UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

FVS-3 March 25, 1937

THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SITUATION

- Spring Outlook Issue -

This issue, which has been prepared with particular reference to the report of farmers' intentions to plant as issued March 19 by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, brings up to date the 1937 outlook reports for strawberries, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, truck crops, dry edible beans, and peanuts, which were issued by the Bureau in cooperation with Federal and State extension workers last November.

SUMMARY

It is probable that prices of all fruits, except strawberries, will advance more than usual during the spring months, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports.

Supplies of oranges for spring marketing are slightly below average and supplies for the summer and early fall are extremely small. Large quantities of grapefruit have been canned and marketings for fresh use have been extremely heavy. The supply of Florida grapefruit available for market during the remainder of the season now appears to be little larger than that of a year ago. A larger production of strawberries is forecast for each of the early States for 1937 than was obtained last year. Strawberry acreage in the second early and intermediate States is indicated to be less than last year, but acreage in the late States is about 9 percent greater than that of a year ago.

The total acreage of potatoes intended for harvest in 1937 is indicated to be about 6 percent larger than that harvested in 1936. With average yields,

this increased acreage would produce a crop of potatoes about 11 percent larger than that of last year and probably would result in prices and incomes to growers somewhat lower than those received for the 1936 crop, but substantially higher than have been received in other recent years. The 1937 acreage in the commercial early States is expected to be about one-third larger than last year, in the intermediate States about 7 percent larger, and in the surplus late States 6 percent greater.

Reports received from sweetpotato growers on intentions to plant indicate a slight decrease in acreage for 1937 from that harvested in 1936. The acreage is expected to be increased slightly in the areas that grow sweetpotatoes for market, but decreases are indicated in the South Central States where sweetpotatoes are grown largely as a food crop.

The combined acreage of important commercial truck crops grown for market in 1937 probably will be slightly larger than in 1936. The largest acreage increases are reported for cabbage and watermelons, while estimates of the 1937 onion acreage shows the greatest decline. Generally lower prices, largely resulting from seasonal declines and increasing supplies as crops recover from unfavorable growing conditions, are indicated for the next few months.

It is likely, the Bureau pointed out, that the acreage of vegetables contracted for canning this year will show an increase over that of 1936, and prices paid to producers will be slightly higher. Stocks of canned vegetables available for the remainder of the current marketing season are generally smaller than the relatively large supply available for the corresponding period a year ago. Stocks carried over at the end of the present marketing season probably will be smaller than a year earlier.

Intentions-to-plant reports received from growers indicate that the acreage of dry edible beans for harvest in 1937 will be increased about 11 percent over the relatively small acreage harvested in 1936. This larger acreage, with average yields, however, would produce a crop only slightly larger than the relatively small 1936 production.

The 1937 peanut acreage is expected to be increased 2 percent over the record large acreage harvested last year but, with average yields, this increased acreage would result in a total peanut crop slightly under that produced in 1936.

CITRUS FRUITS

Oranges: Price advances expected.- The supply of oranges available for shipment during the spring months is slightly smaller than average, and it is expected that at least the usual seasonal rise will occur in prices of California Navels and Florida oranges. Prices of California Valencias are expected to start the season at a relatively high level and probably will make more than the usual seasonal advance during the summer and early fall.

Cool, wet weather in the California and Arizona citrus belts during February was particularly favorable to trees which had been frozen, and the damage now evident in most areas is much less than would normally be expected following the low temperatures which occurred during January.

Prior to the freezes in January the outlook was for exceptionally large production of all oranges, with record crops indicated for Florida and Texas. Freeze damage reduced the crop of California Navel and miscellaneous varieties about 25 percent, however, which brought the total of winter and spring varieties down to about 35 million boxes--only 2 million boxes above the 1931-35 average. The March 1 crop report indicates some improvement in the crop of California Valencia oranges, but the estimate of 14 million boxes is still 24 percent less than the crop of last year and 29 percent below the 1931-35 average. Since this variety constitutes practically the entire supply of oranges during the summer and early fall months, oranges will be rather scarce during this period of 1937.

Prices of California and Florida oranges at New York City for the current season are compared in the accompanying chart with the 10-year monthly average of adjusted prices. The prospective large crop of oranges resulted in below average prices early in the season. The freeze damage in January resulted in sharp price rises, especially for California Navels. After a more accurate appraisal of the damage became available, however, prices of the California product declined some, but prices of Florida oranges moved steadily

upward. With present supplies of oranges for the spring slightly less than average, prices of California Navels and Florida oranges are expected to make at least the usual seasonal advance during the balance of the season. With the supply of Valencia oranges so very small, however, it is expected that the seasonal rise of Valencia prices will be even greater than usual.

Grapefruit: More than usual price rise probable.- Grpaefruit prices have been at low levels thus far in the current marketing year, but some improvement will probably occur during the remainder of the season. An unusually large proportion of this year's record crop has been canned, and marketings as fresh fruit have been abnormally heavy. The balance of the crop available for shipment during the remaining months of the season now appears to be only slightly larger than that of a year ago, and no greater than the average quantity marketed after the middle of March during the last 5 years.

The March 1 estimate of the 1936-37 crop of grapefruit was unchanged from the February estimate for Florida and Texas, the principal producing regions. Some improvement was indicated for California and Arizona, however, as the January freeze damage does not now appear quite as extensive as it did on February 1. The March 1 estimates are given in an accompanying table with comparisons.

Shipments of Florida grapefruit for the season through March 6 totaled 15,732 cars, compared with 11,233 cars to a corresponding date a year ago, and 12,764 cars, the 1934-36 average. Shipments from Texas totaled 11,370 cars for the season through March 6, compared with 5,389 cars for the corresponding period last year, and the 1934-36 average of 4,490 cars.

