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FARM LABOR NOTES

September 20, 1942

*Last no pub.  
Miss Sorenson will send  
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Jan. 23, 1944*

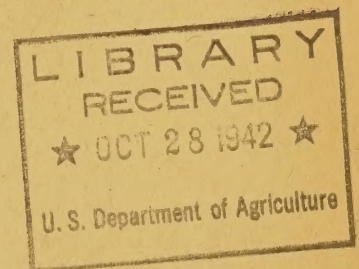
Extracts from reports of field representatives

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Sources indicated by initials

BAE	Bureau of Agricultural Economics
FLC	Farm Labor Committee
RLSC	Regional Labor Supply Committee
FSA	Farm Security Administration
WB	War Board
OI	Office of Information
USES	United States Employment Service
ES	Extension Service, USDA
RS	Reclamation Service





NORTHEAST REGION

MAINE:

The green bean and blueberry harvests were the most important farm activities during August. Although some shortages were reported, no serious crop losses were expected. Youths are playing an important part in the green bean harvest. The supply of workers for the potato harvest in Aroostook County was expected to be inadequate because of the out-migration of workers into the Army and war industries. (USES-FSA)

VERMONT:

The labor situation in Vermont is about the same as it was a month ago. The situation relative to year-round help is probably more acute than that relating to day help.

Farmers have been able to get their haying done in fairly good shape with the assistance of high school boys and girls, women, workers of the Volunteer Land Corps, and workers from nearby factories in their off-shift hours. The hay crop is considerably later than usual in being cut, which will tend toward poor quality.

Potato growers in some areas of the State are already anticipating a shortage of labor. (WB)

MASSACHUSETTS:

Barnstable County: The Rural War Action Committees feel that the local farm labor supply will be sufficient to take care of the fall harvest. The harvest of the cranberry crop has been given special attention, and it is thought that with the high prices prevailing for this work, the supply of pickers will be adequate.

Bristol County: The general farm-hand situation on dairy farms has become very acute almost to the point of none being available for milking and doing the general farm chores. Some day help is still available. It is estimated there are over 175 boys of high school age working on farms in the county. (WB)

RHODE ISLAND:

The Kent and Washington County War Boards meeting jointly have developed plans for aiding the potato growers in these areas to harvest their crops. A survey of the larger local potato growers revealed that they feel certain of about only 25 percent of their normal picking crews.

At the request of these two War Boards the USES is investigating the possibility of obtaining labor from the Southern States if the necessity arises. (WB)

JAN 29 1943

CONNECTICUT:

In the Connecticut tobacco area there is no shortage of tobacco workers among the shade growers, but there is an acute shortage among the outdoor growers. Work in the shade tobacco fields nets a minimum of \$3.50 a day per worker. For this work Southern Negroes were transported into the area. In the sheds women receive about \$4 to \$5 a day. These women usually come from nearby towns and are transported to work by a company truck. The barracks for the Negroes are, on the whole, good, based on FSA standards. All the shade tobacco in Connecticut is grown by 39 corporate farms, which have sufficient resources to recruit and transport labor. These growers utilize the facilities of the FSA camp.

The outdoor, or broadleaf, tobacco growers, are, on the other hand, small farmers who do not utilize the FSA camp. These farmers cannot afford to recruit and transport their labor, and as a result are faced with a shortage of labor. (FSA)

There are 750 Negroes working in the tobacco areas of the Connecticut Valley. These Negro college boys have proved to be better workers than Connecticut high school boys and it is expected next year more farms will endeavor to employ such Negro students. The type of Negroes sent up by the USES was unsatisfactory. Most of them were young, averaging 16 years of age. One group of 40 was sent up as Tuskegee Institute students and all but four of these admitted upon arrival they had no connection whatsoever with Tuskegee. (BAE)

NEW YORK:

Farmers are now very busy with the harvest of fall crops and the labor shortage is rather acute in many areas. Some New York City boys are going into Western New York, and into the Hudson Valley to pick apples. They are excused from school until October 1, and are living in supervised camps and in some cases in the homes of farmers. Most of them are inexperienced.

It is reported that 300 soldiers have been released from the Camp in Niagara County to help harvest peaches. Harvesting of the heavy corn crop, the bulk of which goes into the silo, will prove difficult but probably will be largely on an exchange labor basis. (BAE)

According to reports of the USES the harvesting of early crops was generally completed in the State while the harvesting of late summer crops - beans, tomatoes, apples and peaches - was reaching its peak at the end of the month. The early crops were harvested with little difficulty, except that there was a 10 percent loss both in the Wayne County cherry crop and in the Madison County hay crop because of labor shortages. Madison and Onondaga Counties reported labor shortages at the end of August. In Onondaga County sub-standard wages and living conditions as well as lack of transportation

accounted for most of the shortage in that area. In the Northwest part of the State, it is expected that the supplies of labor will not be adequate for the harvest. Under the recently established Farm Labor Transportation Program workers are being moved from Virginia and West Virginia into the FSA camp in Orleans County. The USES has certified the need and the FSA is handling the transportation and housing of workers. Approximately 600 workers are to be moved under this scheme. A wage board is at the present time determining the prevailing or "going" wage in seven counties in Western New York. The workers brought in will be housed in FSA camps. (USES-FSA)

#### PENNSYLVANIA:

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in a newspaper release, advised students capable of aiding in the harvest of vital crops to remain out of school for a short period as they would be able to make up class work.

Extension field personnel report that farmers are utilizing more family labor, more labor of their neighbors and that of youth and older persons to harvest the tomato crop. Moreover, they state that with the exception of parts of Bucks and counties adjoining, areas of high industrial labor demand, no shortage has been reported. One field person stated he was present when several farmers turned down workers seeking employment.

