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BAC

January 10, 1944

ACREAGE AND INDICATED PRODUCTION OF WINTER VEGETABLES FOR 1944 REPORTED AT RECORD HIGH LEVELS

A record tonnage of winter-season commercial truck crops is indicated for 1944 according to preliminary forecasts of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Combined tonnage of the 17 winter vegetable crops for which estimates are made is now indicated at 1,408,000 tons - 37 percent greater than the 1943 winter harvest of 1,026,000 tons, 53 percent above the 10-year (1933-42) average, and 17 percent above the previous high record of 1,208,000 tons in 1942. Prior to 1942, production of winter truck crops exceeded a million tons only in 1939.

Cabbage accounts for a large part of the increase in production over 1943. The prospective supply of 515,200 tons of winter cabbage is 236,600 tons more than in 1943, or 85 percent greater, and is 18 percent above the previous high record of 435,000 tons in 1942. Acreage of this crop was increased from 49,500 acres in 1943 to 78,500 in 1944, and the yield per acre indicated for 1944 is nearly one ton higher than the yield in 1943. Other crops for which indicated 1944 winter production is larger, with the percentage compared with 1943 in parentheses, are green peas (230), tomatoes (212), escarole (208), celery (132), spinach (130), cauliflower (128), kale (128), beets (124), lettuce (116), snap beans (114), and shallots (108). Green pepper production is indicated to be the same this winter as last. Reductions from 1943 of 3 percent for carrots, 8 percent for artichokes, 24 percent for eggplant, and 35 percent for green lima beans are indicated for the 1944 winter season.

Indicated production is above the 1933-42 average for all of these crops except tomatoes, shallots, artichokes, green peas, and green lima beans.

Early reports on acreage intentions for spring crops of asparagus, cabbage, onions, shallots and Florida watermelons show an increase of 15 percent over 1943 in the aggregate acreage of these crops, and an acreage 7 percent above the 1933-42 average. Heavy increases in onions, cabbage and watermelons are partially offset by a moderate decrease in asparagus and a more pronounced reduction in shallots.

LIMA BEANS: The 1944 winter green lima beans crop in Florida is estimated at 68,000 bushels - 35 percent less than the 104,000 bushels harvested last winter and 29 percent below the 10-year (1933-42) average. Acreage was reduced this winter, especially in the Boynton-Delray section. The crop has made very poor progress and was damaged to some extent by cold weather. The indicated yield per acre is the same for 1944 as in 1943 but is considerably below average.

SNAP BEANS: Total production of winter snap beans in Florida this year is forecast at 2,730,000 bushels, which is 34 percent greater than the 1943 production of 2,040,000 bushels. Present indications are that 630,000 bushels will be utilized by canners this winter compared with 200,000 bushels last winter, leaving a prospective supply of 2,100,000 bushels for the fresh market in 1944 compared with 1,840,000 bushels available for fresh consumption in the winter of 1943.

Of the estimated 39,000 acres growing in Florida, indications are that production from the equivalent of 9,000 acres will be used by canners. Of the 25,500 acres harvested last winter, production from the equivalent of 2,500 acres was diverted to canners. The prospective yield per acre this winter is somewhat less than in 1943 and also is below average.

BEETS: The acreage and prospective yields of beets in Texas are both higher than last winter and production of 1,320,000 bushels is indicated for harvest in the winter of 1944. This production exceeds 1943 production of 1,064,000 bushels by 24 percent and the 10-year (1933-42) average production of 883,000 bushels by 49 percent. Condition of the crop on January 1 was generally favorable in all areas of Texas. Soil moisture is adequate and the two brief cold spells that occurred in December caused little injury, mostly a slight discoloration of the tops.

CABBAGE: A record high production of 515,200 tons of winter cabbage is forecast for 1944. This compares with 278,600 tons in 1943, the 10-year (1933-42) average of 254,500 tons and the previous high record of 435,000 tons in 1942. Acreage was increased greatly this year in Texas and Florida, with California and Arizona showing moderate increases. Prospective per-acre yields are above average in all States and above those of 1943 in Texas, California and Arizona. In Florida, the indicated yield per acre, while below that of 1943, is well above average.