The accompanying chart shows the current season's prices of Florida grapefruit at New York City, compared with the 10-year monthly average of adjusted prices. The extremely large crop is responsible for the low level of prices this season. As is indicated by the average curve, it is customary for prices to rise during the spring and early summer. Since the remaining supplies are not unusually large, and in view of the present relatively low level of prices, it seems probable that more than the usual seasonal rise will occur this year.

Lemons: Crop smallest since 1924.- Lemon prices are at a relatively high level at present, and are expected to make a further seasonal advance during the summer. Lemon prices usually follow an upward trend from late spring to a high point in July or August, experiencing some decline thereafter until the end of the marketing season in October.

The March 1 estimate of citrus production indicates that the lemon crop in California was injured by the January freeze to a greater extent thatn other citrus crops and shows a reduction of 108,000 boxes from the February 1 estimate. The present crop of 5,724,000 boxes is 29 percent below the 1931-35 average and the smallest crop since 1924.

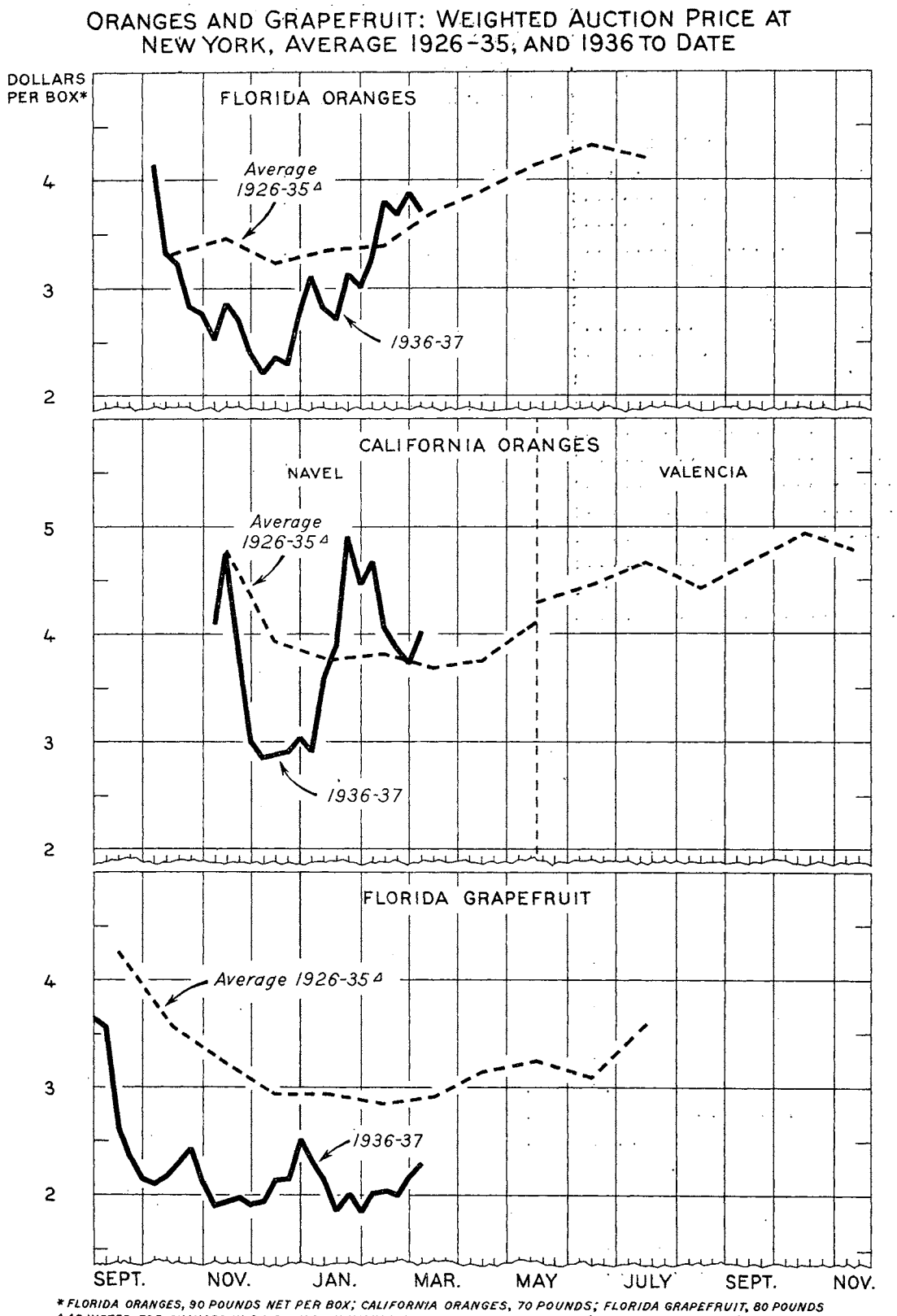
ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT: WEIGHTED AUCTION PRICE AT NEW YORK, AVERAGE 1926-35, AND 1936 TO DATE
DOLLARS PER BOX*
FLORIDA ORANGES
Average 1926-35 Δ
1936-37
CALIFORNIA ORANGES
NAVEL
VALENCIA
Average 1926-35 Δ
1936-37
FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT
Average 1926-35 Δ
1936-37
2
3
4
5
SEPT.
NOV.
JAN.
MAR.
MAY
JULY
SEPT.
NOV.
* FLORIDA ORANGES, 90 POUNDS NET PER BOX; CALIFORNIA ORANGES, 70 POUNDS; FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT, 80 POUNDS
Δ ADJUSTED FOR CHANGES IN B.L.S. INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE FOOD PRICES (JUNE-DEC. 1936=100)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 32251
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

