimated domestic and foreign demands for cotton are met, indications are that another big crop in 1952 is needed. Attempts should be made to take care of the domestic demands and hold the foreign markets for American cotton and since cotton is one of the most important strategic materials in a war effort, certainly every effort should be made to avoid a critical situation.

Cattle numbers are increasing and indications are they will continue to increase through 1952. There will probably be an increase of as much as 10% in number of cattle slaughtered in 1952 over 1951 which may slightly reduce the price although certainly not enough to cause producers to sell their herds.

Hog production will probably level off some in 1952 due to scarcity of grain. Amount of corn and price of corn affect hog production and the short crop this year probably will bring a decrease next year in the number of hogs.

There probably will be some increase in the demand for dairy products with a slight increase in price. Increased production costs will offset any increased price so that net income to producers will not be much better than in 1951.

There will be a continued increase in production of broilers in the nation with a big increase in Mississippi over this year. Prices will be no better and may be slightly under the average prices this year. Poultry prices in Mississippi, especially for eggs, are higher than they are in most of the nation. Feed grains are an important matter in production of all livestock and the supply is decreasing rapidly; at the end of the year the supply will be at a low level. If there is another short corn crop like the one this year, the situation will be critical.

Listed below are some of the highlights revealed by charts shown by Mr. Pace at the meeting:

Total population and rural non-farm population have been increasing since 1910 while farm population has been decreasing.

Farmers are now in good position in relation to the debts on their farms.

Dollar value of farm land in Mississippi has increased 203% above the 1935-39 level compared with the national average increase of 144%.

Farm wage rates are increasing and are one of the major factors in the cost of production.

Production costs of farm operators have increased since 1940 to such an extent that there has been little increase in the net income of farmers.

Realized net income has increased slightly but the purchasing power of that income has not increased in proportion to the net dollar increase. The actual purchasing power of farm people is not much above 1940 or the 1935-39 level and farm people are not as well off as people make out like they are.

Use of insecticides has increased some and use of fertilizer has increased tremendously.

Exports have increased since 1941 and cotton exports have increased considerably but proportionately to other crops it is less than in the 1930's. The larger portions of our farm exports have been in wheat, fats and oils, grains other than wheat, and fruits and vegetables.

U. S. supply of cotton has increased since 1950. World supply cotton was down in 1950. World production in 1951 will not be much over last year. Cotton prices since 1950 have been considerably higher than the loan rate which is one reason little cotton has gone into the loan.

Milk cow numbers have been coming down for several years but may increase some this year.

In connection with food marketing charges, labor costs have caused the biggest increase.

The farmer's share of the consumer food dollar is nearly 50% of the total charge.

The farmer's share of what the consumer pays is greater for meat than any other food item; poultry and egg, second; dairy, third; fruit and vegetables, fourth; and grain, fifth.

The following material was handed out to members of the committee who were present:

Memorandum No. 37 - Status of USDA Defense Mobilization Activities
Agriculture's Defense Activities, October 1950 - October 1951
Defense Production Record - Official Weekly Bulletin of the
Defense Production Program
Summary of July Supplementary Reports on Agricultural Manpower Situation
Memorandum No. 39 - 1952 Production Goals Program
Preliminary Handbook for the 1952 Production Goals Program

1952 Production Goals

The production goal program is a follow-up of outlook material and is an attempt on the national, state, county, and individual farm basis to bring about farm production needed in the nation. The principal feature of the 1952 production program is that another record-breaking crop is requested. Production in 1951 was 4% over the previous year and the request is being made for an increase of 4% in 1952 over the 1951 for both livestock and crops, which would be 8% over 1950 production and would be record breaking if goals are realized. The major emphasis in the 1952 production program is on feed grains. An 8% increase for the nation over 1951 for feed grains is being asked; even if this goal is met, at the end of 1952 the situation will still be critical.

Increased planting is voluntary but is based on the needs of national defense, increasing population, and expected strong domestic and foreign demand for agricultural products. The main emphasis of the program will be increased yields per acre.

