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PRODUCTION TRENDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR APRIL, 1947.

April weather conditions were chiefly mild to warm, with an absence of frosts. Good rain fell along the coast, and a number of useful falls were received at scattered points inland. For the most part, however, registrations were below normal, and further good rains would now be welcome.

Conditions for dairying were generally good during April, but production showed the normal seasonal decline for this time of year. This seasonal decline, coupled with continued high consumer demand, made rationing of milk in the Sydney area necessary at the end of April.

As a result of the favourable growing season, good supplies of most vegetables seem assured for the next few months. The main-crop potato harvest is unlikely to commence in earnest until the end of May, but yield will be better than earlier expectations, because of the mild April weather.

Conditions for planting this year's wheat crop were generally favourable throughout the State although considerable portions of the wheat belt need more rain urgently. However, reports from all districts indicate sowings will be very heavy, and in many parts will be at record levels. A considerable area has already been planted.

Harvesting of early and mid-season maize is now mostly complete. Some excellent yields are being obtained, but in some North Coast areas wet weather has had adverse effects. The total State harvest has been estimated at 2.7 m. bushels, which is below average, though above last year's figure.

The 1947 sugar harvest is now in progress, and a yield of about 270,000 tons of cane is anticipated.

The rice harvest commenced in April and was in full swing by the end of the month. Latest reports indicate the average yield may be between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ tons per acre, which is rather less than was hoped earlier in the season.

The honey season is virtually over now that winter is approaching. Prospects for the coming year are reasonably good, but the first production will not come until spring.

Egg production during April was below last year's levels due to frequent rain in the main producing areas, and uncertainty about wheat supplies. However, total production for 1946-47 should be a record.