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Eastern Washington Cooperative Beet Growers' Association

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BOX 697

WAPATO, WASHINGTON

✓ Sugar-beets Staging Comeback.

All indications in beet fields look encouraging for a good stand of beets throughout the valley. The soil condition is in better shape than previous years; the moisture was conserved through good farming practice, and with less frost and wind this spring. Only one hazard remains that might prove unfavorable that is; to have rains heavy enough to form crusts.

Some fields planted to segmented seed are up in good stands, and whole seed, which takes approximately a week longer to sprout, is making a good showing.

Some farmers are planting both kinds of seeds, and these plots will be interesting to watch throughout the year in determining the quality of both seeds. The most valuable experience is gained by one's ^{self} endeavors.

Dealers handling commercial fertilizer are of the opinion that ample supply will be available for side-dressing of beets. Sugar-beet growers in Wash. state have responded well in approaching the quota set; when one considers the competition they have with other crops in the state. In many beet growing areas, sugar beets

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lead other crops in returns to farmers, and those areas have increased their acreage 20 % over last year. However, the maximum acreage asked for by the W. F. A. will never be reached, as long as the administration has a "hold-the-line-policy" on sugar prices. Sugar was used as a "foot-ball" in World War no. 1, and is used as an example in World War no. 2. In all Sugar-beet conferences it was easily summoned up that W. F. A. does not intend to change or deviate from that policy.

The Consuming Public had never thought generally of sugar as being our major source of food and energy supply, but strict rationing has awakened them to the fact, and made them declare their difference of opinion in relation to prices on different commodities, and to agree whole-heartedly that an increase in price of sugar of a few cents a pound would not effect any individual in comparison to the convenience of having an ample supply. At the same time be of greatest encouragement to beet growers, especially to the growers in Eastern Wash. where climate and water supply are unequalled.

The sugar beet industry has a good chance for expansion in the N. West, and when the industry becomes more mechanized it will be an asset to growers, as much hand labor is needed,

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proving costlier to produce sugar from
beets than to growers producing sugar
from cane. Cane, once planted, will
stand for years without replanting,
and cultivation and care are inexpensive
compared with that of the sugar-beet
crop.

Further Rationing Foreseen.

With a hopeful end in sight in the
European war, some restrictions will
no doubt be lifted. But all indications
point to a continuous rationing of sugar,
even into 1946. In implying my
own reasons, I have no doubt that
Russia's vast sugar beet territory will
be hampered in their production, it being
fought over once and most of it a second
time, and certainly very little of the industry
can be left in Germany or the Balkan
countries. The Phillipine and Java
supplies amounting to 3½ million tons
annually, cannot be brought to production
for at least 2 more years. Lack of
sufficient commercial fertilizer and
shortage of man power is seriously
affecting the Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and
Cuba crops.

Word comes from France that their
output in 1944 was around 300,000 tons
compared with a normal annual supply
of 1,000,000 tons. Most factories were

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left intact there, but lack of coal and labor cut seriously into the supplies.

Considerable damage to the Florida crop resulted from the freezing ^{weather} and hurricanes this spring. And one must take into consideration the facts that much sugar was diverted into the channels of alcohols, synthetic rubber, and munitions.

Labor outlook Favorable.

With the Government asking for an increase in acreage, all related agencies are making every effort to supply necessary labor, and the U. & I Company at Tappenhish has added a great deal of relief to labor problems by setting up their own labor camp to house the P. O. W. for beet labor. The camp is under construction and will be ready in a matter of days. This camp looks like a permanent set-up and will be an asset to the beet industry for years to come. "Cooperation" should be our motto in our labor problems this year, and if followed through with consideration, should result in efficient harvesting of what we hope to be a good crop.

Information of the sugar beet industry will be mailed to all growers in the future. "The Cultivator", an interesting magazine published quarterly by the U. & I Co. and "The Mountain States Beet Grower", an edition published

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monthly is outstanding in sugar facts, + it also includes a page of interest to the housewife.

L. Meshke represented the ~~N.W.~~ Eastern Wash. Beet Growers in forming the National Beet Growers Federation at Salt Lake City in Jan. and says that a sounder and more flexible sugar control system should be set up than is provided for now. The present Sugar act expires in December of 1946.