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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, February 3, 1947

## summazy

Record or near-record production of most fresh and processed fruits has reduced prices received by growers. Prices during the next few months are expected to continue below last season. Large supplies will permit the 1945 record rate of consumption to be continued.

Prices received by growers for apples and pears, of which cold-storage stocks on January 1 were only slightly above the $1942-46$ average, are expected to increase slightly during late winter and early spring, advancing along levels about three times those of the $1935-39$ prewar period. But prices for citrus fruit during the next two months probably will continue near the low, prewar levels reached early this winter, reflecting peak harvest supplies and a weakened demand for canned citrus. Total production of citrus in 1946 - 47 is setting a new high of more than 200 million boxes.

A moderate increase in prices for grapefruit seems likely in the spring, when market supplies will be diminishing. Lemon prices also probably will advance in the spring when warm weather stimulates demend. Any advance in the price for oranges, especially in Florida, will be affected strongly by the volume of early and midseason oranges that are carried into spring to compete with Valencia oranges. About 11 million boxes of early and midseason Florida oranges remained to be marketed after Jamuary 25, nearly three-fif the more than a year earlier. The recent sharp downward adjustments in retail prices for both fresh and canned citrus should stimulate sales and consumption.

The 1946 commercial apple crop was about the same as, the $1935-44$ average but much larger than the record low of 1945. Most of the increase over 1945 occurred in Eastern States. Prices to growers, which have ranged from one-sixth to one-fourth lower this season than last, are expected to rise less than seasonally during the rest of the mariceting season. Cold storage holdings January 1 were about 9 percent above average.

Marketing of the record large 1946 pear crop, now largely completed, is expected to return to growers a somewhat higher price than that received for the 1945 crop.

Iarly season prospects for the 1947 crop of strawberries point to a con siderable increase in production and to some reduction in price from the record high of 1946．Frozen strawberries in storage January 1．1947，were more than twice those of a year earlier．

The 1946－47 total comnercial pack of dried fruit is slightly smaller than the preceding pack．Commercial packs and total supplies of frozen fruit and canned fruits and fruit juices are at new record highs。 Reflecting these large supplies． retail prices for some fruit．juices have dropped considerably from their high war time levels．Total fruit consumption on a fresh fruit equivalent basis reached a new high level of about 230 pounds per capita in 1946 ．
（For Release Tebruary $8, A_{0} M_{0}$ ）

## CITRUS FRUITS

194647 Citrus Crop Passes 200 Milison－ Box Mark to Set New Record

Total production of citrus fruit in the United States in $1946 \times 47$ is expected to total 204 milion boxes，considerably above the previous high mark of 183 mil lion reached in 1945－46．Production in 1946－47 establishes a new record high for the fifth consecutipe season。On a iresh fruit basis．the $1946-47$ erop totals approximately 8.4 milion tons．one－sighth lasger than the $1945-46$ crop．This increase is due mainly to the renord－laxge orange crop，although the trend in the production of grapefroit also of ntinues sharply upward．Production of citrus fruit is rapidey approaching that of noncoitrus whish amounted to 1004 million tons in 1946，one＝fifth more than in 1945，when the apple cron was small．Al． though there may be a moderate increase in the exports of fresh and processed． citrus this season most of the production will be avaliable for domestle use． Supplies are adequate for all purposes．

## 1946－47 Orange Grop Sets New Record <br> at 198．7 Mil110n Boxes

The 1946－47 orange crop（excluding tangerines）is estimated at 118.7 mil － lion boxes，which exceeds by 9 percent the previous record in 1944， 45 ．The new crop is 18 percent lasger than the 1945046 crop and 51 percent larger than the 1935－44 average．The early and midseason crop of 55 million boxes is 17 percent larger than the $1945-46$ crop，and the Valencla crop of 63.7 milliom boxes $1: 19$ percent larger．Production exceeded that of last season in all commercial oraige States，but especially in Florida and California．Although harvest of the earily and midseason crop，which includes the Narel yeriety，is well adwanced a larger percentage of the crop remains to be harvested than at this time last yearo Harvest of the Valencia crop started in early February this year in Florida，and is expected to start about May I in California．