FIGURE 1

Citrus fruits: Production, average 1931-35, annual 1935 and 1936 1/

Crop and States	Production 2/		
	Average 1931-35	1935	1936
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes
Oranges:			
Winter and spring varieties			
Calif.,Navels and misc.	15,216	14,469	11,648
Fla., all	16,824	18,000	21,200
Five other States	1,036	1,234	2,355
Total	33,076	33,703	35,203
Summer and early fall varieties			
Calif., Valencias	19,993	18,580	14,100
Total 7 States	53,069	52,283	49,303
Grapefruit:			
Fla., all	11,997	11,500	17,500
Seedless	---	4,000	5,700
Other	---	7,500	11,800
Tex.	2,097	2,267	6,790
Calif.	1,786	2,741	1,353
Ariz.	961	1,800	1,200
Total 4 States	16,841	18,308	26,843
Lemons:			
Calif.	8,018	7,787	5,724

Net weight of contents of boxes varies. In California and Arizona the approximate average for oranges is 70 pounds, net, and grapefruit 60 pounds; in Florida and other States oranges 90 pounds, and grapefruit 80 pounds; California lemons about 76 pounds, net.

1/ Estimate as of March 1, 1937.

2/ Relates to crop of bloom of year shown; picking beginning November 1 in California and September 1 in other States.

Citrus fruits: Weighted average price per box at New York and Chicago, specified periods

Market and crop	Average week ended			Average month of	
	Mar.13, 1937	Feb.13, 1937	Mar.14, 1936	Feb. 1937	Feb. 1936
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
New York City:					
Oranges - Calif. Navels	4.02	4.66	3.01	4.21	3.21
Fla.	3.72	3.26	2.97	3.42	3.05
Grapefruit - Fla.	2.29	2.02	2.42	1.98	2.56
Lemons - Calif.	5.42	6.37	5.43	5.89	4.62
Chicago:					
Oranges - Calif. Navels	3.89	3.99	3.10	4.00	3.21
Fla.	3.84	3.23	2.93	3.45	3.21
Grapefruit - Fla.	2.21	1.99	2.73	1.86	2.40
Tex.	2.05	1.95	2.61	1.86	2.66
Lemons - Calif.	5.58	5.78	5.14	5.84	4.89

STRAWBERRIES

Production of strawberries in the early group of States is expected to be 21 percent greater than in 1936, but only 2 percent above the 1928-32 average. Improvement in consumer purchasing power probably will not fully offset the price-depressing influence of these larger supplies, and it is likely that prices of the early stock will average below the relatively high prices of last season.

A larger production than last year is forecast for each of the early States. With the exception of Louisiana, the increase is largely due to much higher yields. In Louisiana, however, yields this year are expected to be less than those of a year ago, but an increase in production is indicated by the rather large increase in acreage.

Strawberry acreage in the second early group of States is indicated to be about 10 percent less than that of a year ago, and 24 percent below the 1928-32 average. In the Intermediate States the 1937 acreage is expected to be about 2.5 percent less than that of last year and 12 percent below the 1928-32 average. In spite of these reductions in acreage, however, average yields would produce larger crops in both of these groups of States than were raised last year. An increase of 9 percent over last year's acreage and 25 percent above the 1928-32 average is indicated for the late States. Yields in the late States were slightly above average last year, but if only average yields are obtained this year, production will exceed that of 1936 and will be considerably above the 1928-32 average.

Carlot shipments of Florida strawberries were about twice as heavy for the season through March 13 this year as they were for the corresponding period of last year. In January and February prices of Florida strawberries were lower than those of a year earlier. Frost damage in late February throughout the important southern producing areas delayed production, however, and a temporary shortage of supplies developed in early March. Consequently, prices advanced sharply, and though declines occurred in the second week of March they were still higher than a month earlier or a year earlier. Movement in volume from Louisiana is expected toward the end of March and prices are expected to make at least the usual seasonal decline during the next 2 months.

Stocks of frozen strawberries were 9,628,000 pounds on March 1, 1937, compared with 10,399,000 pounds a month earlier.

Strawberries: Acreage and production, average 1928-32, 1936 and 1937

Group and State	Acreage			Production		
	5-year average 1928-32	1936	1937	5-year average 1928-32	1936	Forecast 1937
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 crates	1,000 crates	1,000 crates
Early:						
Alabama	4,500	2,700	2,900	348	184	238
Florida	7,300	8,900	9,200	523	445	644
Louisiana	22,540	14,800	17,600	1,390	1,243	1,373
Mississippi	360	500	500	53	22	38
Texas	2,150	2,400	2,150	123	156	194
Group total	37,450	29,300	32,350	2,437	2,050	2,487
Second Early	54,460	45,960	41,550	3,219	2,205	---
Intermediate	47,760	43,160	42,130	2,868	1,951	---
Late	46,280	53,100	57,800	3,096	3,804	---
Total all States	185,950	171,520	173,830	11,620	10,010	

Strawberries: L.c.l. price per quart, New York and Chicago, specified periods

Market	Week ended			Month	
	Mar. 13 1937	Feb. 18 1937	Mar. 14 1936	Feb. 1937	Feb. 1936
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
New York City					
Florida	32	26	24	27	31
Chicago					
Florida	33	25	26	28	32
Louisiana	29	--	--	--	--

POTATOES

The United States acreage of potatoes, intended for harvest in 1937, is indicated to be about 6 percent larger than that harvested in 1936. On the basis of these prospective increased plantings and if yields should be average, the United States production of potatoes in 1937 would total about 365 million bushels. A crop of this size would be about 35 million bushels (or 11 percent) more than the relatively small crop produced in 1936 and probably would result in prices and incomes to growers somewhat lower than those being received for the 1936 crop, but substantially higher than what growers have received in other recent years.

On a regional basis, the prospect is for sharply increased plantings in nearly all of the commercial early and intermediate States. The indicated planted acreage in the commercial early States is about one-third larger than that harvested in 1936, whereas the intended acreage in the commercial intermediate States is only 7 percent larger. The March intentions reports indicate increases of about 6 percent in the 18 surplus-producing late-potato States, but about the same acreage as was harvested in 1936 in the 12 other late States.

