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Farmers Now Have High WPB Priorities

Southland farmers today were virtually classed as war plants in a War Production Board move raising their priority ratings on all supplies needed to run their farms.

Galvanized metal baskets, air compressors, and arc welders are among new items which also can be bought by the farmers under the new order, which entitles them to a priority rating of AA-2, instead of AA-2X or AA-3.

Stanley Mark, WPB district priorities chief, said the move would open new channels for flow of equipment to farmers, since the new preference ratings can be used by wholesalers to replace items sold by them to farmers. Formerly, there was some difficulty in keeping up in inventories of merchants in farm areas.

Milk Production At All-Time High In California

Commercial milk production made a new all-time California record for March, according to John Marshall, milk marketing economist for the California Department of Agriculture.

Receipts of milk and cream contained approximately 17,705,000 pounds of milk fat as compared with 16,421,000 in March of 1944, an increase of 7.82 per cent over March of 1944. This milk fat was contained in about 453 million pounds of milk, which had an average milk-fat content of 3.81 per cent.

Market milk sales for the State averaged in excess of 831,000 gallons a day in March, 1945, as compared with 776,000 gallons a year ago. This is an all-time high for milk sales in California.

Increases were shown in all of the major markets in the State with the exception of Fresno and San Luis Obispo, where reductions in military personnel resulted in a decline in total market milk sales.

Daily market milk sales in March reached all-time highs in the Alameda-Contra Costa, Los Angeles, San Bernardino-Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, and Ventura areas.

Victory Gardens

Canned vegetables and fruits will be particularly short during the winter of 1945-46. Everything that a home gardener can do to assure the family of adequate food will not only prevent a poor diet and possibly actual food shortage, but will help in the national and world picture. Time to get started for many things is right now!

How are you going to preserve vegetables, particularly sweet corn, string beans, and lima beans? Don't try ordinary open kettle or oven canning. There is too much danger of botulism poisoning, and of jar explosion in the oven. If you haven't a pressure cooker to do it right, look up one of your community canneries at eleven high schools in the county or arrange for dehydration or freezing.

Canning sugar is short—some people would say almost nonexistent—and the fruit season is at hand. It is entirely possible to "put up" your fruit with no sugar, adding the sugar when the jar is opened during the winter. However, this process does not make a first-class product because it is impossible at that time to get the sugar into the fruit itself.

Dehydration. How about dehydration? All the fruit flavor is kept in the fruit. The process of dehydration is more simple than canning. No hot kitchen. No hot stove. More of the vitamins are retained and less sugar is required to cook the fruit than you would normally include when canning. Properly dried fruit will keep almost indefinitely, if stored in tight containers where insects are excluded. Dehydration of such fruits as apricots, plums, peaches, prunes, and pears—yes, and apples, too—is the way out this year. Use your canning sugar for berries and cherries—they're unsatisfactory when dried.

Plans for making home food dehydrators can be obtained at the Agricultural Extension Service office, 808 N. Spring st., Los Angeles 12, Mutual 3383, together with literature on preparation of fruits as well as vegetables for dehydration.

Tomatoes. If your early tomato plants have gone bad with spotted wilt, brown spots and dwarfing of the leaves at the tips and black streaks in the tender stems, and the whole plant growing smaller rather than larger! or if they go bad before the end of June, take them out and replant immediately. Tomatoes set during June and even the first few weeks of July should give you a good late crop.

Take care of your tomato plants with a determination to protect them from insects. There are several insects involved. Enemy No. 1 is thrips—tiny greenish or greenish straw colored, a sixteenth of an inch long and the diameter of a hair. They live on the back sides of leaves. They carry the virus of spotted wilt from weeds or from infected tomato plants. Infected plants never recover. Enemy No. 2 is tomato mite. It is microscopic (can't see 'em) and attacks the lower leaves of plants first. No injury will be apparent until hot weather when the lower leaves will be burned and turn brown. Damage will gradually spread throughout the plant. Plants will recover if treatment is prompt. Enemy No. 3—two kinds of worms; a pinworm which goes into the fruit and the big green horn worm which eats the leaves.

Now what to do about them. Nicotine sulphate dust or spray applied at least every two weeks throughout the entire life of the tomato plant from the time it is set until frost is the best protection against thrips. Also, keep weeds out and control thrips on other plants around the tomatoes. Sulphur dust will control the

tomato mite. Begin application when the plants are about six weeks old and keep it up every two weeks from that time on.

The worms must be fed a stomach poison—calcium arsenate or cryolite. These are available as dusts or sprays. Either can be purchased in dust form mixed with sulphur. The application of stomach poison to the plant should begin by the second or third week and should be continued throughout the life of the plant.

A combination of cryolite or calcium arsenate with sulphur makes possible one application for two purposes; namely, control of tomato mite and worms. Sulphur dusting, either alone or in combination with the poison, should not be done at the same time nicotine sulphate is applied either as a spray or a dust. A good program is nicotine sulphate every two weeks and the other materials the alternate week.

Irrigation. Tomatoes are a deep-rooted crop. They will draw water out of the ground from four to six feet deep. They do not need frequent irrigation as do sweet corn or cabbage or onions, which do not root more than about two feet deep. When irrigating tomatoes let the water soak long enough in the furrow to penetrate at least four to five feet deep. In that time it will have spread sideways a foot and a half or two feet from the base of the plant—in fact, this is better because it isn't wise to have the ground wet next to the base of the plant.

Roadside Stands Subject to New Health Survey

Roadside stands and picnic grounds are receiving special attention by the Los Angeles County health department sanitation inspectors with the opening of summer vacation spots, according to Loring Messier, chief of the division of mountain and rural sanitation.

In checking the sanitation of common drinking glasses, sanitary inspectors make a rim test of the glasses to find the bacterial count. Many seasonal cold drink establishments do not have adequate sterilization facilities, health authorities claim. Customers are asked to assist in the campaign by watching for lip-stick on glasses, cracked or discolored china, and general insanitation.

"There are more than 2,000,000 person-visits to the mountain districts of Los Angeles County each year," Messier said, "and the U. S. Forestry Service has cooperated with this department by installing numerous safe drinking fountains which are regularly tested by our laboratory."

Messier also warned against drinking directly from streams, as the water is generally not fit for human consumption, due to the carelessness of the vacationing public in polluting mountain streams.

OPPOSE NO. 2182
Assembly Bill No. 2182, which proposes continuance of the 72-hour work week for firemen of the County Fire Protection Districts until six months after the war, and a graduated reduction in working hours until two years after the end of the war, at which time working hours would be stabilized at forty-eight hours per week, was opposed by the Board of Supervisors.



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