The $19146=47$ crop of tangerines in Florida is estimated at 5 million boxes． 19 percent larger than the preceding crop and 68 percent larger than average． Tengerines are marketed chiefly during late fall and winter，but somotimes the season extends into spring。

Grapefruit productien in the United States in 1946-47 is estimated at a new high of 66.7 million boxes, 5 percent larger than in 1945-46 and 66 percent larger than the 1935-44 average. The two largest producing States, Florida and Texas, set new records with 34 million and 25 million boxes, respectively. Harvest is now at a seasonally high level in these. two States.

## Lemons and Iimes

The California lemon crop of $1946-47$ is estimated at 13.9 million boxes, 4 percent smaller than the preceding crop but 21 percent larger than the 193544 average. Although harvest of the new crop is well under way, marketings will not reach peak volume until.spring.

Production of limes in Florida during the $1946-47$ season, which is nearing the end, is 170,000 boxes, 15 percent smaller than in $1945-46$ but 47 percent larger than arerage.

Relatively Large Volume of Citrus
Fruit Remains to be Marketed
Primarily because the citrus crop is much larger this season than last, a considerably larger volume of the fruit, especially oranges, remains to be marketed compared with a year earlier. On January 25, about 40 million baxes of Florida oranges remained to be marketed, nearly 9 million boxes more than a year earlier. Slightly more Florida grapefruit but considerably more Texas grapefruit remained to be marketed after the first of this year than last. Movement of Florida oranges and Texas grapefruit to processors has been considerably smaller this seascn than last. Fowever, the movement of Florida oranges into fresh market. channels, as indicated by carlot shipments by rail, brat, and truck, has been about ll percent larger. Total carlot shipments of all citrus fruit this season through January 25, 1947, amounted to slightly more than 70,000 cars, 1 percent more than the number for the corresponding part of last season. The export of 200,000 baxes of Texas grapefruit to England got under way in late January.

## Prices for Citrus Fruit are Excected to Continue Lnwer than Last Season

Prices for citrus fruit this seasnn are expected to average somewhat lower than last, aporoaching prewar levels. The lower prices now prevailing result partly from the larger citrus crop and the larger supplies of ather fresh and processed fmits. Furthermore, the large stocks of canned citmus juices that were carried into the $1946-47$ seasan were a price-depressing factor. Although processors are taking substantial quantities of citrus this season, the processing outlet is not giving as much support to prices for fresh citrus as it did last season, because of the reduced movement and sharply lower prices for the canned products. However, with the completion of the downward readjustment in prices at all levels of sale and the harvest peak past, there may be some increase in prices.

Prices for grapefruit and oranges at terminal auction markets at the beginning of the season last fall were generally at or above the levels of a year earlier. But as soon as the markets became well supplied with the fruit, prices dropped sharply to levels lower than last season. Lemon price changes have been similar to those of other citrus--high at the beginning of the season, followed by a sharp drop as marketings of the new crop gained volume.

APPIES

## Average Commercial Crop Produced in 1946

The 121,520,000 bushels of commercial apples produced in 1946 approximate the 1935-44 average annual production of $120,962,000$ bushels, but is 79 percent larger than the record short crop of 1945. The increase over the 1945 crop occurred primarily in the Eastern and Central States which in 1946 produced 62 percent, or about an average proportion, of the United States total. In 1945, these States produced only 33 percent of the total.

Production by Varieties Followed
Typical Pattern
Distribution of commercial apole production by areas and by varieties was about average in 1946. Summer varieties constituted not quite 5 percent of total oroduction. Fall varieties made up 15 percent, and winter varieties, 80 percent. Leading varieties, in decreasing order of commercial production in 1946, were Delicious, Winesap, Jonathan, McIntosh, Rome Beauty, Stayman, and York Imperial.