On the basis of the indicated increases in the planted acreages in the commercial early and intermediate States, and if yields are equal to the average of recent years, a larger production of new potatoes will be available for market this season than was available in the first half of 1936. Offsetting this larger crop of new potatoes, however, is the much smaller supply of old potatoes remaining to be marketed.

Market and shipping-point prices of old potatoes declined slightly during the last month under pressure of relatively heavy marketings. On the other hand, prices of new potatoes advanced. The United States average price received by farmers advanced from $1.22 per bushel on January 15 to $1.30 on February 15. On the latter date, it was 62 cents above the average price of the same date in 1936.

Potatoes: Acreage and production, average 1928-32, annual 1934-37

Group	Average 1928-32	1934	1935	1936	Intended 1937
Acreage:	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Early:					
Total	390.0	431.0	417.0	390.0	426.0
Commercial	156.4	156.0	132.4	134.6	179.4
Other	233.6	275.0	284.6	255.4	246.6
Intermediate:					
Total	340.0	333.0	322.0	302.0	311.0
Commercial	143.4	141.2	121.2	118.0	126.5
Other	196.6	191.8	200.8	184.0	184.5
18 Surplus Late States:					
Total	2,196.0	2,355.0	2,306.0	1,967.0	2,093.0
3 Eastern	620.0	666.0	637.0	579.0	608.0
5 Central	1,055.0	1,156.0	1,136.0	907.0	971.0
10 Western	521.0	533.0	532.0	481.0	514.0
12 Other Late States:					
Total	401.0	478.0	497.0	399.0	402.0
30 Late States Combined	2,597.0	2,802.0	2,802.0	2,366.0	2,495.0
37 Late and Intermediate States	2,937.0	3,166.0	3,124.0	2,668.0	2,806.0
U. S. Total	3,327.0	3,597.0	3,541.0	3,058.0	3,232.0
Production:	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Early:					
Total	32,717	36,651	33,799	26,100	
Commercial	16,788	19,274	14,035	13,292	
Other	15,929	17,377	19,764	12,808	
Intermediate:					
Total	39,212	32,279	34,940	26,187	
Commercial	22,587	20,035	18,411	16,518	
Other	16,625	12,244	16,529		
18 Surplus Late States:					
Total	260,475	291,811	271,020	240,254	
3 Eastern	96,673	126,641	91,766	96,668	
5 Central	90,081	96,017	96,783	64,670	
10 Western	73,719	69,153	82,471	78,916	
12 Other Late States:					
Total	39,713	45,364	46,621	37,456	
30 Late States combined	300,186	337,175	317,641	277,710	
37 Late and Intermediate States	339,398	369,454	352,581	303,897	
U. S. Total	372,115	406,105	386,380	329,997	

Potatoes: Terminal market prices per 100-pound sack, specified weeks

Terminal	Russet Burbanks, week ending Mar. 14, 1936	Russet Burbanks, week ending Feb. 13, 1937	Russet Burbanks, week ending Mar. 13, 1937	Other varieties, week ending Mar. 14, 1936	Other varieties, week ending Feb. 13, 1937	Other varieties, week ending Mar. 13, 1937
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Old crop -						
New York City l.c.l.	2.32	---	---	1.74	2.60	2.50
Chicago carlot	1.78	3.53	3.48	1.54	2.85	2.71
New crop -						
New York City l.c.l.	---	---	---	2.90	3.54	3.88
Chicago l.c.l.	---	---	---	4.00	4.05	1/ 4.36

1/ Carlot price.

Potatoes: Shipping point prices, specified weeks

Terminal	F.o.b. per 100-pound sack, week ending Mar. 14, 1936	F.o.b. per 100-pound sack, week ending Feb. 13, 1937	F.o.b. per 100-pound sack, week ending Mar. 13, 1937	Cash to grower, bulk per 100 pounds, week ending Mar. 14, 1936	Cash to grower, bulk per 100 pounds, week ending Feb. 13, 1937	Cash to grower, bulk per 100 pounds, week ending Mar. 13, 1937
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Old crop -						
Presque Isle, Me.	1.34	1.96	1.86	1.17	1.78	1.68
Rochester, N.Y.	1/1.18	2.23	2.10	.85	1.97	1.73
Grand Rapids, Mich.	1.16	2.26	2.03	.82	2.00	1.68
Waupaca, Wis.	1.03	2.21	2.04	.76	1.91	1.78
Idaho Falls, Idaho	1.04	2.80	2.67	.85	2.46	2.41
New crop -						
Florida East Coast	2.63	2.86	3.29			

1/ Commercial price.

SWEETPOTATOES

Reports received from growers on intentions to plant sweetpotatoes indicate a slight decrease in the United States acreage for 1937 from that harvested in 1936. The acreage is expected to be increased slightly in the areas that grow sweetpotatoes for market, whereas decreases are indicated in the South Central States where sweetpotatoes are grown largely as a food crop.

With average yields, the production from the smaller 1937 United States acreage would total about 71 million bushels. Such a crop would still be 11 percent more than the 1936 production and about 7 percent more than the 1928-32 average crop. This larger crop, together with a larger late Irish-potato crop in prospect, would result in somewhat lower prices of sweetpotatoes in 1937, compared with prices being received for the current (1936-37) marketing season.

The United States price received by producers on February 15 averaged 93.9 cents per bushel, or 6 cents above the average for a month earlier, 24 cents higher than the average for February 15, 1936, and the highest price for this month since 1930. The average for the 1936-37 season is estimated tentatively at 94 cents per bushel, against 70.4 cents for the 1935-36 crop and the highest season average since 1930-31.

