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

July 18, 1944

For your information

TO STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Special Advices and Weather Forecasts for Farmers

We have written you from time to time regarding the willingness and desire of the Weather Bureau to cooperate with the Extension Service in providing helpful information and guidance to farmers in planning their farming operations in light of probable weather conditions. Practical cooperative arrangements have been developed in many of the States which have resulted in a very valuable service to farmers. The Weather Bureau is anxious to improve upon these services and solicits the cooperation of the State extension services in so doing.

On June 27 Dr. F. W. Reichelderfer, Chief of the Weather Bureau, issued a circular letter (copy enclosed) to all the first-order stations of that Bureau outlining a suggested plan for service at the State level and related matters. Altho this letter is directed to field representatives of the Weather Bureau and is administrative in nature, we feel that a copy would be helpful to you in further appraising the possibilities in this field.

We are aware that excellent cooperative programs are being carried in many of the States by the Weather Bureau and the Extension Service. However, as a matter of information, a copy of Dr. Reichelderfer's letter is being forwarded to all States. An example of a "specialized forecast and advice for agriculture" issued in one State is quoted below as an indication of one type of broadcast felt to be very valuable to farmers:

"Sunny skies with an expected maximum temperature today of 95° climbing to an approximate 98° Wednesday and is expected to rise to 104° Thursday. Along with this rise in temperature there is expected to be low humidity ranging from 50 in the early morning to as low as 20 at night. Light variable winds are expected to accompany these conditions. Livestock men especially hog and poultry raisers should supply sufficient drinking water and plenty of shade with proper ventilation in buildings. Alfalfa hay producers may have difficulty in producing quality hay under these weather conditions due to high temperature and low humidity. Every precaution should be taken to avoid loss of leaves while raking and baling hay. Deciduous fruit growers can expect exceeding rapid ripening of fruit under these conditions. As temperature rises and humidity falls the fire hazard around grain fields and livestock ranges increases."

(over)

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We feel that the extension services can give valuable assistance to farmers through cooperating with the Weather Bureau to the fullest extent practicable. You will note that Bureau's instructions to their field offices provide for a wide range in the type of service to be rendered and methods of cooperation between the two agencies.

Very truly yours,

M. L. Wilson

Director of Extension Work

(Copy to extension editors)