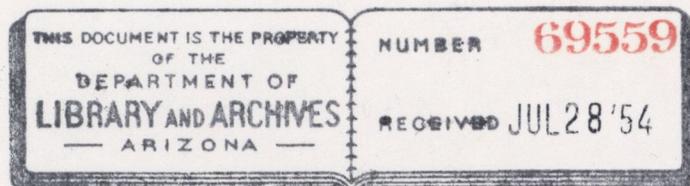


ARIZONA. CIVILIAN DEFENSE COORDINATING COUNCIL.
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND
PRODUCTION.

Report to the Governor
February 10, 1942.



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Honorable Sidney P. Osborn
Governor of Arizona
State House
Phoenix, Arizona

My dear Governor:

Pursuant to the duties assigned to me as Chairman of the Agricultural Division of the State Defense Coordinating Council and as outlined in your proclamation, I have been conducting meetings throughout the various counties in cooperation with the County Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and the State Coordinator for those districts in which the meetings were held. We have up to date, held meetings in Maricopa, Yuma, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Cochise, Gila and Yavapai Counties.

Inasmuch as the work covering emergency duties, such as policing, air raid warnings, fire protection and hospitalization and all other duties that are appurtenant to an emergency situation has been assigned to other divisions of the Civilian Defense Coordinating Council, the main duty of the Agricultural Division is the duty of feeding and clothing our armed forces and the civilian population. We, of course, are cooperating with the other divisions wherever possible. The purpose of the county meetings we have held is to determine in each of the counties, problems that they are confronted with and that affect production of foods and fiber.

We have found that the problems affecting one county, in all instances affect other counties to some degree or other. Our county and state meetings have included the Extension Service, the Triple A Service, the C. C. C. and the members of the Agricultural Defense Board and all other agricultural organizations interested or effected by agricultural problems. I wish to take occasion to compliment the cooperation of the Triple A, the Extension Service and all of the other groups handling agricultural problems.

I have been accompanied to the county meetings by one or more of the State Vice-Chairmen. The problems that have arisen at our state and county meetings are as follows:

1. Priorities on supplies and repairs.
2. The need and advisability of home gardens.
3. The problem of supplying armed forces within the State of Arizona, Arizona agricultural products.
4. Agricultural Labor.

1. Under priorities there are several distinct problems or subdivisions which I shall comment upon and make recommendations as a result of our findings at our meetings. As you know, agriculture has been requested to appreciably increase production in poultry products, dairy products, marketing of beef and veal and in the production of soy beans, peanuts and other oil-bearing agricultural products. The carrying out of this increased production is affected tremendously by the question of priorities or the ability of agriculture producers to secure necessary repairs and supplies. We have contacted Governor Clifford Townsend, who represents agriculture on the War Board, as well as Secretary Wickard, Senator Hayden, Senator McFarland and Congressman Murdock, informing them of the needs of agriculture in Arizona. A statewide meeting was held at the State Capitol on Thursday, February 5, at which Mr. Lee Brown, Director of the Phoenix Office of the O. P. M. was present and at which agricultural priorities was discussed with all of its ramifications. A resolution was adopted at this meeting, requesting that the Head Office of the O. P. M. in Washington place agriculture under the A-10 rating for all of its repairs and supplies. According to Associated Press release appearing in this morning's Republic, this has been done. This rating will enable the local dealer to replenish his supplies that he has sold to agriculturalists and therefore enable him to keep his stock pile to a reasonable sufficient level. I believe this will take care of all of the requirements of agriculture where the needed supplies are available, with the exception of repairs and supplies for individual pumping units used in irrigation, and tires for pick-ups used in agricultural operations.

I believe one other exception of the adequacy of this ruling will be heavyweight five foot width canvass used for tapoons for irrigation purposes. The usage of tapoons for irrigation in our irrigated areas is essential and if the usual weight canvass is not available, we must secure some substitute that will take

its place. In regards to repairs and supplies for individually owned irrigation pumps, the record supplied by Mr. O. M. Lassen, Chairman of the U. S. D. A. State War Board, reports that on a basis of a rough estimate, there are in Arizona, approximately 1300 individually operated pump units. Most of these units are electrically driven and range in size from ten horsepower to two hundred horsepower. In addition, there are many diesel operated pumping plants. Information that we have indicates that there is in excess of 150,000 acres of irrigated land in Arizona that is dependent upon irrigation pumps for production. There are a large number of these pumping systems now out of repair and for which repairs cannot be secured. This problem is very serious and we recommend that all state agencies interested in an agricultural program, request of our senators and any other government officials that may be of help, to request and secure an order allocating the materials to the manufacturers of irrigation pumps, valves, gates and other equipment, to the end that sufficient repairs and supplies be immediately made available for privately owned irrigation pump units. At present provision is made by the Federal Allocation Board for pumping units owned and operated by districts or irrigation companies.

In view of the nation's shortage of materials and available manufacturing facilities, we recommend that allocations be made for repairs and supplies for all existing irrigation units, whether privately owned or owned by irrigation companies or districts. Equipping new development should not be attempted until the existing development has been taken care of.