Sweetpotatoes: Acreage harvested and production, average 1928-32, annual 1934-37

Groups of States	Average 1928-32	1934	1935	1936	Intended 1937
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Acreage harvested:					
4 Central Atlantic 1/	66	66	70	68	69
4 Lower Atlantic 2/	256	311	315	262	263
8 South Central 3/	414	538	538	451	431
6 other States 4/	38	43	46	41	44
Total	771	958	969	822	807
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	
Production:					
4 Central Atlantic 1/	8,205	7,850	8,481	8,876	
4 Lower Atlantic 2/	20,676	25,420	27,698	20,270	
8 South Central 3/	33,793	41,093	43,037	31,779	
6 other States 4/	3,694	3,119	3,912	3,219	
Total	66,368	77,482	83,128	64,144	

1/ New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.
2/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
3/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.
4/ Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and California.

TRUCK CROPS

Preliminary estimates of planted acreages of early vegetables and growers' intentions to plant some intermediate and late crops indicate a combined acreage for 16 commercial truck crops grown for market of about 4 percent greater than in 1936 and about 22 percent greater than the 5-year (1928-32) average. A large number of crops show increased acreages, with the greatest increases reported for cabbage and watermelons. Indications of the onion acreage shows the greatest decrease. Acreage indications for asparagus, early beets, peas and lettuce show only slight declines.

With few exceptions commercial truck crops were selling at higher prices the first half of March than a month earlier or during a corresponding period a year ago. Recent favorable growing conditions and prospects of increased production in those areas where crops were replanted or retarded by freeze damage, however, indicate increasing supplies of truck crops during the next month or six weeks.

Generally lower prices, largely resulting from seasonal declines and recovery of crops from unfavorable growing conditions, are indicated for the next few months.

Asparagus: Acreage about same as in 1936. The 1937 asparagus acreage for market and canning and for manufacture is indicated to be about 1 percent less than the acreage cut in 1936. The total acreage reported in California is about the same as the total acreage harvested last year. The acreage in South Carolina and Georgia this year has been reduced slightly. Acreage for cutting in the late States shows little change from 1936. March 1 conditions indicate a total production in the early States 2 percent smaller than last year's total production.

Because of the lateness of the California crop occasioned by unfavorable weather conditions, early season supplies this year have been light and prices relatively high. Shipments from California, which supplies a major part of the early crop, are expected to reach a peak in early April.

Stocks of canned asparagus available on January 1 were about 50 percent larger than a year earlier, which, together with early prices of fresh asparagus averaging higher than last year, indicates that more of the California crop will be marketed fresh than last year. On the other hand it is indicated that canners and quick freezers will take larger amounts of the crop in Eastern States this year.

Cauliflower: Smaller supply. The prospects are for a smaller supply of spring crop cauliflower than in 1936. Also, prices are likely to continue at higher levels than a year ago. Production in California, practically the only source of supply during the spring months, is indicated to be 13 percent smaller than last year's production.

Cabbage: Prospective prices lower. An increase of 5 percent in the total acreage planted or to be planted to cabbage for the 1937 crop marketing year is indicated by preliminary reports of acreages planted in the fall, early and second early group of States, and by growers' intentions to plant reports in intermediate and late States. These increased plantings, with average yields, would result in a larger cabbage crop in each of the areas than was harvested last season. Prices received by farmers, therefore, may be expected to average below those in 1936 throughout most of 1937.

From a low point reached during the third week in January, prices of Early Domestic cabbage, with a few minor recessions, have shown a slight upward trend. Prices during the second week in March were a little above those of a year ago. During the 1936 marketing season cabbage prices reached a low point in March, rose slightly in April, declined again in May and then advanced to unusually high levels during the summer. Present prospects indicate generally lower prices this season.

Onions: Smaller supplies likely. Preliminary reports on the planted acreage in the early group of States and growers' intentions to plant in the intermediate and late group of States indicate a total 1937 onion acreage in the United States of about 94,130 acres compared with 109,480 acres in 1936 and a 5-year average (1928-32) of 84,430 acres. If these smaller acreages are planted and average yields per acre are obtained, smaller supplies of onions throughout most of the 1937 season would be produced and growers would receive generally higher prices than those which prevailed during the marketing year, 1936-37.

Prices of late 1936 crop onions advanced materially during the period from late January to the third week in February. Prices declined slightly from the February peak and remained fairly steady during the first half of March. Present prices of old stock are above those of a year ago, when the market declined during the closing weeks of the marketing season, and they are expected to continue higher than last year.

A record crop of onions was produced in the early States in the spring of 1936, and prices were extremely low. This year, with prospects for a smaller crop of Bermuda type onions, with late crop onions selling at higher prices than in 1936, and with generally improved demand conditions, it is probable that the price of the early crop will average considerably higher than last year.

Tomatoes: Probable larger acreage. The preliminary estimate of tomato acreage for the second section of the Early group of States shows a decrease of 15 percent below last year's acreage. The combined estimated acreage of fall, first and second sections of the early group, however, is greater than the acreage planted in 1936. It is probable that the total acreage planted to tomatoes in the balance of the United States this year will be greater than that planted last season. The trend of production and consumption of tomatoes has been upward in recent years.

Recent prices were higher than a month earlier but lower than a year ago. Prices may be expected to improve slightly during the next month and then to decline seasonally during May and June.

Total carlot shipments and imports to March 13 this year were about 26 percent greater than up to a corresponding date a year ago. Florida shipments were 86 percent greater; imports from Cuba were about the same as last season while imports from Mexico were smaller.

Watermelons: Acreage smaller than anticipated. Watermelon growers in the early and second early States report that they intend to increase the acreage planted to watermelons by about 6 percent over that harvested in 1936. In view of the relatively high prices received for the 1936 crop, this increase is smaller than would normally be expected and may be accounted for by the improved prospects for other crops that compete for the land.

