

Cautious Optimism On Tomato Outlook

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Crop evaluators with the Indiana Employment Security Division expressed cautious optimism today about the tomato outlook but added realistically "you can't tell until you have them in the cans."

Reports from around the state indicated tomato vines are heavy with fruit and everything points to a good crop, according to the weekly crop summary.

The report said 2,31 out-of-area workers were on duty in Indiana last week, and 250 tomato pickers will be needed within two weeks, largely because the tomato and sweet corn harvest will overlap.

The report by areas:

Logansport — Cultivation of pickles, weeding of muck crops and detasseling of hybrid seed corn progressing favorably.

South Bend — Much irrigating being done particularly in muck crops. Crops doing better than last year at this time and labor needs have been greater. Light picking of peaches and tomatoes to start first week of August.

Lafayette — Detasseling started July 19, probably will peak about end of month. No labor shortage.

Anderson — Labor in balance. Corn detasseling picking up rapidly.

Fort Wayne — Crop activities slow. Weeding and spraying main work. Light picking of pickles and peppers. Labor in balance.

Indianapolis — Tomato vines heavy with fruit, prospects good.

Will need 50 tomato pickers with two weeks. Early sweet corn will overlap tomatoes, necessitating extra workers. Little disease showing up in either crop.

Kokomo — Weather favorable for growth. Tomato harvest may start by Aug. 6. Labor force sufficient for present demands.

Marion — All crops look favorable at present. Good fruit set on tomatoes.

Muncie — Indications points to simultaneous ripening of tomatoes causing increased labor demands at crop peak.

New Castle — Farm activity slow, main activities spraying and weeding of tomatoes. Seed corn detasseling started.

Cornersville — Wheat and oats combine chief activities. Tomato crop continues to look good.

Evansville — Weather clear and hot. Seed corn tassels popping at peak. Labor holding up.

Vincennes — Snap bean crop harvested. Yield 2½ to 3 tons per acre. Cool nights affecting harvest of Irish potatoes because chilled potatoes cannot be used to make chips. Early peach harvest at peak. Cantaloupe harvest latest in several years. Watermelon crop may not be ready to harvest until about Aug. 10-15.

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AMES, Iowa (UPI) — Help your eyes get accustomed to the darkness by sitting in your car for a few minutes without turning on the lights before pulling into traffic.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (UPI) — Hoosier farmers will get a better break on prices this year than they did in 1959, a Purdue University agricultural economist said Monday night.

Ronald H. Bauman told a group of farmers and farm managers at the Honey Creek School near here higher 1960 hog and egg prices will offset weaker prices for feed and cattle, and added that the farm price picture will remain relatively stable through 1961.

However, Bauman commented that rising non-farm prices probably will counteract most of the price rise in farm market commodities.

He also warned that both cattle and hog number cycles may peak at about the same time in a couple of years and may result in a critical period for Hoosier farmers.

Demand for farm products during the coming year probably will register a normal two per cent gain, Bauman said. Market supplies of cattle and dairy products will be a little larger and hog and egg market supplies will be somewhat smaller.

Bauman emphasized that the forecast was based on the major assumptions that international tensions would remain unchanged, that the level of defense spending would rise only moderately, that there will be no significant change in the demand for food and that any major changes in farm programs would not come early enough to affect the 1961 crop year.

By the end of 1959, the percentage of all communities that had adopted fluoridation was as follows: population over 500,000, 61 per cent; 500,000 to 100,000, 35 per cent; 100,000 and under, 42 per cent.

Toothy

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Public Health Service reports that 1,878 communities are fluorinating water.

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