Farmers in some areas are solving their field supervisory problem by hiring family groups and making the family head responsible for this group and by hiring or trading supervisory work with neighbors.

Several hundred workers are being transported daily to and from South Philadelphia for harvest work in nearby counties. In addition, farm operators are providing the noon meal free to all workers.

A high percentage of the tobacco crop has been harvested and placed in barns for curing. On the whole, tobacco acreage per farm is small and the harvest work is usually performed with family labor -- with little or no outside labor required. (BAE)

Thousands of school boys and girls have registered in Pennsylvania for farm work. In fact the USES reports there is a surplus for this type of labor. Some boys and girls were transported from the Pittsburgh area to Michigan. At the present time school boys and girls can be found in fields in practically every part of the State (WB)

NEW JERSEY:

Growers' opinions indicate that the supply of farm labor is wholly inadequate yet harvesting is apparently running on schedule. Every available on-farm supply is being utilized to the fullest extent. Inspection around unloading stations reveals that a large part of the truck drivers are women and children, thus leaving able-bodied men for active farm duty. According to reports from the USES, there is still an available supply of workers in nearby towns such as Philadelphia and New York. Growers are still reluctant to use this source of farm labor due to inexperience on the part of laborers. However, they are still using all available workers from small towns and villages. Definite steps are now being taken by local county agencies for deferment of school children for fifteen days as allowed by law at the beginning of the school term in September. The Farm Placement Service informs us that the supply of migratory workers has been exhausted from stations in the South and no more effort will be made to recruit from this area. (BAE)

Migratory laborers, when traveling in trucks from the South, are routed around South Carolina through Tennessee and then north, because of friction with the local authorities in South Carolina.

The FSA camp at Cumberland has been expanded and is now taking care of 900 persons. A large grower has offered part of his land as a site for another camp, if one is necessary.

In Salem County, where previously farmers had claimed that they had sufficient labor and did not need the services of the USES, there have arisen cries of labor shortages.

The FSA camp at Swedesboro, in Gloucester County, is being expanded to take care of 250 and possibly 500 prospective additional migrants. (FSA)

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

OHIO:

The supply of labor is still short, but probably ample to meet the minimum needs. No complaint has been received yet from the tomato picking area, while the harvest of apples is giving some concern.

A few schools will not start until later and in many counties, older boys according to newspaper reports, are being permitted to enter school at a much later date. In some areas, there is talk of dismissing school for the harvesting of apples. (BAE)

The USES has taken care of the sugar beet labor so that the situation is well in hand. At the present time, some of the sugar beet labor is being shifted to potato growers and tomato growers. In the tomato field there seems to be sufficient workers, but there is a scarcity of tomato peelers and factory workers. (WB)

As a whole it appears that the farm labor situation, as it actually pertains to labor on the farms, will be taken care of fairly satisfactorily.

The greatest problem confronting the Ohio USDA War Board is securing the necessary help in the tomato canning plants. Tomatoes are rotting at the plants because they cannot secure the help to do the peeling. The prevailing wage rate at these plants is fair. It is simply a matter of many of our school authorities still having a selfish interest in their pet theory of education; and many of the women around the county seat towns and smaller towns not having caught the vision of an all-out war. (WB)

INDIANA:

The employment of family labor is practically the same as last year and the employment of hired help is reported slightly higher although the change is not marked. There apparently has been no actual shortage of hired help this year, most of the protests about shortage being designed to support deferments of military service or to get price adjustments due to higher wages. (BAE)

I wish to state that regardless of the number of defense plants that are located in Indiana, and regardless of the number of farm boys, and farm labor that the Selective Service Board has taken for the needs of the Army, to date the farm production has not suffered because of lack of labor and we feel that we will be able to continue throughout the year of 1943 by using all the county, State and federal machinery that was set up for handling local labor problems. (WB)



ILLINOIS:

Of the various farming enterprises, dairy farming and truck farming feel the labor pinch most. Among the comments by reporters, several report that they are selling all or a part of their cows. However, it may be noticed from price reports that prices for cows have advanced slightly. (BAE)

The extreme northern offices of the USES report an "urgent need" for dairy hands. The chief problem in placing dairy hands is the lack of housing for married workers. (USES-FSA)

During the latter part of August the BAE, in cooperation with the Illinois Experiment Station, the USES and FSA conducted a sample survey in Southern Illinois similar to the one in Wisconsin during June. It was concluded that the sample study produced results that would justify a real attempt by the USES, State Extension Service, War Boards and the FSA to utilize to the fullest extent the recruitment possibilities in southern Illinois. (BAE)

There is going to be some effort made to recruit the "all-year-round" type of farm labor from southern Illinois to move north into the more concentrated dairy sections.

It is the general opinion of farmers that some definite effort should be made to keep a few important farm laborers on the farm and definitely defer from military service as has been done with key men in industry.