On the basis of present acreage indications, and with yields equal to the average of the last five years - 212 melons per acre, the 1937 watermelon production in these areas combined would be about the same as that harvested in 1936. Yields per acre of watermelons, however, have been declining during the last decade or more. For the two groups reported, yields averaged 212 melons per acre during the 5-year 1932-36 period, whereas during the period 1927-31 they averaged 303 melons. If the per-acre yield should be somewhere between the averages for the last two 5-year periods, therefore, the 1937 crop would exceed the 1936 crop. The smaller supply, with improved demand conditions during the 1937 marketing season, would result in considerably higher prices than those received in 1936, but the larger crop would mean lower prices for 1937 than were received in 1936.

Truck Crops for Canning or Manufacture

Stocks of canned vegetables available for the remainder of the current marketing season are generally smaller than the relatively large supply available for the corresponding period a year ago. March 1 stocks of canned peas and canned corn were 25 percent and 37 percent, respectively, below those of a year earlier. February 1 stocks of canned snap beans and tomatoes were about 50 percent and 10 percent less than holdings at the same time last season. On the other hand, January 1 stocks of asparagus were about 50 percent greater than those of a year earlier, and stocks of beets and spinach were about 7 percent and 19 percent higher.

Because of the smaller total supply of nearly all these vegetables available for the entire current (1936-37) marketing season, shipments and consumption this season to date have been at a slower rate than in the previous year and may be expected to continue so during the remainder of the marketing period. Carry-over stocks at the end of the current marketing season also probably will be smaller than a year earlier. This situation has tended to strengthen prices of canned vegetables generally. It is likely, therefore, that slight increases in acreage of vegetables for canning will be contracted for in 1937 at prices to producers slightly higher than those paid in 1936.

Acreage expansion is already indicated for spinach and green peas. The California acreage of spinach for canning is estimated at 13,170 acres for 1937, against 12,970 acres in 1936. Production is indicated to be about 46,100 tons, compared with 41,500 tons a year ago.

With regard to green peas, the early reports indicate that growers intend to increase the 1937 acreage by 2.3 percent over that planted in 1936. The expansion is expected to be general throughout all producing areas, with the largest increases occurring in the far-western States.

The total acreage and production of asparagus for market and canning in California, the principal asparagus-canning State, is indicated to be slightly less than a year ago. This smaller crop, together with early market prices for fresh asparagus averaging higher than last season, is expected to result in a smaller canned-asparagus pack this season.

Truck crops: Acreage and production, average 1928-32, annual 1936 and 1937

Commodity and group	Acreage			Unit	Production		
	Average 1928-32	1936	1937 (prel.)		Average 1928-32	1936	1937 (Indicated)
	Acres	Acres	Acres				
Asparagus 1/				1,000			
Early	74,550	79,900	78,760	crates	7,249	7,925	7,771
Late	24,530	27,360	27,500	"	2,011	3,043	---
Total 2 groups	99,080	107,260	106,260	"	9,260	10,968	---
Beans, Snap				1,000			
Fall	12,000	14,900	21,000	bushels	1,013	1,295	1,986
Early (1)	9,660	30,000	30,000	"	936	1,800	1,950
Total 2 groups	21,660	44,900	51,000	"	1,949	3,095	3,936
Beets							
Early	4,710	7,400	5,600	"	2/ 830	2/ 1,036	868
Cabbage							
Fall	810	1,920	2,800	tons	5,900	9,500	22,200
Early	37,560	57,100	58,000	"	2/ 211,000	2/ 307,300	327,900
Second early	13,810	18,300	19,400	"	2/ 80,700	2/ 92,100	---
Intermediate	25,220	32,510	3/33,180	"	157,700	160,400	---
Late	71,750	71,030	3/80,100	"	2/ 571,600	519,800	---
Total	149,150	185,860	193,480	"	2/1,026,900	2/1,089,100	---
Carrots				1,000			
Fall	3,280	7,100	10,400	bushels	1,830	3,337	4,576
Early	8,460	11,000	8,800	"	2/ 1,840	2/ 1,877	1,533
Total 2 groups	11,740	18,100	19,200	"	3,670	5,214	6,109
Cauliflower				1,0			
Fall and winter	7,990	8,800	9,750	crates	2,261	1,952	2,356
Early	8,630	8,650	7,900	"	2,235	2,491	2,133
Total 2 groups	16,620	17,450	17,650	"	4,496	4,443	4,489
Celery							
Fall and winter	7,180	9,050	11,500	"	1,240	1,538	4/1,840
Early	7,620	8,900	10,050	"	2,533	2,538	2,501
Second early	1,000	1,900	1,700	"	590	969	---
Total 3 groups	15,800	19,850	23,250	"	4,363	5,045	---
Cucumbers				1,000			
Fall	1,180	1,600	1,600	bushels	93	160	96
Eggplant							
Fall	1,170	980	1,350	"	210	133	245
Lettuce				1,000			
Early	49,740	36,010	35,250	crates	5,821	2/ 4,798	5,037
Onions				1,000			
Early	23,060	34,970	24,200	sacks	2/ 2,308	2/ 3,302	---
Intermediate	8,330	20,400	3/17,200	"	2/ 1,337	2,209	---
Late	53,040	54,110	3/52,730	"	2/ 9,602	11,811	---
Total	84,430	109,480	94,130	"	2/ 13,247	2/ 17,322	---
Peas				1,000			
Early	6,470	16,400	16,200	bushels	438	1,300	929

Continued -

Truck crops: Acreage and production, average 1928-32, annual 1936 and 1937--Cont'd