The 1952 national cotton goal is 16,000,000 bales and Mississippi's normal share would be about 2,000,000 bales. The State cotton goal in acreage is 2,600,000 planted acres, about the same as the 1951 acreage. Compared with 1951 goals, the Mississippi 1952 goals on some of the major crops are as follows: Corn - 2,100,000 acres, up over 9%; soybeans - 385,000 acres, up 11%; hay - 735,000 acres, up over 3%; rice - 40,000 acres, up 33%.

The committee approved county goals for cotton, corn, and soybeans as recommended by the Goals Sub-committee, a copy of these goals is attached. County goals on other commodities will not be established.

Cotton Production Problems

Various problems affecting cotton production were presented by Mr. W. M. Garrard, Jr., representing Delta Council. He stated that the price farmers receive for cotton is the biggest problem. There was some discussion regarding the actual need for a crop of 16 million bales and what price farmers might expect if this big crop were produced. Mr. Garrard pointed out that because their cost of production is so high, farmers actually are the ones who suffer when the price of cotton drops. Inadequate labor supply is another factor affecting the production of a large crop. He stated that under the price support program parity is not really parity because the cost of labor is not included. The need for a larger incentive in price in order to protect the producer who goes all-out to produce a big crop was emphasized. Mr. Garrard presented the following suggestions regarding possible ways of assuring producers better prices: (a) higher percentage of parity, (b) shift to lower classification of cotton as base grade for the loan program to more nearly match present actual composition of cotton grades, (c) revision in the basis for calculation of parity prices to give recognition to the fact that unlike corn, wheat, and other crops, cotton in general has not been widely mechanized and is still produced with about the same man-to-land ratio as in the base period whereas the production of grain crops has been largely mechanized and one man can tend many more acres than in the base period, and (d) stockpiling cotton.

It was the feeling of the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee that if the goals program is issued to farmers in Mississippi and a big effort made to produce our part of the 16,000,000-bale crop, farmers because of the increased cost of production need an incentive through some method to give adequate parity.

The fact that five counties in Mississippi have been declared disaster areas emphasizes the need for protection of the cotton farmers who are expected to produce another big cotton crop.

Mr. T. B. Etheridge, State Director of the Farmers Home Administration, stated that in assembling information regarding another possible disaster area members of the Mobilization Committee might be asked to help and he requested that they give whatever assistance they could in the matter.

REA Meeting

Invitation from Mr. T. D. Davis was extended to all members of the committee to attend the REA annual meeting in the Victory Room at the Heidelberg Hotel on Friday, December 14, beginning at 11:45 a.m.

Recruitment at State College

Mr. L. J. Padgett presented the request of Dean Colner of State College that USDA representatives contact members of the January graduating class on the evening of January 9 regarding possible employment in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It was decided that members present could not be at State College on January 9 but January 16 was set as a possible date if it were agreeable with Dean Colner. Mr. Padgett stated that agencies can expect to hear further from Dean Colner regarding this meeting.

Making the Goals Program Effective

The chairman was authorized to appoint a committee to develop plans for making the goals program effective. This committee will be requested to submit its plans to the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee at its next meeting.

Meetings of the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee

It was decided that in the future the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee will meet with the various agencies represented on the Committee; invitations were extended by several of the agencies present. The Committee will meet the next time with the Mississippi Employment Security Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Neill, Chairman

Juanita Terry, Acting Secretary

December 12, 1951

1952 Production Goals for Cotton, Corn, and Soybeans for Mississippi
By Type of Farming Areas and By Counties
With Comparisons to 1951 Production Guides

(All figures are acres.)