The USES has ably taken care of all seasonal labor requirements in Illinois. (WB)

MICHIGAN:

Although growers earlier in the month had reported shortages, reports of the USES indicate that the bean crop was being harvested without any losses. School boys were being used in the harvest and farmers were exchanging their labor. Attempts are being made to provide transportation for industrial workers who are willing to work in the harvest. It is expected that industrial workers from Chicago will spend a few weeks "vacation" in Benton Harbor to help in the apple harvest late in September. (USES-FSA)

WISCONSIN:

During the early part of August the supply of farm labor was adequate but toward the end of the month shortages in some areas were reported. In the Eau Claire area, where workers have been attracted to construction work, newspaper and radio advertising is being used to attract workers for snapping

corn and picking beans. Cranberry growers are concerned over the supply of labor which will be available for the harvest in early September, particularly in the Wisconsin Rapids area. The USES is trying to recruit about 1,000 workers for the potato harvest in Langdale County. In southern Wisconsin growers are also anticipating difficulties over the recruiting of labor for the harvesting of late truck crops. (USES-FSA)

The FSA Labor Relations Specialist reports that an attempt to recruit unemployed farm workers for employment on farms in counties where shortages exist was unsuccessful. Although the wages offered, plus perquisites, are higher than those offered several months ago and a change has taken place in the attitudes of farmers in the hiring of inexperienced farm hands, farm workers either are unwilling to move out of their home county or have already moved into the cities for war work.

As to potato picking, farmers have not increased the picking rate, except to add a bonus of 1¢ a bushel for pickers who remain throughout the entire picking season, despite the fact that the price of potatoes has gone up about 60 percent. (FSA)

#### MINNESOTA:

During July the townspeople who registered with the volunteer offices were called upon to do a substantial amount of farm labor after their regular working hours. They performed essential work. It is anticipated that during the next month or two greater use of the people registered under the Minnesota Plan will be made.

The USES has made 13,500 placements up to the end of July. They have also been successful in placing a substantial number of youths in the farming areas of this State. A great number of these boys are from the metropolitan areas, or from the iron range in northeastern Minnesota. During the harvest season which is still in progress, they have been successful in transferring workers from northern and eastern Minnesota to areas where they are seriously needed in western and southern Minnesota. (WB)

#### IOWA:

Iowa farmers have gone through the small grain harvest without a labor crisis. To our knowledge no appreciable crop acreage was lost or severely damaged because of the inability to secure help. There is little prospect that help will be a serious problem in the corn and soybean harvest because both operations are so highly mechanized. Then too, in the case of corn the harvesting season can be stretched out over a long period with relatively little crop loss.

About the only Iowa farm people having serious labor trouble are a few of the large feeders, dairymen, turkey producers, and orchardists, who need a number of skilled laborers that are absolutely dependable. (BAE)

#### MISSOURI:

The farm labor situation has not changed materially during the last month. Help is progressively harder to obtain. Farmers are still reluctant to hire inexperienced help.

The situation in the cotton section is satisfactory at the present. County Labor Committees have surveyed the supply of laborers which will be available for cotton picking and find that the supply is much below the number actually used last year.

Most of the County Committees object to alien laborers or even workers brought in "from the outside." The labor committees in the cotton counties are trying to secure laborers from other localities. Some Mexican families were brought into one county last spring and have apparently been satisfactory. (WB)

#### NORTH DAKOTA:

The USES was requested by the chairman of the State War Board to stop the release of their weekly farm labor Bulletin. The State War Board Chairman stated that county War Board members had objections to the release of information as to farm wage rates.

USES reports that a very disorganized wage situation has developed in the harvest season and feels that stopping of their wage information was a handicap. He reports that local farmers have been bidding against each other to a much greater extent than usual. Farmers are nervous over the delay due to rain and scarcity of help and have offered as high as 70¢ an hour for common harvest labor. (BAE)

At the request of the State War Board, Governor Moses of this State issued a reciprocity regulation permitting trucks to move combines into North Dakota without the necessity of securing State licenses.

According to the last information received at least forty-nine machines have come to this State from the south. (WB)

Threshing is under way in all areas of the State, and in the northern part of the State, there is still some harvesting left to be done. The number of family laborers per farm is about average for this time of the year but the number of hired helpers on farms is much larger than normal. The

crop production this year may be a record for the State. (BAE)

Migrants have been coming into the State from Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin in increasing numbers, but less than in previous years. Transient workers refuse to work for less than 50 cents per hour for shocking grain. Wherever growers are willing to pay this amount they have been able to obtain sufficient labor. (USES-FSA)

#### SOUTH DAKOTA:

Belle Fourche: Farm labor requirements have been met partly through more women field workers, boys running tractors, and business men helping with the grain harvest. There will probably be no serious labor shortage until sugar beets are marketed. Mexicans, Indians, and farm families have handled the beet crop satisfactorily through thinning and hoeing. (RS)

A large number of women have been helping with the harvest, running tractors, binders, shocking and running bundle wagons. Threshing outfits would be running very short-handed were it not for the fact that they are using women to help. (WB)

Labor not normally employed in agriculture has been used extensively for shocking small grain in the eastern half of the State. Indian labor is reported as being used throughout the harvest season in the farming areas nearest the reservations. The full use of the Indian workers for harvest work is a change from previous years when farmers adjoining reservations preferred other laborers.

Sugar beet harvest is expected to start in the Belle Fourche area the latter part of September. The USES reports that most of the Indians who worked at blocking and hoeing the beets have returned to their homes. Recruitment of beet harvest workers is now under way. (BAE)

#### NEBRASKA:

The peak demand for the summer of 1942 is past. While farmers have been very busy and threshing crews have been a bit shorthanded, both the harvest and the threshing went off in a very satisfactory manner. No extremely high wages were paid and most help was quite satisfactory.

