

USDA Food Donations Up 40 Pct.; Sets Record for Fiscal Year

Food donations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture reached a record high in the fiscal year ended June 30, under an active Department effort to dispose of surpluses. A total of 2,818,400,000 pounds of food was donated during the year to recipients here and abroad through the direct distribution program conducted by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Sharp increases were made in distribution to recipients both in this country and abroad of foods. USDA has acquired in operation of the price-support and surplus-removal programs.

Distribution domestically was increased to 1,043,000,000 pounds, up 32 per cent over the total for fiscal year 1956. Foreign distribution rose to 1,775,400,000 pounds, an increase of 45 per cent over the same period a year ago.

In this country, the biggest increases were made in distribution of surplus commodities for use in school lunch programs. A total of 426,300,000 pounds of food was distributed for this purpose during the year, an increase of 61 per cent over the previous year.

Distribution to institutions totaled 148,600,000 pounds, a gain of 14 per cent. Distribution to needy persons in family units accounted for the largest quantity of food distributed domestically, with the total of 468,100,000 pounds up 18 per cent over a year ago.

In addition to these uses, large quantities of surplus foods were used during the fiscal year in the relief of victims of natural disasters. Top priority on foods available for distribution is given to such use.

Currently, the state distribution agency in Louisiana is using large quantities of foods from regular stocks — donated for distribution to school lunches, institutions, and needy persons — to help supply the mass feeding centers at Lake Charles and Cameron for victims of the hurricane in that area. Shipments already have included 18,000 pounds of cheese, 20,000 pounds of flour, 10,000 pounds of rice, 20,000 pounds of cornmeal, 12,000 pounds of lard and sizable quantities of dry milk and dry beans.

Similarly, nearly 24 million pounds of food was distributed for immediate relief of victims of

Farm Calendar

July 27

Swine Producers Field Day — 10 a.m. at Stauffer Homestead Farm, Rt. East Earl.

July 30

Potato Growers Tour — Lancaster County growers will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Columbia Bridge. They will join York County Growers for the tour.

July 31

Poultry Tour — 7:45 a.m. at Mellinger's Church, Route 30. Tour to go to Delaware.

Aug. 1

SPABC Cattle Show — all day at SPABC grounds, Lancaster. International Harvester Field Day — 10 a.m. at John Cope farm. Little Britain 4-H Clubs' picnic.

Aug. 2

4-H Dairy Club Roundup — SPABC, Route 230, Lancaster.

Aug. 6

Vegetable Growers' Assn. Tour — noon, at Joseph Klock farm, Rt. Easton, on Route 115.

Aug. 8

Ayrshire Field Day — all day Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

last August's hurricane in Puerto Rico. Subsequently, Puerto Rico entered the continuing program of distribution to needy persons to aid in long-term rehabilitation after completion of the emergency feeding. Large quantities of foods were also used in emergency feeding when spring floods and tornadoes — including those in Kentucky and Virginia — drove persons from their homes and forced them to rely temporarily on community feeding.

In addition, surplus foods were rushed to the aid of refugees from Hungary, following the October revolution. Thirty million pounds of food was made available to aid refugees in camps established in Austria. In addition,

some 175,000 pounds of food was used to aid Hungarian refugees after they arrived in this country, in centers such as Camp Kilmer in New Jersey.

Foods donated under the direct distribution program are currently being used by over 12 million school children taking part in school lunch programs, and about 1.4 million persons in charitable institutions in this country. In addition, about 3 million needy persons in family units are currently receiving donated commodities.

June Heat Dropped Egg Numbers 11 Pct.

HARRISBURG — Excessively hot weather during the month of June held down egg production, the State Department of Agriculture reported today. Production was 275 million eggs in comparison with 307 million during May.

Temperatures in the 90's in many areas were held responsible for keeping the average production per bird, far below the May output of 19.03 eggs. During June layers averaged 17.58 eggs. For the same month a year ago production averaged 17.34 eggs.

Some deaths to birds in laying flocks also were attributed to high temperatures. In some localities temperatures reached 100 degrees on the farm.

The number of layers on Pennsylvania farms in June declined seasonally by four per cent in comparison with June a year ago. Egg production for the month was two per cent below June 1956.

Prices received by farmers for poultry and poultry products on June 15 were nearly the same as those received May 15, but they were far below those received on June 15, a year ago.

Feed was cheaper on June 15 than it was on May 15. Costs were 10 to 15 cents a hundred pounds under those paid June 15 of last year.

There are five poultry disease diagnostic laboratories in Pennsylvania operated by the State Department of Agriculture.

Meat Packers Earnings in Past Year Rise 11 Pct. from 1955 Figures

Meat packer earnings in 1956 improved over 1955 but were still well below those reported by other food processing and manufacturing industries, the American Meat Institute reported today. During 1956, the meat packing industry in America produced more meat than ever before.

In its annual survey, the Institute report showed net earnings for the industry totaled an estimated 114 million dollars, a gain of 11 million over 1955. The total figure is based on reports from 109 companies participating in the Institute's annual survey.

"Because of the extremely competitive nature of the industry, the margin for profit has remained quite narrow," the report pointed out. The industry's 1956 earnings equalled only one cent per dollar of sales, or 8.4 cents per dollar of net worth, according to the survey.

These ratios compared with last year's earnings of all U.S. manufacturing corporations which averaged 5.3 cents on sales and 12 cents on net worth. Food processors, other than meat packers, earned 3.6 cents on the sales dollar or 11.3 cents on net worth.

"Although 114 million dollars sounds like a lot of money by many standards, this is actually quite modest for an industry which ranks second in the United States in total sales," the Institute said. "One indication of this is the fact that in 1956 there were 19 individual U.S. corporations each of which reported net earnings that exceeded this figure."

The Institute calculated that the sales of those 19 companies totaled five and one-half times greater but their total earnings were more than 50 times greater than all meat packing companies combined.

For the first time the Institute examined the distribution of each company's total earnings. It found that two thirds of the 1956 income

was retained in the business, and the remaining third was distributed to company owners. Further, 55 per cent of the companies re-invested more than 80 per cent of their earnings.

"These facts are highly significant," said the Institute, "because they show the effort which meat packing companies are putting forth to modernize and improve the operating facilities and products of the industry."

The year's profit rise resulted from total sales amounting to \$11,325,000,000, up 150 million dollars from the year preceding, he report stated. Operating expenses gained 239 million dollars but raw material costs were approximately 100 million dollars lower for 1956 than in the year before.

"The factor chiefly responsible for the improved earnings was the record supplies of livestock for processing, and the resulting higher volume of operations by most companies," the Institute said. It added:

In the ten years, 1947 through 1956, operating expenses in the industry have soared. Wages and salaries, which constitute half the expense item, advanced 75 per cent in the decade. Supplies and containers were up 77 per cent, transportation 83 per cent, and interest, 91 per cent. Depreciation was lifted 122 per cent.

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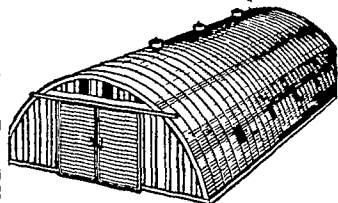
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