Type-of-Farming Area and County	Cotton		Corn		Soybeans	
	1951 Guide	1952 Goal	1951 Guide	1952 Goal	1951 Guide	1952 Goal
DELTA						
Bolivar	217,000	203,100	36,500	30,100	26,600	40,650
Coshona	148,000	138,600	23,500	19,400	12,410	18,960
Humphreys	85,500	80,000	17,000	14,000	13,300	20,320
Issaquena	21,900	20,500	7,000	5,800	7,090	10,830
Leflore	122,000	114,200	33,500	27,600	32,800	50,120
Quitman	102,000	95,500	22,500	18,500	9,750	14,900
Sharkey	51,300	48,000	15,000	12,400	14,180	21,670
Sunflower	214,000	200,300	36,000	29,700	21,280	32,520
Tallahatchie	93,100	87,200	34,000	28,000	14,180	21,670
Tunica	91,000	85,200	18,500	15,200	12,410	18,960
Washington	154,200	144,400	29,500	24,300	15,960	24,400
Area Total	1,300,000	1,217,000	273,000	225,000	179,960	275,000
BROWN LAND						
Adams	4,000	4,100	10,500	10,300	350	570
Anite	12,000	12,100	29,500	28,800	90	150
Carroll	25,600	25,900	94,000	93,300	1,330	2,170
Clairborne	7,600	7,700	15,500	15,200	270	440
Copiah	11,900	12,000	27,000	26,400	90	150
DeSoto	54,800	55,400	32,000	31,300	3,990	6,520
Franklin	2,700	2,700	14,500	14,200	350	570
Grenada	17,100	17,300	20,000	19,600	1,330	2,170
Hinds	48,500	49,100	44,000	43,000	2,220	3,630
Holmes	60,000	60,700	45,000	44,000	7,530	12,300
Jefferson	7,900	8,000	17,000	16,600	440	720
Lincoln	10,200	10,300	26,000	25,400	90	150
Madison	56,200	56,800	50,000	48,900	710	1,160
Panola	62,900	63,600	42,000	41,100	4,080	6,660
Pike	5,600	9,700	26,500	25,900	90	150
Tate	38,800	39,200	21,500	21,000	530	860
Warren	9,000	9,100	18,000	17,600	2,220	3,630
Wilkinson	6,200	6,300	18,000	17,600	350	570
Yalobusha	18,000	18,200	27,500	26,900	440	720
Yazoo	73,000	73,900	52,000	50,900	18,620	30,410
Area Total	536,000	542,100	570,500	558,000	45,120	73,700

(over)

(All figures are acres.)

Type-of-Farming Area and County	Cotton		Corn		Soybeans	
	: 1951 : Guide	: 1952 : Goal	: 1951 : Guide	: 1952 : Goal	: 1951 : Guide	: 1952 : Goal
<u>NORTHEAST PRAIRIE</u>						
Alcorn	24,700	21,600	27,500	28,200	2,040	2,610
Chickasaw	23,900	21,200	31,000	31,800	1,770	2,260
Clay	15,200	13,700	21,000	21,600	1,330	1,700
Lee	45,200	39,500	37,500	38,500	1,680	2,150
Lowndes	26,800	23,900	33,000	33,900	440	560
Monroe	45,700	40,700	47,500	48,800	2,840	3,630
Woxabee	31,300	27,800	30,000	30,800	800	1,020
Oktibbeha	9,400	8,500	23,500	24,100	180	230
Prentiss	<u>27,800</u>	<u>24,400</u>	<u>28,500</u>	<u>29,300</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>5,440</u>
Area Total	250,000	221,300	279,500	287,000	15,330	19,600
<u>SHORTLEAF PINE</u>						
Attala	26,600	24,000	39,100	38,600	350	630
Benton	17,600	15,900	17,500	17,300	360	640
Calhoun	22,800	20,600	40,000	39,500	970	1,730
Choctaw	7,800	7,100	20,000	19,700	180	320
Clarke	6,900	6,200	24,700	24,400	180	320
Itawamba	23,100	20,900	35,000	34,600	890	1,590
Kemper	21,100	19,100	34,400	34,000	90	170
Lafayette	25,900	23,400	33,000	32,600	360	640
Lauderdale	11,200	10,100	25,700	25,400	270	480
Lenke	29,900	27,000	36,000	35,600	180	320
Marshall	48,500	43,800	36,000	35,600	360	640
Montgomery	13,300	12,000	21,100	20,800	440	790
Neshoba	27,600	25,000	41,600	41,100	180	320
Newton	16,100	14,600	35,000	34,600	90	170
Pontotoc	33,900	30,700	37,000	36,500	440	790
Scott	19,800	17,900	32,000	31,600	180	320
Tippah	28,400	25,700	28,800	28,400	270	480
Tishomingo	17,700	16,000	21,600	21,300	360	640
Union	30,800	27,900	33,400	33,000	710	1,280
Webster	14,200	12,800	22,100	21,800	440	790
Winston	<u>21,800</u>	<u>19,700</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>35,600</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>640</u>
Area Total	465,000	420,400	650,000	642,000	7,660	13,700
<u>LONGLEAF PINE</u>						
Covington	16,300	16,600	26,500	24,600	40	60
Jasper	12,900	13,200	32,000	29,800	270	400
Jeff Davis	25,000	25,500	32,000	29,800	180	260
Jones	13,400	13,700	35,000	32,600	220	320
Lamar	4,600	4,700	16,000	14,900	40	60
Lawrence	13,800	14,100	23,000	21,400	40	60
Marion	16,100	16,400	34,000	31,600	40	60
Bankin	18,000	18,400	28,500	26,500	180	260
Simpson	21,000	21,400	33,000	30,700	180	260
Smith	17,100	17,400	31,000	28,800	130	200
Walthall	<u>21,800</u>	<u>22,200</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>35,300</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>60</u>
Area Total	180,000	183,600	329,000	306,000	1,360	2,000