At the present time there is no apparent agricultural labor shortage in any section of Nebraska. (WB)

NEBRASKA:

The Nebraska State Labor Committee on September 12th reviewed the labor situation for corn picking. The USES indicated that there was considerable concern as to shortage of labor for corn picking. A survey conducted by the AAA at the request of the War Board indicated that there were 2,899 mechanical pickers available in the State and need for an additional 5,294. (B/E)

KANSAS:

Dairy and livestock farmers are finding it extremely difficult to hire help. Many dairy herds have been disposed of or reduced in size because of the scarcity of farm labor. Otherwise the supply of farm labor appears to be adequate. (B/E)

Labor Committees have kept wage rates fair and uniform, thus avoiding tendency of men to drift to areas paying most money. (ES)

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

DELAWARE:

Undoubtedly some crops or parts of crops will be lost because of the labor situation. Corn cutting has now begun and there appears to be a shortage of such workers although prices for such work are reported to be high - in some cases \$5.00 per day or more. There has been a shortage of laborers for picking tomatoes. (BAE)

Tomato growers refuse to furnish transportation, which is the chief difficulty in attracting migrants into the FSA camp in Kent County. (USES-FSA)

The farm labor camp at Woodside, Delaware, has been of limited value this year and there is some talk of eliminating all labor camps in both Delaware and Maryland next year. (BAE)

MARYLAND:

The farm labor situation is still acute and some production will be lost because of labor shortage. Corn cutting is now in progress but a shortage of such laborers is reported. Apple producers in Western Maryland made some attempt to bring pickers in without the help of any agency. Apparently farmers believe that they must solve their own individual problems as best they can. (BAE)

VIRGINIA:

The number of farm workers has increased during the month of August and is larger than that reported September 1 last year.

In spite of the scarcity of farm labor, seasonal farm work has kept abreast of the season. (BAE)

Intermittent reports have reached the State board about sporadic attempts here and there to solve labor difficulties, but there has been no sustained organized state-wide effort. The War Board is now beginning a program that is expected to result in such an effort. (WB)

FSA reports that there were about 100 Negro workers residing in the FSA camp at Crozet, Virginia. These workers were employed by a labor contractor who received \$2.35 for transporting a worker and a salary of \$50 a week as acting foreman for the group. The workers are receiving \$2.35 for a ten-hour day. In addition, the contractor agreed to furnish them with food at a cost to the worker of 35¢ a day. The growers in the area requested that the camp be kept at Crozet until the apple harvesting is completed about November first.

Another FSA camp is located at Timberville and during the third week of August there were approximately 300 persons in the camp. All the workers in the camp are white and were recruited from the mountain section of Virginia, anywhere from 30 to 100 miles away from the camp. The county board appropriated \$75 a month for the duration of the camp season in order to employ a supervisor to operate the nursery school. (FSA)

#### WEST VIRGINIA:

Although there were shortages of farm labor in certain areas of the State, very little produce actually went to waste as a result of this shortage.

It happens that while the Eastern Panhandle reports a shortage of 200 apple pickers, growers from New York are able to come here and find pickers in nearby counties who are willing to go to New York and work in orchards there. The fact that New York growers are willing and able to pay much higher wages than are being paid in the Eastern Panhandle is one of the chief reasons for this.

A recent order from Washington makes it possible for the Farm Security Administration to cooperate in furnishing transportation for workers traveling distances of over 200 miles. This will be a great help. (WB)

#### NORTH CAROLINA:

In general, farmers have done very well with their work this year. No serious losses have occurred on account of labor shortages. Of course many work-saving practices and short cuts have been employed. (BAE)

FSA reports that although it has been the practice in the past to bring workers from South Carolina into North Carolina for the peach harvest, this year when a truck was sent down to bring in workers, the truck driver was arrested. This reluctance to see workers cross State lines has grown to such a point that there are instances where county War Boards refuse to permit workers to cross county lines.

Peanut and cotton growers in North Carolina have asked the FSA to set up a migratory workers' camp in these areas in the State. (FSA)

Paying tribute to the assistance of FSA migratory labor camps, the North Carolina USDA War Board has named a committee to study the labor situation in regard to keeping the camps in the State. (OI)

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Although cotton picking has started in some areas, the cotton bolls are not full (9/8/42) and are low on the stalk. Experienced pickers can only pick 150 to 200 pounds a day and at 75¢ per hundred are not receiving a very attractive wage. If conditions do not improve a shortage of farm labor for cotton picking is expected throughout the State. The manpower will be there but they will not pick the poor cotton for 75¢ per cwt., which is about half the wage paid by other cotton farmers in the Southeast. (BAE)

GEORGIA:

The shortage of labor has caused a real problem in saving this year's large peanut acreage but it is the general opinion, if weather conditions are favorable, that the crop will be saved with only small losses.

Sumter and Baker counties are the only counties believed to be facing an acute farm labor shortage.

Close cooperation between farmers and USDA War Boards, as well as close cooperation of both with the USES is alleviating the labor situation. (BAE)

Some areas reported large surpluses of labor, but most of these workers will be needed when the peak harvests arise. During the month the USES arranged for the transfer of about 500 workers from the State to shortage areas in other States. Under the plan, workers are to be returned to Georgia when needed for that State's harvests. (USES-FSA)

FLORIDA:

In the large vegetable producing counties of South Florida it is evident that there will be an extensive and severe labor shortage this fall and winter unless plans are put into effect to avert the shortages in this area.

