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homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Monday, November 20, 1944

Subject THANKSGIVING FOOD SUPPLIES Information from War Food Administration and the U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Getting time to make up that Thanksgiving shopping list.

As you probably know, turkeys for those of us are just beginning to come to the market. A lot of us - most of us at home won't be able to get a turkey this Thanksgiving.

That's because the first turkeys of the season have gone to G.I. Joe and G.I. Josephine. Turkeys were set aside by the War Food Administration until the Quartermaster Corps could buy enough of them to meet military requirements.

It's good to know that the gobbler - symbol of America's first Thanksgiving - will grace the boards next Thursday of American army messes all over the world.

Here's the master menu prepared by the Office of the Quartermaster General: grapefruit juice, roast turkey with giblet sauce, dressing, mashed potatoes, string beans, corn, cranberry sauce, celery, olives, pickles, hot rolls, butter, pumpkin pie, apples, tangerines, candy, nuts and coffee.

And roast turkey's on the bill of fare for your G.I. Joe whether he's stationed in the Aleutians or Italy. He'll get a real American Thanksgiving meal if he eats in an army mess in India, China, France or Germany. He'll get the same traditional Thanksgiving menu if he's on an American ship at sea. Even if he's in a hospital, if he's able to eat it, he'll be served turkey with trimmings.

And while we're talking turkey, here's another cheering bit of news. The Red Cross included canned turkey in the Christmas packages of American prisoners of war in Germany. So they too, will get turkey for Christmas. Each man will get a 12-ounce can.

Yes, your men and women in the service will get turkey next Thursday. And they'll get turkey again on Christmas Day and New Year's.

And that explains why most of the rest of us will have to wait until after Thanksgiving for our taste of the All-American bird this year.

War Food Administration officials say we can get turkey later in the season. Thanks to our American turkey growers. They've raised bigger flocks this year. About 8 percent bigger than last year. And now that military requirements are met, prospects for turkey for our Christmas and New Year's dinners are good.

To get back to your shopping list for Thursday, you'll probably not find any cranberries. You're in the same plight of that dreamer, we've heard about...the tramp, who said, "I'd like ham with my eggs, if I had some eggs." And you'd like cranberries with your turkey, if you had the turkey. But due to bad weather the cranberry crop is short, and you may not be able to find any on the market.

However, you'll find many other food supplies that are plentiful. You'll have no trouble getting potatoes - Irish or sweet. Green and leafy vegetables are in good supply too. And celery has been coming to market for several weeks now. The celery crop is good this year. The stalks are firm and the tender white hearts are crisp. There's plenty of onions this year too. Remember last year, how you couldn't get onions to flavor your turkey dressing? Well, you'll have no trouble finding onions on the market now. You'll be able to get dried fruit - raisins and prunes and peaches and apricots. You may wish to use these in place of cranberries. There are lots of apples on the market. And nuts are plentiful.

Even if you don't have turkey and cranberry sauce, you can still serve a traditional Thanksgiving desert - pumpkin pie. The harvest of pumpkin this fall was very good. Squash are available too, if you prefer a squash pie to pumpkin pie.

So make up your shopping list for Thanksgiving dinner. Plan a meal that's simple and satisfying and in keeping with the spirit of the day. There are many meats you can substitute for turkey. A lot of you will chose baked hen. Or you may

have duck, rabbit, fish, lamb, pork roast or a beef roast. You may want to serve one of these that'll take a stuffing.

You're in luck if you have your own good-home canned preserves and pickles to lend spice and flavor to the Thanksgiving dinner.

Just one more thing before you do your shopping. Check with ceiling prices before you buy your Thanksgiving supplies. There are ceiling prices, you know, on turkeys and cranberries as well as many other foods. Your dealer may sell for less than the ceiling price, but not for more than the listed ceiling. So don't forget to check on the ceiling prices. Don't buy inflation when you shop for Thanksgiving.

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