The question of tires for pickup cars. The reports coming in from the counties above named indicate that 90% of the hauling done by the producers, including farmers, sheep men, cattlemen and dairymen is accomplished with what is commonly called pickup type automobiles. The practice is to use these pickups to service tractors, transport labor back and forth and to haul supplies from town to the farm and in the hauling season, to pull four-wheel trailers bearing from two to five tons in capacity. The inability of the farmers and the dairymen, sheepmen and cattlemen to secure tires for their pickups, will curtail their production to a very marked degree. The extent of that curtailment in production is very difficult to estimate, as there are no available livestock nor horse-drawn vehicles to be had.

Another phase of rubber requirements is tires for over-seers of farming and livestock operation and the type of agriculture that is practiced in Arizona, where production is carried on on a large scale basis, it is very common that the over-seer of individual operations has to travel 50 or 60 miles a day. That, of course, cannot be done other than by motor transportation.

Another necessary change in the tire rationing regulations deals with the livestock inspectors in the State of Arizona. These livestock inspectors are given the duty of protecting livestock from theft, which is a policing duty and with the inspection, quarantining and controlling livestock diseases. Their duties are highly necessary to the protection of public health and property. They frequently travel during the busy months, 1500 miles or better per month. Livestock inspectors are also deputy sheriffs and are entrusted with aiding and policing duties in the various counties. These requirements of agriculture for tires is highly essential to agricultural production in this state. We insist that if agricultural production is maintained, that tires may be made available for the above outlined users.

Sacks. The problem of sacks for agricultural producers is a serious problem. Two-thirds of all burlap supplies has been allocated to army and navy use. In a normal condition, three-fourths of all burlap is used by agricultural and chemical industries. The curtailed available supplies of burlap sacking leaves very little for agricultural use. We recommend to all people in agriculture, that they conserve all of their present supply of new and old sacks. Old sacks should be washed and patched and hung in bundles with a wire from barns or other outbuildings, in order to protect the sacks against rats and rodents. Farmers and livestock men must immediately make preparations for bulk handling of their grains. Information as to the type of bulk storage can be secured from the Extension Service.

Bale ties. There is considerable conflicting information regarding the bale tie situation. We recommend that all users of bale ties place with their dealers, their orders for the coming season immediately, so that their suppliers may have ample time to get bale ties in from the manufacturer.

2. The importance of the home and farm garden is evidenced by the recent action of the federal government in restricting aliens, particularly on the west coast.

Arizona has in the past imported much of her vegetables and fruits from California. The restriction of the production activities of Japanese and other aliens, will undoubtedly affect the amount of vegetables and fruits grown in California. This, together with the increase in population on the west coast area due to war time production and increased population, makes it appear advisable that Arizona grow as much fruits and vegetables for home consumption as is possible. We have suggested that the Extension Service, with its county agents, spearhead this program in cooperation with the county agricultural division of the State Civilian Defense Group and with various women's organizations. Information that is suitable to various areas will be prepared by the Extension Service.

3. Reports coming into this office indicate that Arizona agricultural producers supply very little of the army requirements in this state. We are informed that hay is being shipped from El Paso for use in cavalry units stationed near Phoenix. Apparently many other products grown in abundance here, cannot be sold to the army. The reason for this is the lack of federal graders of agricultural products in Arizona. We recommend that steps immediately be taken to secure the necessary federal graders, so that Arizona agricultural producers can qualify under army regulations.

4. The question of labor in Arizona indicates that agricultural labor will become a major problem in this state in the very near future. The loss of agricultural labor to wartime industries and to the higher remunerative positions has become a large drain upon our supply of agricultural labor. The inability of agriculture to secure new machinery and difficulty in obtaining repairs and supplies, will place a further demand upon agricultural labor. We recommend that a labor board consisting of all of the agricultural groups and all of the federal agencies dealing in agricultural labor, be developed and immediately devise ways and means of securing reasonably adequate labor. This problem will become more serious as time goes on.

The above constitutes a full report of the activities of the Agricultural Division of the State Civilian Defense Coordinating Council. We expect to hold meetings in the remaining counties and will report findings of these meetings at a later date. We believe that these problems can be solved by a concerted effort headed by your excellency and all of the agricultural groups interested. I am sending a copy of our findings relative to priorities to the agricultural priority office recently opened in Washington. This office has been established by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Council of Cooperatives, which takes in the National Wool Growers Association, the Walnut Growers Association and many other agricultural cooperatives and the National Grange. They have employed competent personnel and work entirely upon agricultural priorities. I believe this office will be of great help to us in solving our priorities problems.

We will continue in our effort to coordinate all of the activities of agriculture, to the end that Arizona agriculture can fulfill its duties in this national crisis.

Very respectfully submitted

(S) Cecil H. Miller
State Chairman
Division of Agricultural Resources & Production
CIVILIAN DEFENSE COORDINATING COUNCIL

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