Commodity and group	Acreage			Unit	Production		
	Average 1928-32	1936	1937 (prel.)		Average 1928-32	1936	1937 (Indicated)
	Acres	Acres	Acres				
Peppers, green				1,000			
Fall	2,010	2,400	3,600	bushels	406	350	640
Early (winter)	5/3,320	600	3,000	"	5/ 834	132	660
Total 2 groups	5,330	3,000	6,600	"	1,240	482	1,300
Spinach							
Fall	2,940	2,900	2.600	"	888	754	780
Early	30,860	51,450	62,000	"	7,599	7,596	11,849
Total 2 groups	33,800	54,350	64,600	"	8,487	8,350	12,629
Tomatoes							
Fall	4,010	7,300	11,700	"	256	584	444
Early (1)	10,990	11,000	19,200	"	1,218	990	1,632
Early (2)	27,880	35,200	30,000	"	2,064	2,636	---
Total 3 groups	42,880	53,500	60,900	"	3,538	4,210	---
Watermelons				1,000			
Early	41,460	23,500	3/27,000	melons	15,202	8,942	---
Second early	151,230	169,200	3/176,800	"	2/ 39,858	2/33,826	---
Total 2 groups	192,690	192,700	203,800	"	2/ 55,060	2/42,768	---

1/ Includes asparagus for market and canning.
2/ Includes some quantities not harvested on account of market conditions.
3/ Acreage based on growers' intentions to plant.
4/ Includes production which was destroyed by cold weather.
5/ Short-time average.

Truck crops: Wholesale prices at Chicago and New York, specified weeks

Commodity and State	Unit	Chicago Week ended Mar.13, 1937	Chicago Week ended Feb.13, 1937	Chicago Week ended Mar.14, 1936	New York Week ended Mar.13, 1937	New York Week ended Feb.13, 1937	New York Week ended Mar.14, 1936
Asparagus (medium)							
Calif.	crate	8.25	---	4.40	8.12	---	3.88
S. C.	"	---	---	---	---	6.67	---
Snap beans-							
Fla. (green)	bushel	4.78	3.50	2.38	3.88	3.32	2.21
" wax	"	4.65	3.12	2.75	3.94	3.15	2.79
Lima beans-							
Fla.	"	4.85	3.12	3.75	4.08	3.95	3.18
Beets-							
Tex.	½ crate	1.14	1.25	.98	1.11	1.36	1.11
Cabbage-							
Fla.(pointed)	½ bu.hmp.	1.44	---	---	1.16	1.15	1.15
Tex.(domestic)	lettuce crate	1.91	1.64	1.47	2.04	1.91	1.94
Carrots-							
Calif.	lettuce crate 6 doz.	2.38	2.31	2.04	3/2.70	2.55	2.58
Cauliflower-							
Calif.	crate	1.47	1.94	1.22	1.63	2.19	1.52
Celery-							
Calif.	½ crate	2.81	2.00	2.10	3.00	2.30	2.46
Fla.	10" crate, 4-10 doz.	3.35	2.12	2.68	3.18	1.96	2.23
Lettuce-							
Calif.	crate 4-5 doz.	5.42	4.70	2.74	5.79	5.18	3.08
Onions-							
Yellows	50-lb.sack	2/ .81	2/ .64	2/ .62	1.20	.90	.79
Valencias	" " "	1.42	1.14	1.15	1.72	1.33	1.44
Peas-							
Fla.	bushel	---	---	---	4.84	3.62	1.92
Calif.	"	4.44	1/5.00	2.61	---	---	2.64
Mex.	"	4.78	4.97	2.28	5.88	5.30	2.38
Peppers-							
Fla.	crate	3.62	2.12	4.80	2.77	1.32	4.25
Spinach-							
Tex.	bushel	.92	.79	4/ .73	.89	.86	.74
Tomatoes-							
Fla.	lugs	2.53	2.38	4/ 2.15	2.17	1.64	2.92
Cuba	"	---	---	---	2.46	2.10	3.89

1/ Average for 1 day. 2/ Street sales. 3/ Not quoted 6 doz. 4/ Fair quality and condition.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

The indications are that the acreage of dry edible beans for harvest in 1937 will be increased about 11 percent over the relatively small acreage harvested in 1936. On the basis of this increase in acreage -- and if average growing conditions prevail, the 1937 crop would total approximately 11,500,000 bags of 100 pounds, or about 400,000 bags (4 percent) more than was produced in 1936 but about 700,000 bags (6 percent) less than the 1928-32 average crop. On the other hand, if yields per acre in 1937 are higher than the average, as they were in 1935 and 1936, a dry bean crop of 12,700,000 bags, or only slightly larger than average, would be in prospect. Such a crop would be large enough to cover only average requirements. Since carry-over stocks of old beans probably will be below normal this fall, it is likely that total supplies of beans for 1937-38 will be less than usual and average prices to producers will approach those of 1936-37.

Because of the relatively small supply of dry edible beans available for the 1936-37 marketing season, and the improved general demand situation, prices received by farmers this season to date have averaged considerably above those of any year since 1929-30. The average of $6.44 per 100 pounds received by growers on February 15 was the highest for that month since 1920 and the highest for any month since November 1929.

Recent trade reports indicate that storage holdings, except in California, are considerably below those of a year ago. Prices, therefore, may be expected to continue at present or somewhat higher levels during most of the remainder of the current marketing season. These higher prices are largely responsible for the expansion in the acreage intended to be planted for harvest in 1937. They also have resulted in increased imports of beans this season to date. From September to January, inclusive, this season the imports totaled 132,000 bags of 100 pounds, compared with 50,000 bags during the corresponding period of last season and 114,000 bags two seasons ago.

