Vegetable Outlook

Fresh market vegetable prices received by growers have declined seasonally, but not as sharply as in 1973. For the balance of the year higher prices than last fall are likely because the acreage for fall harvest is off 8 percent. Much of this decline is in Western lettuce and carrots plus reduced Florida ' tomato plantings.

Also, retail fresh vegetable prices generally will be higher than a year earlier during the fall. Higher retail prices in 1974 are the result of wider margins much of the year, but this fall, smaller supplies will be a factor, too.

Moderately larger supplies of processed vegetables are likely for the new marketing season. But the picture is not a balanced one, since the gains are concentrated in the tomato lines and in frozen items. In contrast, the supply of canned vegetables exclusive of tomatoes will likely be about the same as the tight supply of the 1973-74 season. A larger supply of frozen vegetables, the possibility of a significant off-season frozen pack again in California, plus some winter harvest green beans for canning in Florida, and some additional frozen imports from Mexico, would partly ease the situation. So, we will not run out of processed vegetables, but our vegetable choices in 1974-75 may be different.

Disappearance of processed vegetables in 1974-75 can be expected to hold close to or fall slightly below the previous season despite the probability of a larger total supply. This is due to the static economy and to more plentiful supplies of other foods like rice, pasta products, dry beans and dry peas.

U.S. fall potato production is expected to be 287 million cwt., a record crop 13 percent above last year. Production in the Eastern States is up 23 percent while the Central States have 13 percent more and there is a tenth larger crop in the West. Grower prices can be expected to be lower even with the need for larger supplies for processing purposes. The size of this crop would indicate at most a moderate rise in prices through the storage season.

A 7 percent larger sweetpotato crop has recently lowered grower prices for both fresh marketing and processing below a year earlier.

Increased acreage and good yields have pushed U.S. dry bean production to 22 million cwt., 31 percent more than last year. A crop this large will easily furnish domestic canners and dry pack users with plentiful supplies, not to mention the prospect of a larger volume for export trade. Grower prices have been moving steadily downward since the March peak. Further selective declines by class are likely and prices will likely be near their lowest levels this winter.

Ida's Notebook


Ida Risser

The beginning of November and first thing we know it will be Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

When you are part of a big family, planning a get-together can be a big undertaking. Even setting a date to suit everyone's whim is almost impossible. One person has important business to attend to and another must go on a vacation and so it goes. Personally, I feel people should make their plans fit the hosts plans if at all possible.

Really I've never been too good at planning far ahead—like reservations for a plane trip 90 days in advance or planning next summer's vacation now. I rather like spur of the moment things like inviting a neighbor in for a cup of coffee some morning or saying lets take a drive to another county today. By doing this, it is hard to say if I lose the joy of anticipation or lose the agony of waiting for some pleasant event.

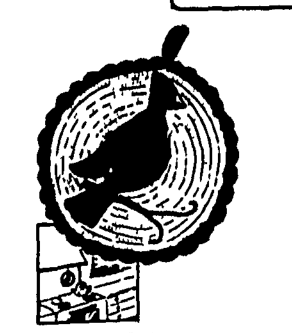
xxx

We had a hog butchered last month and when I went for the meat, in order to wrap and freeze it, I found that seven pans of scrapple were part of the deal. As some of my family don't like scrapple, I offered to trade four pans for other groceries.

In exchange I got 5 pounds of cornstarch, 5 pounds of rice, 2 pounds of cocoa and 3 pounds of prunes which really pleased everyone as the butcher's family was anxious to eat the "first scrapple of the season"; considering the price of sugar I'm glad that I bought 25 pounds of brown sugar that same day as we can certainly use it in cookies and cakes. I'll admit that our big bags of rye and whole wheat flour are not disappearing very fast since Judy went to college, as we haven't had any home baked breadsince August. But, the 2 bushels of squash, 1 bushel of onions and bags and bags of walnuts will be used before the winter is over. I'm sure we do save by buying and raising in large quantities.

SEW WHAT?

THIS WEEK'S PATTERNS BY AUDREY LANE



902
PRETTY BIRD

Here is a practical kitchen item to crochet for yourself or as a gift for a friend Make it to go with the colors in your kitchen Pattern No 902 contains the instructions

No. 3107

Double-breasted yoke gives a new fashion note to the basic shift. No 3107 comes in sizes 10 to 18 Size 12 (bust 34) takes 2¼ yards of 44 inch fabric

Send 50¢ for each dress pattern, 30¢ for each needlework pattern (add 15¢ for each dress pattern, 10¢ for each needlework pattern for mailing and handling) to AUDREY LANE BUREAU, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

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