(All figures are acres.)

Type-of-Farming Area and County	Cotton		Corn		Soybeans	
	: 1951 : Guide	: 1952 : Goal	: 1951 : Guide	: 1952 : Goal	: 1951 : Guide	: 1952 : Goal
<u>COASTAL PLAIN</u>						
Forrest	2,400	2,000	9,000	7,600	50	90
George	1,500	1,200	13,000	10,900	130	230
Greene	1,700	1,400	9,800	8,200	40	70
Pearl River	213	200	11,000	9,300	20	30
Ferry	3,300	2,700	11,000	9,300	90	160
Stone	107	100	4,800	4,000	90	160
Wayne	<u>9,600</u>	<u>7,900</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>22,700</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>160</u>
Area Total	18,820	15,500	85,600	72,000	510	900
<u>GULF COAST</u>						
Hancock	72	40	2,800	2,300	10	20
Harrison	54	30	6,500	5,200	10	20
Jackson	<u>54</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>60</u>
Area Total	180	100	12,400	10,000	60	100
STATE TOTAL	<u>2,750,000</u>	<u>2,600,000</u>	<u>2,200,000</u>	<u>2,100,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>385,000</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
NOVEMBER 19, 1951

MEMORANDUM NO. 37

To: State Agricultural Mobilization Committees

From: Clarence J. McCormick, Under Secretary
Acting Chairman, National Agricultural Mobilization Committee

Subject: Status of USDA Defense Mobilization Activities - No. 6

Attached is the monthly summary of mobilization activities of the Department of Agriculture for the month of October.

There is enclosed an annual report of this Department's defense mobilization activities, October 1950 - October 1951, prepared in behalf of the Joint Committee on Defense Production.

A supplementary report on the agricultural manpower situation was requested by Mobilization Memorandum No. 25. A summary of the information has been prepared by states and topical headings and a copy is enclosed. This summary provides a comparison of the manpower situation in your state with conditions in other states. The reports on what is being done to overcome labor shortages in other states may also be helpful.

Enclosed also is a copy of the Defense Production Record for November 22 which features an article on the progress of the nation-wide farm scrap drive.

Enclosures

C. J. McCormick

AGRICULTURE DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

For the Month of October

Summary

Reaction of non-governmental organizations to USDA Family Farm Policy Review: over-whelmingly favorable.

The November 1 crop report indicates lower production in 1951 than previously estimated, but still among the very best. Feed grain estimate of 119 million tons, down somewhat from a month earlier, compares with 1951-52 estimated needs of 130 million tons.

The Outlook for agriculture next year is for: continued strong demand for farm products....little change in farm prices....higher cash receipts.... higher production costs....farmers' net income about the same as this year....little change in the purchasing power of farmer dollars.

Announced goals for 1952 spring vegetables call for nine percent boost above 1951 acreage.

Major production problem next year: getting enough feed grain to support expanding livestock numbers.

First-quarter 1952 controlled materials allotments of steel, copper and aluminum for farm machinery are 76, 60 and 45 percent, respectively, of needs. Pinch expected in construction allotments for the period.