Local farmers and members of War Boards in South Florida do not believe that the domestic farm labor supply can adequately satisfy the farm labor requirements in the area and in order to be prepared to meet such a situation the USDA War Boards have been working on a plan to import farm labor from the Bahama Islands. (WB)

The Southern Florida vegetable growers are undecided about acreage because of fear of labor shortages and confusing information relative to minimum farm wages. (BAE)



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

KENTUCKY:

Mass transportation of labor is meeting with success in Kentucky, where in different regions of the one State can be found a shortage and over-supply of farm labor. The first successful attempt to bring the two together was worked out by USES, FSA and farm organizations recently, when about 250 workers from the mountains of Southeastern Kentucky were transported to Shelby and Henry Counties to help in the tobacco harvest. The Shelby County farmers agreed in advance to give the workers board and lodging and \$2.50 a day. The farmers also paid \$1.00 per worker for transportation costs. A second intra-State mass movement of workers is planned for October, when county War Boards, working with USES and FSA, plan to transport 350 to 500 workers from the mountains to aid in the harvest of 4,700 acres of seed hemp in Henderson and Union Counties.

First mass movement of workers from the State took place last week when 175 men and women from Martin County left for Northern New York. FSA and USES cooperated and the usual requirements were met for workers transported more than 200 miles. (OI)

TENNESSEE:

The reduced labor supply will no doubt be felt in certain areas, but there should be sufficient labor for harvesting the crops provided weather conditions are favorable. (BAE)

Bean growers in the Mountain City (Johnson County) area, in need of about 350 workers, have requested the FSA to furnish transportation for workers from Arkansas to the FSA camp in Mountain City. The growers have furnished about \$1,000 to provide additional housing facilities at the camp. They have also agreed to pay the transportation costs up to 200 miles, as is required under the FSA Farm Labor Transportation Program. (FSA)

MISSISSIPPI:

In all cotton areas, except the Delta, the full utilization of the available farm workers will alleviate any shortages. In the Delta area attempts are being made, as in the past, to recruit workers from the hill section. Arrangements are being made to transport workers from areas of surplus to areas of need. School hours will probably be adjusted so that the children can work half a day picking cotton. (USES-FSA)

It is reported that some planters have begun to import Mexican cotton pickers to supplement the local labor supply.

Surplus workers in the Covich Truck Area are being recruited by the Employment Service and directed to demand points in the Delta. (BAE)

Many County War Boards are now attempting to locate all available cotton pickers and are asking planters to provide necessary facilities for housing, transporting and feeding them.

Tallahatchie County War Board reports that indications now are that there will be a shortage of labor in that county during the harvesting season. Additional labor will be needed to harvest the favorable cotton crop in Granada County.

Noxubee county reports that there is a shortage of labor, especially in dairy areas and for harvesting of the hay crop.

Facilities are available for migratory labor, and farmers will use all of this type labor they can get. Necessary plans have been made for the transportation of workers to and from work and will be put in operation if tires can be obtained. (WB)

#### ALABAMA:

There is no indication of a critical labor shortage, though an efficient use of available labor will be necessary if peanuts are to be gathered satisfactorily in Southeast Alabama.

Shortages are reported in the Shawmut and Opelika areas where a sub-standard wage scale of 60¢ per cwt. prevails. Reports are that there is available labor in these areas but they refuse to work for these low wages.

Schools in a number of southern counties are holding half-day sessions. Several counties in the Northern section have started school early in order to close during the peak harvesting period. (BAE)

Baldwin County War Board has recommended the establishment of labor camps at two points for next spring's truck crops. They further suggest that these camps might originate in Florida, locate in Baldwin County not later than May 1 and move into the Arkansas territory on or about June 15. The six weeks period from May 1 - June 15 would help materially in harvesting truck crops. This War Board feels that if the farmers are assured of this labor in advance they will probably grow at least 75 percent of a normal crop, otherwise, production may be cut 50 percent. Many farmers are already reporting peanuts lost because they were not able to hire labor and one farmer reported that he lost 250 acres of oats due entirely to labor shortage.

A special committee of the Tallapoosa County War Board is working on a plan to secure the services of truckdrivers to go into communities where there are colored servants and boys and girls who do not have steady employment and who are not registered with USES. The tentative plan is to transport

these laborers daily from their communities to farms where they are to help harvest the cotton crop. This plan is now in operation in Clarke County and a group of 30 workers was obtained in one community. (WB)

#### ARKANSAS:

There was a sufficient number of farm workers to handle the harvesting of apples, grapes and truck crops during August. The tomato harvest is being handled by family labor and the bean crop will be harvested with a minimum of difficulty, as the planting dates were staggered to eliminate a heavy peak. It is expected that the cotton harvest will find a sufficient number of workers on hand, since workers will be released from war construction projects by the time the cotton harvest reaches its peak. (USES-FSA)

Earlier apprehension of a serious labor shortage for the cotton and rice harvest is rapidly giving way to a feeling of certainty that the 1942 crops will be harvested without serious loss. Farmers are transporting laborers relatively long distances, as housing facilities for seasonal workers are not available on the plantations. As usual, large numbers of workers will have to be brought into the Delta and rice areas for cotton and rice harvest, but the USES anticipates no difficulty in supplying the necessary workers. (BAE)

#### LOUISIANA:

The cotton harvest will require an estimated 202,000 workers including family labor, and any shortages which will arise will probably be confined to the Delta regions, where an estimated shortage of 5,000 workers is expected. The low wage rate of \$1.00 a hundred pounds will probably cause this shortage. An increase in the wage rate would reduce the estimated shortage. In any event, no crop losses are expected as the harvest season will simply be prolonged or workers will be brought in from the hill section. (USES-FSA)

War Boards in the major cotton and rice producing sections are becoming increasingly alert to the labor situation and are rendering valuable assistance in the recruitment of workers according to the USES. Wage rates for both cotton picking and rice harvest continue below the level offered in corresponding areas of Texas and Arkansas, resulting in some migration of workers from Louisiana and apprehension among Louisiana growers of a labor shortage - or the necessity of paying comparable wages. Experience in other States would indicate that an increase in local wage rates would not only prevent emigration of the present supply but in addition would attract substantial numbers of workers from heretofore unused sources. (BAE)