Of the summer varieties, Gravenstein is the most important. The 1946 crop in California, wincipal producing State for Gravensteins, was only a little over half as large as the heavy production in 1945. Jonathans, the principal fall variety, are produced prinarily in Central and Western States. The 1946 crop was 72 percent larger than the previous year's short crop, but about 6 xercent below average.

Production of Delicious apoles, major winter variety, leads all other varieties by a wide margin, and apparently is still growing in proportion to total production. The variety is important in each major producing area of the country but particularly in the State of Washington which produced virtually two-thirds of the total Delicious crob in 1946. One-fifth of all the commercial apples grown in the Tnited States in 1946 were Delicious apoles. Commercial production of Winesap apples, second most important winter variety, generally is about half as large as the Delicicus crop. Washington and Virginia are the leading producers of this variety. In 1946, the former produced 72 percent and the latter 16 percent of the United States total.

The next 4 leading winter varieties are McIntosh, Rome Beauty, Stayman, and York Imperial. Of these 4, all but Rome Beauty are produced primarily in the North and South Atlantic States. Ieading producing States for Rome Beauty are Washington, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Cold-Storace Holdings January 1, 1947
About $q$ Percent sboje 5-Year Averace
Cold-gtorage holdinss of apples on January 1 this year, reported at $27,352,000$ bushels, were only about 2 million bushels nigher than the 1942-46 averase for this date, but far larger than the $16,155,000$ bushels in storace January l, 1946. Cold-storase stocks of apoles declined (net) hy some 6 million bushels last December, which is about 1 million bushels larger than the average December drop.

Most of the increase over average in January ll stock this year was in Washington, where $11,234,000$ bushels were in cold storase, conpared with the 5 -year average holdings of $9,963,000$ bushels. Next largest stocks were in Now York, with 3,686,000 bushels, and in Virginia, with 2,878,000 bushels. Apvle houses were more fully occupied in the East North Central and Midde Atlantic States than in other areas.

## Carlot Shipments This Season to Date <br> About 14 . Percent More Than a Year Earlier

Carlot shipment of apples this season through January 18, 19117, totaled 36.7 .74 cars, abcut 13 percent more than for the comparable period last yeer. Shipments from the Western States made up about two-thirds of this total, but they were about 2,150 cars, or 8 percent, fewer than a year earlier. Shipments from the Eastern States totaled 11,897 cars, more than double the 5,493 cars shipped for the comparable period a year earlier. These shipments, of course, reflect primarily the big difference between the 1945 and 1945 apole crops in the Eastern States. In addition to the carlot shipments of domestic crigin, 1,068 cars of Canadian apples, of which 700 were facked and the rest were for processing, had moved into the United States through Jnnuary 18, compared with the 85 cars for the same period a year earlier.

## Prices for Apples Lower This Seascn, <br> Particularly on Eastern Supplies

Since last October, New York auction prices for western apples have averaged moderately lower than a year earlier when apple prices were generally at ceilings. In the 5-day week which ended January 17, 1947, Washington Delicious at auction averaged $\$ 4.38$ per $\begin{aligned} & \text { ox } \\ & \text { in }\end{aligned}$ compared with $\$ 4.46$ and $\$ 4.32$ a year earlier.

The drop in prices of تastern apples from last season is 'oven greater. For example, wholesale prices for eastern Delicious ( $2-1 / 2$ inch minimum) in New York City averaged $\$ 2.88$ per bushel in the week which ended January 18 , in contrast to the $\$ 4.84$ per bushel for the comparable week a year earlier.

## Less. Than Seasonal Price Rise <br> in Prospect

With cold-storage holdinss above average for this time of the year, pricës received by growers for 1946 crop apples are expected to show little change during the remainder of the marketing season. Another factor tending
to restrain prices for aples is the lower prices at which citrus fruits and juices are available this yoar comored with last. on the other hand, an encourasing factor is the probability that exports of apples frem the 1946 crop will be considerably larger than during the war vears but still less than half the 1935-39 level of nearly 10 million bushels.