Large 1951 farm output attained with smallest average farm employment in recent history. BAE estimates 200,000 farm workers will be syphoned into defense industries in 1952.

Mobilization Policy

The Secretary on October 19 submitted a statement on background and purpose of Family Farm Policy Review to Senate Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments, as requested. Following samples of public reaction to project also were presented:

From report of conference on Churches and Agricultural Policy, National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America: "We urge the Department of Agriculture to carry this re-study to a conclusion and boldly to institute such changes as will make it a full, effective ally to the family farm."

The Rev. William J. Gibbons, S.K., of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference: "The family farm policy review of the USDA appeals to me as a good summary and guide for further discussion."

Douglas Stanfield, Director of Legislation of Ohio Farm Bureau, in Ohio Farm Bureau News: "I think the programs need to be re-studied and reviewed and, if we can get some real constructive criticism on these programs, the farmer and the consumer will both benefit."

"Agricultural Labor Bulletin" issued by the National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor: "In spite of some misunderstandings in a few states, the reaction to the Family Farm Policy Review and its purposes have been very favorable."

From a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of National Farmers Union: "The National Farmers Union wholeheartedly approves the democratic processes and procedures established by the Department of Agriculture for the conduct of this Family Farm Policy Review..."

Production

1951 Production Prospects: All-crop production prospects declined slightly during September and again in October. November 1 report showed sizeable reductions in corn and cotton from earlier estimates.

The 1951 corn crop now is estimated at 3,088 million bushels, a decline of 17 million bushels from the September outlook. Cotton crop is forecast at 15,771,000 bales, down 1,160,000 bales, or 7 percent, from October 1 forecast.

Latest feed grain estimates of 119 million tons represents a million ton drop from October 1 crop report and compares with 1951-52 estimated needs 130 million tons.

Total food grain output is estimated at 33 million tons, less than in any of last 7 years.

1952 Outlook Conference

Secretary Brannan told 29th Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference that while "Production is all important...the task facing farmers for the coming year is not simply one of uncritically increasing production of everything. We must...strike a balance between prospective needs and attainable production." As in 1951, the Secretary said, one of major farm problems next year is to build and maintain an adequate feed base for livestock production. The Secretary also recognized continued high-level, balanced production will depend upon adequate supplies of necessary aids to agriculture, such as increased quantities of fertilizer, insecticides, and farm machinery.

O. V. Wells, Chief of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, summarized economic outlook for agriculture in 1952 as follows:

"The demand for farm products, as well as for most other goods and services, is expected to continue strong in 1952, as employment and income

rise. However, record agricultural production this year and prospects for a continued high output next year if the weather permits, together with existing price control authority, indicate that average prices received by farmers in 1952 may not differ much from 1951. Cash receipts from farm marketings may show some increase next year, (due to) somewhat heavier marketings. But production costs will also rise above the record level in 1951. The realized net income of farm operators in 1952 may be about the same as this year. With higher living costs in prospect, the purchasing power of farmers' net income in 1952 is not likely to show any improvement over 1951 and will remain substantially less than in 1947 and 1948. Non-agricultural income, however, is currently at a record high and is expected to continue to rise in 1952.*

Production Goals, 1952: Goals for spring vegetables for early fresh market were announced October 25, in order to advise farmers of needs prior to planting dates. These goals cover crops for harvest in April, May and June. Total goal is nine percent higher than 1951 acreage with most of increase accounted for by early spring cabbage and onions.

Preliminary 1952 acreage and production goals for major spring crops were prepared and sent for recommendation to State Mobilization Committees. These preliminary goals call for increased acreage over 1950 for corn, grain sorghums, dry edible beans, sweet potatoes, and flaxseed; reductions for soybeans, cotton, oats, rice and tame hay.

1952 Production Problem: Major production problem in 1952 appears to be one of obtaining enough feed grain production to support expected livestock numbers in 1953. It will be difficult to increase acreages very much because of competition of other essential crops. As a result, it will be necessary to place major emphasis on increasing yields on available acres. This in turn requires increased supplies of fertilizer and other production materials and facilities.