CAULIFLOWER: Production of 2,531,000 crates of cauliflower is indicated for the winter season of 1944. Each of the 4 States - California, Arizona, Oregon and Texas - expanded the acreage for harvest during the winter months and the January 1 indicated production exceeds the 1,970,000 crates obtained in 1943 by 28 percent and the average production for the preceding 10-year (1933-42) period of 2,215,000 crates by 14 percent. The 1944 yield prospects in all of these States except Arizona were more favorable than in 1943.

CELERY: Increases in winter acreages of celery in Florida and California and higher prospective yields per acre result in an indicated crop 32 percent above that of 1943. The forecast of 4,909,000 crates for 1944 is nearly 1.2 million more than 1943 production, which was just slightly above the 1933-42 average.

EGGPLANT: Acreage of winter eggplant in Florida was increased considerably this year, but a low per-acre yield is in prospect because of disease. Prospective production of 188,000 bushels is 24 percent less than 1943 production, but is more than 3 times the average.

ESCAROLE: Production of escarole in Florida this winter is forecast at 1,058,000 hampers - more than double that of 1943. Both acreage and prospective per-acre yields are well above those of last year.

KALE: Winter production of kale in Virginia is indicated at 940,000 bushels for 1944 compared with 734,000 bushels in 1943 and the 10-year (1933-42) average of 588,000 bushels. An increase in acreage this year was partially offset by a lower yield per acre than in 1943.

LETTUCE: Production of 1944 winter lettuce in Arizona, California (Imperial Valley) and Florida is estimated at 6,653,000 crates compared with 5,723,000 crates in 1943 and the 10-year (1933-42) average of 4,889,000 crates. Acreage was increased materially this season and per-acre yield prospects are relatively good in Arizona and Florida. In California the indicated yield per acre is below that of last winter, but is above average.

GREEN PEAS: On January 1, indications pointed to a total production of 850,000 bushels of green peas for the 1944 winter season in Imperial Valley of California, Texas and Florida. This compares with 380,000 bushels for these States in 1943 and an average of 1,057,000 bushels for the 10-year (1933-42) period.

The 1944 acreage for harvest in Texas is estimated at twice the acreage harvested last year, and the yield prospects for this State on January 1, of 65 bushels per acre compare with 45 bushels harvested in 1943 and an average of 56 bushels for the preceding 10-year (1933-42) period. In the Imperial Valley of California, 75 bushels per acre are indicated for this season which is somewhat larger than the 40 bushels obtained in 1943, but is less than the average yield of 84 bushels for the 10-year (1933-42) period. Frosts in Florida reduced yield prospects but most of the acreage remained to be harvested after January 1 and 75 bushels per acre are in prospect for 1944 compared with 65 bushels for 1943 and 75 bushels average for the (1933-42) period.

GREEN PEPPERS: The 1944 winter production of 900,000 bushels of green peppers in Florida compares with 899,000 bushels for 1943 and 597,000 bushels average for the 10-year (1933-42) period. Much of the crop is late, and on some of the early planted acreage, the crop was only in fair condition on January 1.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Winter-season potato production in Texas and Florida is forecast at 1,654,000 bushels in 1944 - slightly less than the 1,675,000 bushels harvested in 1943 but well above the 10-year (1933-42) average of 1,313,000 bushels. Acreage was increased this season in both States, but cold weather in Florida reduced the yield per acre below that of 1943.

Acreage of the early spring crop in north Florida and the Texas Lower Valley should approximate 25,600 acres, on the basis of intention-to-plant reports. Last spring 26,100 acres were harvested and the 1933-42 average was 23,670 acres. A slight increase for Florida is more than offset by a reduction in Texas.

Intended acreage in the late spring group is placed at 203,800 acres for 1944, an increase of about 3,000 acres over 1943, and 56,000 acres above the 1933-42 average. Increases are indicated for California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and reductions for Georgia, South Carolina, Texas and North Carolina. No change is shown for Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee.