Rice labor will be fairly adequate according to present indications. There is a price differential favoring labor in the rice fields of East Texas. If this differential is not eliminated by increase in the Louisiana wage scale there may possibly be a heavy movement of Louisiana labor to Texas. (WB)

The USES does not anticipate much of a labor problem on the very large rice farms. Middle size growers of 200 to 400 acres will have the greatest difficulty in securing labor when they want it for they are not willing to cooperate in the use of labor and machinery. The small scale rice farmers will not be hurt by labor scarcity as they will pool their interests. There will be considerable more cooperative use of machinery and labor this year than in the past. (BAE)

The Farm Placement Service reports that the cane section will need more non-resident labor this year than usual. Much of the normal supply from Mississippi is reported to be working at camp construction at Centerville, Miss. USES plans to route labor from the Delta back to the cane area after the cotton harvest has been finished in the Upper Delta. The War Board is asking the Federal Government to relax its restrictions on child labor in sugar cane production in order to offset a possible labor shortage.

The Farm Placement Service has heard of no requests for Mexican labor in Louisiana. It is the view of the USES that Louisiana has plenty of labor on farms to handle the 1942 harvest but it is not properly distributed. (BAE)

#### OKLAHOMA:

The USES reports that almost 3,000 farm laborers had been sent out of the State to the beet fields in other States, before the recruiting program for this work had been stopped.

New demands are being made on Oklahoma to supply workers for harvesting beets. The USES does not expect to recruit any additional workers for the beet fields at this time and they expect to prevent or, at least, discourage, personal recruiting by company representatives, in view of the fact that Oklahoma's cotton crop will soon be ready to harvest. Kansas has been asking for two or three hundred broom corn workers and USES expects to supply this order, bringing the workers back to Oklahoma for the later broom corn harvest in the western part of the State. USES reports that, as far as could now be seen, Oklahoma's cotton crop apparently could be handled with the present available supply of labor. (ES)

At the present time supply and demand are about equal and if there is any difference, supply probably exceeds demand. The peak seasonal requirements will come about the middle of September. In the eastern part of the State, where surpluses exist, there is a heavy demand for unskilled workers in the war industries. In early October there will be a demand for cotton pickers in the Muskogee cotton area and peanut harvesters in the eastern and southern parts of the State. (FSA)

The customary movement of labor from the general farming areas to the cotton and peanut producing sections is already under way. Increases in wages will materially increase the supply of cotton pickers and other farm wage hands. This has been demonstrated repeatedly during the current season - when farm wages are raised, the threatening labor shortage vanishes.

At least one sugar company is recruiting harvest labor in Oklahoma over the protest of the USES. The concern of the Employment Service is not so much with the probability of a labor shortage resulting from this indiscriminate recruitment as with the additional burden of recruiting laborers from other areas to replace those who are being taken out of the State. (BAE)

#### TEXAS:

In the Coastal Plains area, where cotton and rice are grown, it seems that there may be some serious labor shortages. Not only are war industries attracting farm workers but transportation is becoming a serious problem. In the past, inadequate housing facilities seriously hampered the farm labor supply.

In the Black Land Prairies, low wage rates as well as inadequate housing and lack of transportation facilities, will affect the farm labor supply.

Although wages in Northwest Texas will attract workers to the area, the lack of transportation facilities will adversely affect the farm labor supply.

Despite claims to the contrary, the labor supply in the Coastal Bend area, near Corpus Christi, is adequate. The bulk of the crop has been gathered and farm workers have moved on. (FSA)

In the lower Rio Grande Valley the cotton harvest near the end of August was about three-fourths completed. Wages in the area were raised to \$1.50 a hundred pounds and stopped the movement to the Coastal Bend area, where the harvest was about one-third completed. Growers in the latter area reported that they did not have sufficient housing to handle any additional workers.

Rice growers are not expected to try to import Mexican workers as they believe that it is too costly. Instead they will have to depend upon migrant workers. (USES-FSA)

There has been no noticeable change in the migration of farm workers by cars and trucks. The effect of the tire shortage apparently has not yet slowed up the movement of workers. It is noticeable that workers are traveling in larger crews than in past years.

Texas farmers are harvesting the largest cotton crop since 1937, a record peanut acreage, a rice crop with a yield nearly 40 percent larger than that of 1941, and bumper feed crops - with a larger than usual working labor force. The more attractive wages being offered this season have tapped heretofore unused sources of farm labor supply. The migration from the lower valley this season is at least a third larger than normal. (BAE)

MOUNTAIN REGION

MONTANA:

Sugar beet growers are requesting more Japanese evacuees for sugar beet harvest to begin shortly after September 15, and the aggregate of such orders placed with the USES recently passed 4,000. Some assurance that such labor will be available was given representatives of sugar companies when they conferred with the War Relocation Authority at San Francisco recently. (BAE)

Harvesting has progressed satisfactorily to date despite a labor shortage, although harvest has been slower than usual. A number of combines have come in from Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas. A good crop of wild hay was put up, but an inadequate labor supply held down the quantity cut. The sugar beet industry faces a serious problem with no definite help in sight in many districts. (BAE)

IDAHO:

Labor demands in most parts of Idaho are quite slack. In fact some areas report difficulty in finding sufficient employment to keep their Japanese evacuees occupied. The peak labor season, however, is just ahead when sugar beets and potatoes will be competing for labor during October and November. No great difficulty is anticipated as the Japanese are expert at this type of work. Furthermore, means of using citizen labor have been developed to such an extent that it is felt any critical labor situation can be met successfully.