Special Production Programs: Because Congress did not act on request for supplemental appropriation on guayule before adjournment, future of the program is in doubt. Production program has been placed on a stand-by basis with a minimum expenditure of funds for cultural practices. CPA has been requested to give this Department instructions as to future operation.

Bean-hulling centers in Department's castor bean production program are reported operating efficiently following several equipment changes. Plans are progressing for 1952-crop production program.

Sheep Scabies Control: USDA is working with Western range states to stop spread of sheep scabies, highly contagious external parasitic skin disease that had once been eradicated from these ranges. ARA says build-up of numbers of sheep on Western ranges was accomplished in part by unusual movements of

sheep from South and Midwest. All-out efforts also are directed at wiping out principal reservoirs of infection in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Materials and Facilities

CMP, First Quarter 1952: After extensive hearings held with the Department of Agriculture and other claimant agencies, DPA issued its allotments of controlled materials for the first quarter of 1952. These allotments may possibly be increased slightly from DPA reserve but no substantial increases are expected.

Farm Machinery: First-quarter 1952 allotment of controlled materials for agricultural machinery and implements would permit production at about 20 percent below the 1949 production rate, whereas a Nation-wide survey revealed that farmers requirements are 115 percent of 1949 for new machinery and equipment and 120 percent of that level for repair parts. Steel, copper and aluminum allotments are 76, 60 and 45 percent, respectively, of quantities needed to meet Agriculture's requirements for first quarter. Also, unbalance existing in allotments of steel, copper, and aluminum may drastically curtail production of items requiring larger quantities of copper and aluminum, such as sprayers, dusters, cotton pickers, water systems, and irrigation equipment.

Supply of crawler tractors available for agricultural purposes is entirely inadequate due to cutback in materials allocations in third and fourth quarters of 1951, plus military and direct defense requirements.

Fertilizers: A proposed DPA sulfur and sulfuric acid program would restrict certain industrial uses and cut into the manufacture of super-phosphate. Although this would have an adverse effect on our fertilizer program, it is hoped other prospective NPA orders will effect equitable distribution of sulfur supplies available to agriculture.

The Department made available to NPA, 6,633 tons of carbon steel and 70,648 pounds of copper products from agriculture's fourth-quarter 1951 construction allotment to permit construction of seven ammonia plants and one ammonium chloride plant.

Nitrogen expansion program is lagging. Immediate outlook for improvement in nitrogen supplies for agriculture is unfavorable, due to a considerable extent to resistance encountered thus far in efforts to obtain loans for new plants designed primarily to produce desired types of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Pesticides: Users of steel drums and metal containers for pesticides have been asked by NPA to re-use them as conservation measure. But warning is in order: Insecticides and fungicides should never be put in drums previously used for hormone weed killers. Re-use of plastic or lacquer lined drums for emulsifiable concentrates also is inadvisable.

Outlook for lead arsenate is still unfavorable with little prospect of improvement in the next 60 to 90 days.

Other Equipment and Supplies: Present acute shortage of zinc for galvanizing steel is limiting factor in production of many galvanized steel products important to food and fiber output.

Production of aluminum roofing will continue short of maintenance and repair requirements alone until late 1952 when aluminum production is expected to expand.

Enough cotton bale ties were available to process 1951 cotton crop and linters. Indications are that all requirements for bale ties and coiled wire for automatic balers also were met. NPA is expected to insure enough ties to bale 1952 crop.

Containers: First-quarter 1952 allotments for containers are about equal to the fourth-quarter 1951 allotment, with exception of a small increase in steel for metal cans.

Reports show some steel drum manufacturers actually turned back unused portions of their CMP allotments and are operating on a curtailed schedule. USDA suggests that pesticide industry take advantage of this off season production of drums and fill them with their product. Then the drums will not be charged against inventory restrictions. This would forestall glut of orders that usually occurs at start of growing season.

Under a proposed NPA allotment schedule, allotments for food and fiber processing equipment for first-quarter 1952 are less than 50 percent of stated requirements, and 76 percent of fourth-quarter 1951 allotment. The Department is backing efforts to increase materials for such equipment.

Transportation: Trucks and trailers continue adequate and reports indicate farmers are able to get prompt delivery on all sizes and models. A few scattered shortages of truck parts have been reported.