SPINACH: Spinach production for the winter months in Texas, Louisiana and California is indicated to be 8,717,000 bushels. This exceeds the estimated 1943 production for these States of 6,718,000 bushels by about 30 percent and the 10-year (1933-42) production of 7,173,000 bushels by 22 percent.

STRAWBERRIES: The crop of strawberries for harvest in Florida during the 1944 winter season is expected to amount to 98,000 crates of 24 quarts each. This compares with 156,000 crates for 1943 and an average production of 555,000 crates for the 10-year (1933-42) period. This year's average of winter strawberries was only half as large as the 1943 acreage.

TRUCK CROPS FOR SHIPMENT

Acreage and Indicated Production of 22 crops for the 1944 Season with Comparisons

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE 1/			PRODUCTION		
	10-year average 1933-42	1943	Prelim. 1944	10yr av. 1943 33-42	1943	Ind. 1944	10-year average 1933-42	1943	Indicated 1944
ARTICHOKES: 2/ Winter (Calif.)	9,300	8,700	7,850	97	95	97	890	826	761
ASPARAGUS: 3/ All States 2/	120,850	132,450	130,420	94	101		11,365	13,437	
LIMA BEANS: Winter:									
Florida	4/1,730	2,300	1,500	4/62	45	45	4/96	104	68
All States	19,290	19,150		63	63		1,211	1,206	
SNAP BEANS: Winter:									
Florida	25,930	23,000	30,000	80	80	70	2,062	1,840	2,100
All States	167,220	176,250		88	97		14,634	17,057	
BEEETS: Winter:									
Texas	6,680	7,600	8,800	132	140	150	883	1,064	1,320
All States	11,660	12,300		182	179		2,123	2,203	
CABBAGE: Winter:									
California ..	7,260	12,650	13,500	7.6	7.8	8.1	55,600	98,700	109,400
Arizona	380	960	1,000	7.8	12.5	15.0	3,000	12,000	15,000
Texas	28,180	25,900	44,000	4.5	3.2	5.7	133,900	82,900	250,800
Florida	10,340	10,000	20,000	5.9	8.5	7.0	62,000	85,000	140,000
Group total.	46,160	49,510	78,500	5.51	5.63	6.56	254,500	278,600	515,200
Early Spring 2/	16,430	15,050	18,600	4.94	3.62		81,100	54,500	
Total 2 groups.	62,590	64,560	97,100	5.36	5.16		335,600	333,100	
Total all S's .	159,800	159,640		6.63	6.46		1,059,400	1,031,200	
CARROTS: Winter			Prelim.						
California ..	5,830	11,350	10,800	338	330	365	1,955	3,746	3,942
Arizona	910	2,900	2,500	304	260	265	278	754	662
Texas	10,580	16,200	18,600	152	190	145	1,632	3,078	2,697
Louisiana ...	2,010	1,700	1,700	124	110	120	249	187	204
Group total.	19,330	32,150	33,600	213	242	223	4,114	7,765	7,505
Total all States	48,580	83,690		316	322		15,352	26,911	
CAULIFLOWER: Winter:									
California ..	7,780	5,000	6,500	262	270	275	2,001	1,350	1,788
Arizona	520	1,500	1,700	268	350	340	134	525	578
Oregon	210	80	200	160	200	225	36	16	45
Texas	240	450	600	185	175	200	44	79	120
Group total.	8,750	7,030	9,000	253	280	281	2,215	1,970	2,531
TOTAL all States	29,980	26,440		274	286		8,210	7,569	