At the present time hay and grain harvests are nearing completion. Only one county Bannock, reported a shortage of labor for the wheat harvest. This shortage may be due to lower wage levels in that locality.

The only other area reporting a shortage of labor is in western Canyon and Owyhee Counties.

In this State hay has been left in the fields because of labor shortage.

Another loss (because of labor shortage) which it is impossible to measure is due to lack of proper irrigating. Farmers said they watered row crops and let the alfalfa and pasture lands suffer.

Even if labor were more plentiful, some farmers would not attempt to hire extra help at the present wage scale, farm product prices considered. (BAE)

WYOMING

The handicapping of agricultural production due to the loss of experienced year round labor is emphasized in Wyoming. Reports continue of ranchers

who are shifting from sheep to cattle in their 1943 production plans.

There is demand for Japanese evacuee labor for the sugar beet harvest particularly in Big Horn County.

There has been some dissatisfaction among ranchers and farmers at the high wage rates prevailing for construction of the Japanese Relocation Center near Cody, Wyoming. Ranchers in that area report difficulty in holding workers for haying because of the high wages offered common labor at construction work. (BAE)

The main concern at the moment is for the fall harvest, when beans and sugar beets will require the maximum number of workers. A survey is being made to determine the exact number of laborers required for this harvest and to see what can be done toward obtaining Japanese workers from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center to assist, especially in the sugar beet harvest. (WB)

#### COLORADO:

During August supplies of labor were adequate for all crops except hay. For the hay harvest about 250 workers were transported from New Mexico by the USES. The sugar beet harvest will begin at the end of September and the USES is asking growers to place their orders for workers immediately.

In the Palisade area the peach harvest was successfully completed. With the full utilization of local labor, the number of workers which were to be brought into the area was considerably reduced. There is a small shortage of workers for the late green bean harvest in the Rocky Ford area, where there is the simultaneous harvesting of green beans, cantaloupes, tomatoes, and onions. In northern Colorado there is no trouble with the green bean harvest as the local workers have completed beet hoeing and will work on green beans until the beet topping harvest. (USES-FSA)

Up to July 1, one sugar company solicited and transported over 13,000 field workers to the sugar beet areas in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana. The cost of this solicitation and transportation will total something over \$200,000. This has been a tremendous undertaking. The workers have been recruited from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, southern Colorado, eastern Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. (BAE)

#### NEW MEXICO:

The supply of labor was adequate for all operations in August; despite the fact that construction work had drawn off farm workers some areas reported surpluses. In some areas where small shortages arose, they were a result of low wages, poor housing, or lack of transportation facilities. In the



Clovis area, for example, there were 150 Filipinos available but they refused to work at the rate of \$1 a hundred pounds of beans. Cotton picking will be the next important crop activity. The wage rate has been set at \$1.25 a hundred pounds for short-staple cotton. The USES office at Roswell, however, reports that the "floor" wage is \$1.50 in that area, with transportation furnished within a 200 mile radius. (USES-FSA)

In the Dona Ana County and in part of Sierra County, where long-staple cotton is grown, it is expected that the supply of labor will be sufficient for the cotton harvest. The usual in-migration into the area from neighboring areas as well as from other States, will probably be sufficient to meet the demand. An important factor in the labor supply situation will be the wages offered, as the area is generally known as a low wage area. (USES-FSA)

Outside labor will have to be brought into New Mexico for the peak season's work. Transportation is the big problem. It is reported that due to storm damage to cotton in south Texas and rain in central and northern Texas, a movement of workers westward to New Mexico and Arizona is taking place. (BAE)

*Arizona*  
In August more workers were needed in the volunteer cotton harvest. Some areas had surpluses of labor, but workers refused to be transferred because no provision had been made for daily transportation from the growers' camps to the field; in addition the wages offered were too low. Workers are offered \$1.50 a hundred pounds for short staple, and from \$2.50 to \$3 a hundred pounds for long-staple cotton. A number of workers has come into the State from Arkansas and southern Missouri for the late cotton picking season. (USES-FSA)

A survey of 1,261 workers in Maricopa County revealed that 58 percent were without cars. This group of workers is dependent upon growers and contractors for transportation. (FSA)

Although there appears to be a surplus of labor in Oklahoma, the USES is at present hesitant to recruit labor from Oklahoma for work in Arizona (1) because there is a large amount of construction work under way and anticipated in Oklahoma and (2) because, through the cooperation of the Oklahoma Employment Service, such a large number of workers has already been shifted to other States. Arizona farmers have one or more men in Oklahoma at the present time recruiting labor for the cotton harvest - no report to date on their success or failure. (BAE)

#### UTAH:

There have been acute shortages of labor in some areas this year in connection with the thinning of beets and the harvesting of tomatoes. Additional difficulty is anticipated in the topping of sugar beets and in the harvesting of late crops. However, it is anticipated a considerable number of Japanese will be utilized for this work in the near future,

and if this is accomplished the harvest needs will be provided for. (BAE)

Many women are now working on farms, driving teams, tractors and operating milkers as well as raising fine victory gardens.

Millard County reports that there are sufficient Japanese in their vicinity to take care of all seasonal employment.

Counties are reporting a high exchange of labor between families and neighbors.

There is an increasing number of regular farm employees leaving their jobs for defense industries. Sheep men are having difficulty in holding herders on the job.

