

# Our Part in Feeding the Nation

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture)

## PLANT DISEASES AT MARKETS

### MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT LOSS

Inspectors Detect Diseased Vegetables and Fruit Arriving at Destination.

### COUNTY AGENT IS NOTIFIED

Selling Value of Inferior Product is Decreased When Arriving on Market—Steps Taken to Combat Various Disorders.

To check the loss from plant diseases in shipments—which also means a loss of time, labor, material, and transportation—the food products inspectors of the bureau markets are stationed in most of the large receiving centers now keep close watch for plant diseases on fruits and vegetables arriving on the market.

#### Bad Product Not Wanted.

Diseased fruits and vegetables are not wanted in the markets any more than on the farm, and when early shipments arrive showing evidence of plant diseases their selling value is decreased even if none of the produce must be thrown away. Sometimes, in the case of very perishable crops, like berries or lettuce, there are serious losses of food because the shipments of diseased plant diseases when loaded, while no shipper would knowingly load badly infected fruits or vegetables, such produce when loaded at markets in poor condition because the disease was present when loaded and developed in transit. This is especially true where shipments are made without providing proper ventilation or refrigeration.

#### Steps to Combat Disease.

Whenever shipments of produce suffering from plant diseases arrive, inspectors immediately notify the shipper, and through the pathologists of the department of agriculture the county agent in the locality where the diseased shipment originated is instructed to take steps to combat the disease.

Although the inspection service has been in operation only a few months as a part of the general inspection work of the department of agriculture, it has already shown its value to shippers the condition of early shipments as they arrive at markets, already it has resulted in the detection of diseases in many shipments, and has aided growers and plant pathologists of the department in controlling the outbreak of diseases and preventing their spreading to other sections of the country.

#### Shortage of Harvest Labor.

At all the agricultural markets, less confronting the farmers of the country at this time, probably the most serious is that of getting enough labor to harvest the wheat crop. In normal times there is a shifting population of from 30,000 to 50,000 men who followed the harvest season from the South to the North of the wheat belt. Floating labor is no longer available to such great extent, and the gathering of harvest labor always has been a now a more serious one. Mr. E. H. Frizell, the department of agriculture farm plot specialist for Kansas, recently wrote: "After full and complete investigation, I am free to say that the farmers of Kansas will not be able to raise the wheat crop unless they can get labor from some other surrounding states." What is true of Kansas is probably true of most of the wheat states. The department of agriculture and the department of labor, with fairly adequate funds available, are using their best efforts to solve the problem, which they undoubtedly will do. But the city people of the states involved, by proper organization and co-operation, can help a great deal. If they can get a few more wheat bread and less war bread

#### GEN ERAL

The drug is one of the best corn cutters. Simplicity in farm machinery is important. Complicated parts cause trouble and are difficult to repair. A machine or implement gets out of order.

#### When Your Eyes Need Try Marine Eye Remedy

It sometimes happens that a foolish man notices his eyes are in need of attention for a good reason.

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