It has been estimated that the season average price received by srowers for the 1946 crop of apples will be $\$ 2.54$ per bushel. which may be compared with the $\$ 2.96$ per bushel average for the 1945 crop, and with the recent 10year average price of about \$1.00.

## PEARS

## Cold-Storaze Stocks Above <br> Nornel for January I

Stocks of pears in cold storage January l, 1947 were $1,691,000$ bushels, about one-tenth larger than the 1,528,000 bushels held a year earlier, and more than cne-fourth larger than the $1942-46$ average for this date. Stocks were about the size expected since the 1946 crop of 35.5 million bushels was 4 percent larger than the previous record in 1945 and 22 percent larger than average.

## Season for Pear Shipments Nearing End

Shipments of pears dropped below 150 cars per week in the third weet of January this year and probably will stay at or below that level for the rest of the season. Shipments through January 18 totaled 18,770 cars, about the same as the 18.664 cars for the comparable period a year earlier. Slightly more than 94 percent of the total shipments of the 1945 -cror sceson hed moved by Jamary 19, 1946.

## Prices For Pears to Rise Seasonally

Prices for 1946-crop pears have followed their usual seasonal trond, dropping temporarily in late Cctober and early January, but generally moving gradually upwarà. Prices received for pears at auction in Nev Ycrk and Chicage since last October have averaged moderately lower than a year earlicr. In the 5-day week which ended January 17,1947 , New York auction prices for Western D'Anjou pears averagel $\$ 4.08$ per box compared with $\$ 5.4$ a year earlier.

However, because of the large proportion of the crop sold by growers earlier in the season, when pears were selling above the previous rear's levels and because average returns to California growers for pears for all purposes including canning were considerably higher this season than last, the season average price fer bushel received by all growers for the 1946 crop is expected to be slightly higher than that for the 1945 crop. Prices for the remainine stocks of pears are expected to show the usual moderate and seasonol rise.

Eariy reports on the intended acreage of strawberries for harvest in the United States in 1947 indicate 119.900 acres for all purposes. This would. be 31 percent larger than the acreage harvested in 1046 . but 15 percent smaller than the $1936-45$ average. With average yields, production would slightly ex, ceed the $6,933,000$ crates harvested in 1946; but with yields equal to those of last year, production would be nearly as large as the $1936-45$ average of 9,717,000 crates.

This year's winter-season crop in Florida will be ahout 380,000 crates, about two-thirds larger than that of last year. Mid-January prices for the new crop at shipping point and on the New York City wholesale market were near the levels of a year earlier. However, for the season as a whole, prices may not average quite as high as they did in 1946 when farners received an average of $\$ 9.88$ per crate, the highest in many years.

Starage stocks of frczen strawberries January 1, 1947, amounted to more than 44 million pounds, more than twice the stocks a year earlier.

## DRIED FRUIT

The $1946-47$ domestic pack of dried fruit is tentatirely estimated at about 490,000 tons, precessed weight, about three percent smaller than that of 1945-46. This season's packs of dried pears, frunes, and raisins are smaller than those of 1945-46, while the packs of apples, apricots, dates, figs, and peaches are larger. Prunes and raisins comprise about four-fifths of the kack. Total supplies, which include pack, beginning stocks, and imports, are estimate? at 559,000 tons compared with 584,500 tons for the preceding season.

Civilian disappearance of dried fruits is tentatively estimated at 5.3 Founds per capita compared with 6.1 pounds in the $1945-46$ season and a 1935-39 average of 5.7 pounds.

## CANNED FRTIITS AND FRUIT JUICES

## Recorc Large Canned Fruit Pack <br> for 1946-47 season 1/

The 1946-47 domestic pack of commercially canned fruits is estimated at 3.1 billion pounds (net canned weight), the equivalent of 72 million cases of 24 No. $2-1 / 2$ cans. This is 63 rercent larger than the 1.9 billion pounds packed in 1945-46. The packs of aplesauce, apricots, cherries, cranberries,

[^0]figs, fruit cocktail, peaches, and plums and prunes are record higho cther canned fruits exceed their 194.5-46. packs. The imports and shipments of canned pineapole to this country are also expected to be considerably larger than those of last season. Total sucplies of canned fruits are indicated at a record.3.9 billion pounds, which is 4 percent. lerger than the previous high in the 1942-43 season.