Dry edible beans: Acreage and production, average 1928-32, annual 1933-37

State	Average 1928-32	1933	1934	1935	1936	Intended 1937
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Acreage:						
Me., Vt., N.Y., Mich., Wis., Minn. 1/	733	737	803	736	624	633
Nebr., Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Oreg. 2/	213	177	151	195	171	198
Kans., Colo., N. Mex., Ariz. 3/	547	540	207	615	420	509
Calif. 4/	314	275	299	339	347	391
Total	1,806	1,729	1,460	1,885	1,562	1,731
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Production:						
Me., Vt., N.Y., Mich., Wis., Minn. 1/	4,624	5,326	5,494	6,365	3,614	
Nebr., Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Oreg. 2/	2,283	2,116	1,729	2,097	1,995	
Kans., Colo., N. Mex., Ariz. 3/	1,930	1,809	479	1,896	1,432	
Calif. 4/	3,348	3,520	3,684	3,965	4,081	
Total	12,181	12,771	11,386	14,323	11,122	

1/ Largely Pea beans.
2/ Largely Gr. Northern.
3/ Largely Pinto.
4/ Miscellaneous varieties - mostly Limas, Baby Limas, Blackeyes, Small Whites, and Pinks.

Dry edible beans: Supply and disposition, average 1928-29 to 1932-33, annual 1933-34 to 1936-37

Item	Average 1928-29 to 1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Production	12,181	12,771	11,393	14,323	11,122
Carry-over 1/	1,095	1,250	2,000	1,150	1,000
Imports	653	158	389	147	
Total supply	13,929	14,179	13,782	15,620	
Exports and re-exports	254	79	55	92	
Shipments to noncontiguous U.S. territories	286	333	271	332	
Carry-over 2/	1,231	2,000	1,150	1,000	
Domestic disappearance	12,158	11,767	12,306	14,196	

1/ Stocks in warehouses and elevators in main producing sections at beginning of crop marketing season September 1.
2/ Stocks at end of season.

Dry edible beans: Average price per 100 pounds received by farmers, by months, average 1928-29 to 1932-33, annual 1933-34 to 1936-37

Month	Average 1928-29 to 1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Sept.	4.98	3.29	3.83	3.08	4.35
Oct.	4.69	2.64	3.83	2.89	4.83
Nov.	4.46	2.85	3.56	2.67	5.30
Dec.	4.37	2.64	3.43	2.44	5.49
Jan.	4.34	2.70	3.51	2.61	5.87
Feb.	4.38	2.82	3.50	2.85	6.44
Mar.	4.29	2.75	3.62	2.86	
Apr.	4.21	2.61	3.63	3.00	
May	4.52	2.61	3.62	3.02	
June	4.43	2.74	3.54	2.96	
July	4.40	2.79	3.41	3.76	
Aug.	4.53	3.19	3.26	4.33	
Weighted average	4.48	2.79	3.56	2.93	

PEANUTS

The 1937 acreage of peanuts, grown alone for all purposes, is expected to be 2 percent larger than that harvested in 1936 and will be the largest acreage on record. If the acreage actually harvested for nuts in 1937 is correspondingly larger than that harvested in 1936 and if average growing conditions prevail, the supply of peanuts available for market in the 1937-38 season would be slightly smaller than the supplies available during the last 2 seasons. If growing conditions are as favorable as in 1935 and 1936, however, a peanut crop slightly larger than the record large crop of 1935 would be produced.

During the last 2 seasons, unusually large quantities of peanuts were crushed for oil and the indications are that still larger quantities are being so used in the current (1936-37) season. Whereas, crushings averaged 73 million pounds of peanuts in the hull during the 5 years 1928-32, and totaled only 45 million pounds in the 1933-34 season, they increased to 220 million pounds in 1934-35 and to 241 million pounds in 1935-36. In the current season (1936-37), crushings during the first quarter were 26 percent greater than in the first quarter of the 1935-36 season.

This unusual increased demand for peanuts, together with improving consumer purchasing power, has resulted in substantially higher average prices to growers during the last 3 seasons, despite the large crops produced. Although the production of peanuts for nuts totaled 1,300 million pounds in 1936, compared with 945,886,000 pounds, the 1928-32 average, prices received by growers have risen sharply from the season's low point in November and have averaged higher than for any season since 1930. On February 15 the United States average price received by farmers was 4.1 cents per pound, the same as on January 15, but fully 1 cent per pound higher than in mid-February 1936. Prices of cleaned and shelled peanuts, f.o.b. cleaning and shelling plants, were quoted recently at from 1-1/4 to 2-3/4 cents per pound above those of a year ago.

With another large peanut crop in prospect for 1937, it appears that crushers will again have to take a relatively large quantity of peanuts, if prices are to continue at the levels prevailing in recent years. Recently, prime crude peanut oil, with 5 percent refining loss, was quoted at 10-1/8 to 10-1/4 cents per pound, compared with 8-3/8 to 8-1/2 cents a year earlier, and bleached cottonseed oil, March delivery, ranged from 11.20 to 11.35 cents per pound, against 9.30 to 9.48 cents a year ago. Based upon the relationship of normal requirements of edible fats and oils generally to the prospective supply for 1937-38, it is probable that the demand for peanuts for oil production will be as great next season as in the 1936-37 season.

Peanuts: Acreage and production, average 1928-32, annual 1934-37

Section	Average 1928-32	1934	1935	1936	Intended 1937
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
	Acreage grown alone for all purposes				
Va. - N.C. 1/	402	398	395	402	427
Southeastern 2/	954	1,082	1,079	1,201	1,239
Southwestern 3/	347	339	472	453	432
Total	1,702	1,819	1,946	2,056	2,098
	Solid equivalent of acres from which peanuts were harvested				
Va. - N.C. 1/	389	394	383	381	
Southeastern 2/	775	977	989	1,044	
Southwestern 3/	253	328	353	311	
Total	1,417	1,699	1,725	1,736	
	Production harvested for nuts				
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Va. - N.C. 1/	382,199	419,350	419,975	400,785	
Southeastern 2/	435,327	597,490	686,450	773,615	
Southwestern 3/	128,360	106,200	196,380	126,140	
Total	945,886	1,123,040	1,302,805	1,300,540	

1/ Includes Tennessee. 2/ South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. 3/ Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Copies of "Agricultural Statistics, 1936" Available

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