TRUCK CROPS FOR SHIPMENT

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE 1/			PRODUCTION		
	* 10-year average 1933-42	1943	Prelim. 1944	10yr av. 1933-42	1943	Ind. 1944	10-year average 1933-42	1943	Indicated 1944
CELERY:		- Acres -		* Crate -			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter									
Florida	4,560	5,950	6,500	533	490	550	2,406	2,916	3,575
California ..	1,890	1,600	2,100	683	500	635	1,282	800	1,334
Group total	6,450	7,550	8,600	572	492	571	3,688	3,716	4,909
Total all States	38,710	38,790		402	411		15,544	15,938	
EGGPLANT:				- Bushel -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Florida	4/ 180	550	750	4/325	450	250	4/ 60	248	188
Total all States	3,970	5,150		225	223		894	1,147	
ESCAROLE:				- Hamper -			- 1,000 hampers -		
Winter 2//....	920	1,450	2,350	465	350	450	416	508	1,058
KALE:				- Bushel -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Virginia	1,690	1,650	2,350	356	445	400	588	734	940
LETTUCE:				- Crate -			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Arizona	13,940	14,700	16,500	118	141	160	1,661	2,073	2,640
Calif., Imperi	21,920	18,000	21,000	143	185	175	3,026	3,330	3,675
Florida	1,260	2,000	1,900	190	160	178	202	320	338
Iceberg	4/ 1,200	1,200	1,100	4/121	150	180	4/ 101	180	198
Boston	4/ 660	800	800	4/152	175	175	4/ 106	140	140
Group total.	37,120	34,700	39,400	132	165	169	4,889	5,723	6,653
Total all States	153,500	136,500		136	176		20,869	23,977	
ONIONS:			Intended	- Sack -			- 1,000 sacks -		
Early Spring:									
Texas 2//....	46,560	28,000	44,000	39	61		1,720	1,708	
Late Spring:									
California ..	1,630	1,350	2,000	159	200		244	270	
Louisiana ...	1,440	1,800	1,600	48	45		71	81	
Texas	14,760	16,500	21,200	46	28		664	462	
Georgia	4/ 1,150	1,000	1,100	4/68	76		4/ 85	76	
Group total.	18,980	20,650	25,900	56	43		1,064	889	
Total 2 groups.	65,540	48,650	69,900	42	53		2,784	2,597	
Total all States	129,990	108,890		121	136		15,687	14,816	
GREEN PEAS:			Prelim.	- Bushel -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Florida	5,050	1,500	2,000	75	65	75	374	98	150
Texas	3,730	2,500	5,000	56	45	65	232	112	325
Calif., Imp...	5,580	4,000	5,000	84	40	75	451	160	375
Group total.	14,360	8,000	12,000	74	46	70	1,057	370	850
Total all States	100,380	62,250		83	97		8,295	6,058	
GREEN PEPPERS:									
Winter:									
Florida	2,170	2,900	3,600	262	310	250	597	899	900
Total all States	20,910	23,120		227	203		4,754	4,699	

