



All across the Midwest, along any major highway, motorists see these gleaming grain storage bins—monuments to the efficiency of modern farmers. In bins like these—and several other kinds, including zero degree storage for surplus butter—Americans now have a backlog of a dozen farm products approaching 100 million tons.

forecast in milk production in 1962 brings more pressure for legislation to halt the build-up of government stocks.

In CCC storage besides corn, wheat and dairy products are about 1.5 million bales of cotton, 350 million cwt. of grain sorghums, 33 million bushels of barley, 10 million bushels of oats and rye, 1.7 million pounds of shelled peanuts and 600,000 cwt. of rice.

Government storage of price-supported crops is only part of the surplus picture. Consider also the purchase of more than 125 million pounds of lard by USDA during 1961, along with 80 million pounds of pork and gravy, 64 million pounds of canned chopped meat, 12 million pounds of lamb, 22 million pounds of dried eggs, 60 million pounds of turkey and 36 million pounds of young chickens.

Other products purchased by USDA for distribution through school lunch programs, welfare agencies and voluntary overseas distribution—all adding to taxpayers' government costs—include canned beef, ground beef, grapefruit, canned tomatoes, cheese, vegetable oil, canned corn, canned peaches, canned peas, green beans, apricots and Pinto beans. Diversion payments for potatoes must also be included.

Although these commodities are "non-price-supported" and do not go into "permanent" government storage, most of them fall into the surplus category because USDA usually buys only when the market

is unduly weak, or when undue weakness appears forthcoming. Last year about \$180 million was spent for these products under the National School Lunch Act and Section 32 of Public Law 320, which assists producers by removing excess supplies from the market.

In spite of all efforts to somehow use all we can produce, it becomes increasingly evident it can't be done . . . at least not in the near future. If we can't consume all we can grow, there's only one thing left to do: produce less.

A budget-conscious Administration had "laid down the law" on any new farm bill presented to Congress this year. New farm legislation must meet these "rules" or face a possible veto: (1) It must not increase farm program costs; (2) It must not increase consumer prices "significantly;" (3) It must not lower farm income; and (4) It must not increase surpluses.

Within this restrictive framework, programs must be worked out, either government or otherwise, to cope with our incredible ability to produce more and more on less and less land, with fewer farmers.

Most everyone agrees we should produce only what can be used. Only trouble is, there's no agreement how this should be done—and, as yet, no agreement even on how much can be consumed. Big questions are, where to cut back? And how much? Secretary of Agriculture Freeman hopes he has the answers in his new program stipulating production goals for all major farm crops.



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