Reports indicate that the farm labor situation is growing worse; there are approximately 3000 rural workers being taken into defense industries and the armed forces each month in the State of Utah; the farmers cannot compete with the high prices being offered employees by defense industries. The War Boards have pretty much concluded that the most practical means of meeting the labor situation is to work with the schools in an effort to either delay the opening of school or work out some plan whereby school youth will be available for farm work. (WB)

#### NEVADA:

The farm labor situation proved to be somewhat less serious than had been expected earlier in the season in connection with hay harvest. Weather has been favorable with very little rainfall to spoil the hay laying in fields. (BAE)

PACIFIC REGION

WASHINGTON:

The farm labor situation in western Washington is uniformly good, according to the USES. Reported shortages decreased 26 percent in the State due to the completion of the harvesting of peas, hay, berries, sweet corn, and green beans for canning in western Washington. No serious labor difficulty is expected in this area for the rest of this season. A less satisfactory situation is developing in central Washington where a total of 35,000 workers is demanded at the peak in mid-September. At present, the Yakima Valley hop harvest accounts for 69 percent of the current shortage in the State. About 5,500 persons are now picking hops, with approximately 6,000 additional workers desired. Local USES offices have unfilled orders for 3,567 persons for hop picking. Other crops contributing to the current labor demand in this area are Bartlett pears and peaches. These will be followed by a demand for about 25,000 persons to harvest apples and winter pears during the period September 15 to November 10. Since these two crop periods overlap, the resulting peak in mid-September probably will be met with difficulty.

The USES estimates that a shortage of at least 3,000 workers will develop in central Washington despite intensive recruitment efforts. Arrangements are underway for inter-regional clearance of laborers from the mid-western States. Transportation difficulties promise to be the major handicap in recruiting the available workers within the State and elsewhere. The recent shortage in Kings County was largely met through improved transportation facilities.

Apple growers are anticipating their need for workers by advance planning for adequate transportation. Thousands of workers from outside areas will be sought for the apple harvest in the Wenatchee-Okanogan and Yakima apple districts. (BAE)

OREGON:

No great stringency of labor has existed in connection with the bean harvest. Cool weather has slowed the ripening of the beans and permitted maximum utilization of the existing labor supply.

The hop season is following so closely after the snap bean harvest that hop growers are having difficulty in getting labor at the time they want it. In spite of the tight labor situation, the hops in the southern part of the State are nearly all harvested, and no loss is expected. To the north, however, shortages from several hundred to several thousand workers exist in each county raising hops.

The cucumber harvest in the northwestern counties is competing with the hops for labor; 2,500 workers are needed. Volunteers from Portland and St. Helens are assisting in handling the crop.

The pear crop is being harvested with some difficulty. Fifteen hundred people are now being employed as compared with a peak need for 3,000 workers. Women and children are doing much of the work in some counties in spite of the fact that the rate of pay is almost twice that paid in previous years.

A shortage in this part of the State that is attracting a good deal of attention is that of dairy hands.

In south central Oregon, 6,300 workers will be needed by October 1 to handle the potato crop. Schools will be closed during the peak season and special attempts made to attract volunteer workers.

In eastern Oregon the major demand for farm workers exists in Umatilla County. Two thousand workers are currently being employed in the prune harvest there and another thousand are desired. (BAE)

#### CALIFORNIA:

Nearly 12,000 persons were reported to be harvesting grapes in the San Joaquin Valley during the week of September 3. An additional 10,000 persons are desired for the peak during this month in Fresno County. Local USES offices had unfilled orders for nearly 5,000 grape workers during this week.

Employment in hop picking doubled this week as the Sonoma area entered its peak season. A total of 6,900 persons were picking hops during the week of September 3, according to the USES. The influx of seasonal workers and volunteer workers was much greater than expected. Peak labor needs are expected to be met without great difficulty.

The peach harvest is past the peak with less labor difficulty than was expected. Sutter and Yuba County growers expect to complete the harvest satisfactorily, but growers in Stanislaus and Merced Counties are apprehensive of warm weather and the resulting increased labor requirements. There is a possibility of losses in Stanislaus and Merced Counties because so much of the fruit will be dried from now on. About 13,000 persons are picking peaches in the San Joaquin Valley with about 1,300 more desired.

Employment in the prune harvest more than doubled in the past week. The crop is early in some sections and labor requirements have tended to conflict with hops, grapes, and peaches this year. Women and children are successfully working in the prune harvest, but more men are required for dehydrator work and for shaking trees. About 3,750 additional workers were desired, mostly in Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties.

The sugar beet harvest is progressing slowly, largely because of the scarcity of experienced workers and disagreements over wage rates. The USES had unfilled orders for 2,241 persons to harvest sugar beets.

The citrus harvest is progressing favorably in southern California although there is some anxiety about the loss of student labor when schools open this month. In this area, as in the rest of the State, school opening will be delayed or arrangements made to dismiss students for part-time work in the harvests.

The tomato season is starting slowly, primarily because of cool weather. The USES reports adequate labor in most areas, with a larger supply anticipated after the peach harvest. Several counties are planning to use women and students from metropolitan areas if warm weather should hasten the crop.

A State-wide committee on labor, known as the California Agricultural Advisory Committee, has recently been formed. The members of the Committee were selected by representatives of the USES, the Governor of the State, and the California USDA War Board. This Committee is expected to fill the place of the State Farm Labor Subcommittee which has become inactive due to the elimination of land use planning activities and the State BAE representatives. The Committee is being recognized by Mr. William Hopkins, regional director of the War Manpower Commission as well as those organizations selecting its membership, as representative of State-wide agriculture on labor problems. (BAE)