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War Food Administration Extension Work Washington

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

December 30, 1944

For your information

TO STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Developments.

Food Situation:

A good deal of comment about the food situation has been made regarding the rationing announcement of last Sunday. Your attention is called to the November-December 1944 issue of the National Food Situation just released, copy enclosed, especially this statement in the summary: "Despite these reductions, civilians will not be faced with any over-all food shortage." I am also enclosing a copy of Highlights of Recent Food Rationing Actions, and a copy of the OPA release of last Sunday. No doubt you are familiar with discussions relative to the placing of price ceilings on live cattle. As soon as we receive information of a definite decision on this matter we will let you know.

Director Schaub To Make Cotton Council Survey:

A plan has been worked out whereby the National Cotton Council is going to finance a survey study of extension work in the Southern States. The study will be made under the able leadership of I. O. Schaub, Director of Extension Work in North Carolina. Dean Schaub is to serve in an independent capacity in this survey. I know that all extension services in the States concerned will be glad to cooperate with Dean Schaub in making this a thorough investigation of all the facts relating to cotton extension programs. We are glad to see an extension man of Dean Schaub's caliber chosen for such a responsible assignment.

Annual Extension Week Plans:

The majority of Federal extension workers will be in Washington, D. C., next week. Enclosed are copies of the programs scheduled here. The first will be the annual staff conference on Tuesday, January 2. On Wednesday, January 3, we will spend the day with the Bureau of Dairy Industry and Bureau of Animal Industry, getting further acquainted with their most recent scientific work. During the rest of the week we will have the Extension Institute on Post-war Plans and Policies and Educational Programs, announced in my letter of December 16. I hope that a goodly number of State directors will find it possible to attend the Institute, or to be represented by someone on their staff. All of you will receive copies of the proceedings.

Poultry Order Being Amended:

The War Food Order requiring that sales of poultry be made to approved Government agencies, which has been in force for several weeks in Delaware and selected counties of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, has been amended to include counties in the heavy broiler production areas of Georgia and northwest Arkansas. Several counties of Oklahoma and Missouri are also covered by the order. You may recall that the purpose of this order is to obtain poultry meats for direct military uses. Producers in these designated areas are required to sell their poultry to authorized ^{buyers and/or} processors, who in turn are expected to sell the finished product to authorized Government agencies. The amendment becomes effective in the Georgia area on January 8, and on January 15 in northwest Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Meetings of producers have been arranged by the regional representative of WFA's Dairy and Poultry Branch, to be held in Gainesville, Ga., January 5, and in Fayetteville, Ark., January 11.

Subject-Matter Conferences:

The administrative staff here is now holding conferences with the various subject-matter bureaus in the Department, giving each of our specialists who are the liaison people with the various scientific bureaus an opportunity to report on their activities. This report will include background statement relative to the agreements drawn up between the Extension Service and the respective bureau, high lights of the 1944 work, and a preview of 1945 plans. So far the conferences have been attended by top administrative people from the bureaus, and some constructive discussions have taken place, including discussions on lines of work that should be emphasized in the coming year. We feel that, through conferences of this kind, even better understanding can be created between the scientific and educational branches of agriculture. The conferences should also result in developing extension programs concerned with the newest scientific developments. We expect to get some material out on the proceedings of these conferences after they have been completed. I believe all of you will be interested in the summary reports.

Desirable Personnel Wanted for Rural Education in Latin America:

Increasingly, we see signs of good results coming from the Second Inter-American Conference on Agriculture held at Mexico City, Mexico, in July 1942. You will recall, the conference, at that time went on record to stress the importance of education along with the increased use of science in Latin American agriculture.

We now have an inquiry from the Division of Cultural Relations in the State Department, asking that a few persons be recommended for work in the field of rural education in some of the Latin American countries. The request is for highly trained and well-experienced people in rural education. The persons selected would be called upon to study existing situations and rural educational needs in the respective countries to which assignment would be made. Applicants for these positions are likely to include people with experience in State or in land-grant college

departments of education and people on the staffs of teacher-training institutions. Requirements will include a thorough practical farm background; excellent training in psychology, cultural anthropology, education, etc.; experience and a good record in school administration including, preferably, extension work.

The Division of Cultural Relations is most appreciative of the importance of extension work in this country and of its greater expansion to Latin America. It has asked me to consult State directors of extension to ascertain whether they can recommend personnel, meeting the above-stated qualifications. If anyone could be found - with an agricultural college degree - who has developed an outstanding record in the field of rural education, he might be interested, as some of the salaries offered are most attractive. My understanding is that the basic salaries for some of the appointments would be \$5,600 with the customary allowances available for foreign service. I also understand that a 3-year contract would be offered. Please advise me of any persons whom you would be willing to recommend for such positions, and who would be interested.

Crop Insurance.

The President has approved H.R. 4911, to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act, which authorizes insurance starting in 1945 on wheat, cotton, and flax. It authorizes an appropriation to WFA of 30 million dollars for making payments to flax producers to encourage production for 1945 crop year.

It also authorizes trial insurance on other crops, provided sufficient actuarial information is available, limited for each crop to a 5-year period and to not more than 20 representative counties, and limited to corn and tobacco in 1945 and to not more than three additional crops to be initiated each succeeding year. It provides that premiums be at rate to cover claims for losses and for building up of reasonable reserve against unforeseen losses.

A copy of this law will be sent to you as soon as it is available.

Nebraska Extension Circular.

Enclosed is a copy of Nebraska Extension Circular One Hundred Ideas That Save Time and Work, which graphically portrays how farmers' ingenuity in making or adapting equipment and machinery helped them do "what the skeptics said 'couldn't be done' on the food production job."

Index of Department Publications.

Arrangements have been made to send you one copy of the Index of Department Publications, covering the period 1936-40. In all probability this will be the last such index available until the war is ended. Since this distribution will exhaust the entire supply we shall be unable to obtain additional copies of this Index.

Policy Releases.

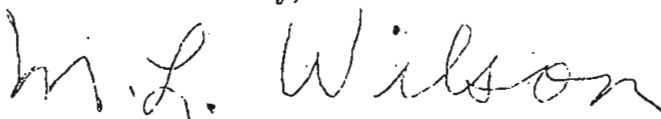
Among releases sent during the week, or enclosed:

Large Imports of Argentine Alfalfa Seed Causing Concern (USDA 3835-44)
This release was sent to agronomists with a covering letter, and to extension editors with the weekly letter.

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

Current developments include: Poultry price rules revised - second revision of OPA poultry regulation, effective January 1, 1945; Few trucks for civilians - conservation and preventive maintenance more necessary than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. L. Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally on the page, below the word "Sincerely,".

Director of Extension Work

Enclosures

(Copy to extension editors)