The tractor and implement tire supply situation continues unsatisfactory. Unless inventories (now less than 400,000) are built up to 1,000,000 units by early 1952, supply for replacement may become acutely short.

Off-Farm Transportation: USDA has supplied Defense Transport Administration and National Shipping Authority with preliminary estimates of transportation requirements to move farm commodities and forestry products during the period October 1, 1951 through April 1, 1952. Ocean shipping space and facilities are adequate. Shortage of railroad boxcars has increased somewhat during the month. Except for some difficulty in central western and south western-districts, boxcar supply remains generally adequate.

Construction: Agriculture's first-quarter 1952 allotment for construction provides 46,000 tons of carbon steel, compared with 125,000 tons in fourth quarter 1951. USDA may have to request additional allotments later.

During the month, NPA revised its classification of grain elevators and feed mills from commercial to industrial facilities, an action consistently advocated by USDA. These facilities now are considered industrial plants permitting builders to self-certify up to 25 tons of steel quarterly. Formerly, they were subject to two-ton limitation specified for commercial buildings.

First-quarter 1952 construction allotment of steel includes an allotment of 3,000 tons of carbon steel for on-farm transmission of water. NPA, however, still is regarded appropriate agency for receiving and making allotments for water-well casings.

It is expected that a substantial proportion of controlled and other materials required for on-farm construction projects, including REA farmstead wiring and plumbing projects, will be provided for by self-certification provisions of Direction 1 to CMP Regulation 6 and for procurement without ratings from distribution stocks.

Tax Amortization: During the month, PMA received 14 new applications for tax amortization assistance, making a total of 473 since program began. Requests mainly were for cotton facilities, plants for processing fats and oils, fruits and vegetables and dairy products. PMA also was asked to submit recommendations to DTA on nine new tax amortization applications involving public storage facilities, making a total of 196 such cases from beginning of the program. Most of these applications were for grain storage.

Forest Products: During the month, Forest Service was referred 23 new applications by NPA for field investigation and report on adequacy of forest resources to support planned expansions by forest industry. Majority of new applications were for expansion of pulp and paper production. Total number referred to FS to date is 304, of which 275 have been reported back to NPA.

Manpower

Big Production with Less Labor: With peak harvest season now passed, PMA says very large 1951 crop production is being attained with smallest average farm employment in recent history. Although labor situation continues tight in many areas, the fact that farmers generally are working longer hours, and expanding use of labor saving farm machinery and equipment contributed to record agricultural production of 1951.

1952 Outlook: BAE says that during past 12 months an increase of about 3.1 million in non-agricultural employment and armed forces was achieved from various sources, including drawing of 400,000 workers from agricultural labor force.

Yet increased mechanization and fuller use of existing labor permitted harvest operations to progress satisfactorily. Number of imported and off-shore workers was not greatly increased.

A step-up of 3.5 million workers in defense employment is anticipated for the next 12 months. About 2 million of these will be shifted from non-defense activities in industry. Judging from ratios of last 12 months, 200,000 of these workers will be drawn from agriculture, but increasingly efficient utilization of remaining labor force should prevent any lowering of farm production.

Other Activities

Forest Fire Protection: Most critical forest fire season in more than 30 years is now largely over. Total loss data are not yet compiled. Logging and lumber production no longer are seriously handicapped by fires.

Mobilization History: EAE is preparing to write a history of USDA mobilization activities for current emergency period.

Survey of Twine and Wire Baling: Farm Crop Reporters have been asked by BAE to make a survey of percentage of hay and straw baled with wire and twine balers, and related information. Requested by NPA and PMA, crop reporters are scheduled to submit results of survey during February. Preliminary estimates are to be issued by March 1952.

Research: Shortages of blood plasma, according to ARA, emphasize importance of commercial production of dextran, a blood plasma replacement product, that is getting underway to supply military needs. Discoveries by USDA scientists are being used in this work.

USDA has developed several dessert mixes, requiring only addition of cold water, for military rations. No-cooking feature is important in military rations of this type.

Army Quartermaster is conducting tests of flame-resistant cotton fiber specially prepared by USDA. Made originally for military use in fire-hazard areas, it shows promise also as insulating material for Arctic garments.