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE 1/			PRODUCTION		
	10-year average 1933-42	1943	Prelim. 1944	10yr av. 1943 33-42	1943	Ind. 1944	10-year average 1933-42	1943	Indicated 1944
	- Acres -			- Bushel -			- 1,000 bushels -		
COMMERCIAL EARLY									
IRISH POTATOES:									
<u>Winter:</u>									
Texas	2,570	1,000	1,500	44	65	63	110	65	94
Florida, south	9,290	11,500	13,000	128	140	120	1,203	1,610	1,560
Group total.	11,860	12,500	14,500	111	134	114	1,313	1,675	1,654
<u>Early Spring:</u>									
Florida, north	16,370	15,100	15,600	128	121		2,101	1,832	
Hastings ...	13,830	12,000	13,000	132	125		1,795	1,500	
La Crossee .	1,720	2,200	1,600	122	100		209	220	
West	820	900	1,000	118	125		97	112	
Texas, Lower Vy.	7,300	11,000	10,000	89	90		641	990	
Group total.	23,670	26,100	25,600	116	108		2,742	2,822	
<u>Late Spring:</u>									
California ..	27,100	47,000	49,000	286	350		7,944	16,450	
Louisiana ...	23,400	30,000	33,000	74	75		1,719	2,250	
Mississippi .	2,990	5,700	6,000	90	80		262	456	
Alabama	19,500	20,000	25,000	127	140		2,431	2,800	
Georgia	2,480	4,000	3,400	126	85		293	340	
S. Carolina .	12,580	17,500	16,500	146	125		1,834	2,188	
Texas, other.	10,290	9,400	8,600	58	70		595	658	
Eagle Lake, Sugarland & Wharton	4,420	1,000	1,000	55	70		237	70	
Other	5,870	8,400	7,600	61	70		358	588	
Oklahoma	6,310	7,500	7,500	98	70		605	525	
Arkansas	4,790	13,500	13,500	88	87		417	1,174	
Tennessee ...	3,630	6,100	6,100	106	106		389	647	
N. Carolina .	34,590	40,000	35,200	137	165		4,743	6,600	
Group total.	147,660	200,700	203,800	144	170		21,232	34,088	
Total 3 groups.	183,190	239,300	243,900	138	161		25,287	38,585	
Total all S's .	311,170	374,400		145	165		45,073	61,770	
SHALLOTS:									
<u>Winter (La) 2/</u>									
	4/2,820	2,700	2,500	4/111	94	110	4/ 313	254	275
<u>Spring:</u>									
Louisiana ...	4/2,370	2,300	1,900	4/127	85		4/ 296	196	
Total	4/5,190	5,000	4,400	4/117	90		4/ 609	450	
SPINACH:									
<u>Winter:</u>									
Texas	39,800	39,400	47,400	136	130	145	5,383	5,122	6,873
Louisiana ...	1,240	1,000	1,150	98	75	90	122	75	104
California ..	2,510	2,600	2,900	681	585	600	1,668	1,521	1,740
Group total.	43,550	43,000	51,450	165	156	169	7,173	6,718	8,717
Total all S's .	67,890	72,200		210	201		14,287	14,531	
STRAWBERRIES:									
<u>Winter:</u>									
Florida	7,890	2,600	1,300	70	60	75	555	156	98
2/ Other groups	159,860	121,090	101,300	67.5	57.8		10,790	7,005	
Total all S's .	167,750	123,690	102,600	67.6	57.9		11,345	7,161	

TRUCK CROPS FOR SHIPMENT

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CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE 1/			PRODUCTION		
	10-year average 1933-42	1943	Prelim. 1944	10yr av. 33-42	1943	Ind. 1944	10-year average 1933-42	1943	Indicated 1944
	- Acres -			- Bushel -			- 1,000 bushels -		
<u>TOMATOES:</u>									
<u>Winter:</u>									
Florida, south	13,280	5,900	14,000	141	140	125	1,872	826	1,750
Total all S's	200,260	220,180		116	119		23,314	26,101	
<u>WATERMELONS:</u>			Intended	- Melons -			- 1,000 melons -		
<u>Late Spring:</u>									
Calif., Imp.	6,460	4,000	Feb. 9	568	605		3,702	2,420	
Florida	21,750	12,500	21,000	274	325		5,934	4,062	
Total all S's	252,440	141,700		257	338		64,833	47,948	
Total acreage reported to date except potatoes and strawberries	467,360	449,640	548,070						
Total winter "	240,420	238,690	306,250						

1/ Yields per acre, other than tons or bushels, are in the following units:
 Artichokes, boxes - 40 lbs; asparagus, crate - 24 lbs; cauliflower, crate - 37 lbs; celery, $\frac{1}{2}$ crate; escarole, hamper - 37 lbs; lettuce, 4-6 doz. crate - 70 lbs; onions, sacks - 100 lbs; strawberries, crate - 24 quart.

2/ Data from previous release.

3/ Estimates include asparagus for processing in California and other States.

4/ Short-time average,

ACREAGE AND INDICATED PRODUCTION (Cont'd. from page 3)

TOMATOES: Winter tomato production in south Florida is indicated to be over twice the production estimated for 1943 in this area. The preliminary acreage estimate for this year is 14,000 acres and production of 1,750,000 bushels was indicated on January 1. In 1943, 5,900 acres were estimated and 826,000 bushels were obtained for the fresh market. The indicated yield of 125 bushels per acre for this year's crop compares with 140 bushels obtained in 1943.

WATERMELONS: Intended acreage of watermelons for spring harvest in Florida is reported at 21,000 acres. This is 68 percent above the acreage harvested in 1943 but is slightly below the 1933-42 average.