Apparent civilian disarpearance for $1946 \div 47$ may be at a level of about 21 pounds rer. capita, which would be considerably larger than the 17 pounds consumed last season and 2 pounds higher than the previous record consumption in 1940-41.

## $\frac{1946-7 \text { Pack of Canned Pruit Juices }}{\text { May Set New Record Fioh 2/ }}$

The 1946-47. commercial pack of canned fruit juices is tentatively estimated at about 2.6 billion pounds (the equivalent of abnut 61.5 millión cases of $24 \mathrm{No} .2-1 / 2$ cans). This is about one-fifth larger than the 2.1 billion pounds packed in the preceding season. This seascn's pack, together with large carryover stocks and prospective larger inshipments of canned pineapole jaice from Hawaii, is resulting in reeord-large suprlies.

Retail channels are now heavily stocked with fruit juices and prices have dropped from their high 1946. levels. This price decline, together with record supplies, probably will result in a new high civilian disappearance for the $1946-47$ season.

## FROZ彐N FRUIT

The 1946 commercial pack of frozen fruit, herries; and fruit juices is approximately one-tenth larger than the previous record 1945 rack of 452 million pounds. Record frozen packs are indicated for sorir cherries, grapes (pulp and juice), pineapple, fruit juices, strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.

Civilian disappearance of the commercial frozen pack is estimated at 2.5 pounds per capita compared with 2.3 pounds in 19) 45 . Frczen fruit stocks January l, 1947, were 478 million pounds, compared with 376 million pounds a year earlier and a 1942-46 average of 247 million pounds.

2/ Pack data include the fcllowing fruit juices: grapefruit, orange, blended orange and grapefruit, tangerine, lemon, citrus concentrate on a singlestrength basis, apple, grape, prune, and nectars.

NOTE ON STATISTICAI TABIES
The number of statistical tables hes een reduced in this issue of "The
Frit Situation," but the basic data for the omitted takles can be found in
other publications of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as indicated below:
"I946 Annual Summary of Acreage, Yield, and Froduction of Principal
Crops, by States, with Comparisons" (Décember'1946).
(Dec. "Apple Production by Varieties and by Areas, 1944, 1945, and 1946" 0, 1946).
"Comnercial Tmick Crops (including Strawberries) for Fresh Market:
Acreage, Production, Price, and Value, 19146, with Comparisons" (Dec. 17, 1945)
"Crop Production" (general crops), issued abcut the loth of each month.
"Agricultural prices," issued about the 29 th of each month.

* "Cold-Storage Report," issued about 15 th of each month.
* "Weekly Summary of Carlot Shipments of Eresh Fruits and Vegetables,"

Table l.- Fruits (fresh basis): Production in the United States, average 1935-39, annual 1942-47

$\overline{1 /}$ As of Dec. 1, 1946 , for deciduous fruits and as of $\overline{J a n .1} \overline{194} \overline{\text {, for }} \overline{\text { citrus. }}$.
Iess than 500 tons.
Rough estimate; official estimate has not yet beem published.
MOTE: Florida limes are harvested chiefiy in the same year as the bloom, but all other citrus fruits are harvested mostly in year following year of bloom.

Table 2.- Grapefruit: Weighted averase auction price per box, ivew York and Chicago, cctober-January, $1945-46$ and 1946-47


Compiled from weekly reports of the California Fruit Growers Exchange, New York, and the Chicaco Fruit and Veretable Reporter.

Table 3.- Oranges and lemons: Weighted averace auction price per box, New York and Chicaso, October-January, 1945-46 and 1946-47

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { liarket } \\ & \text { and } \\ & \text { period } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| New Yorl: $:$ Dol. Dol. Dol. Dol. Dol. Dol. Dol. Dol. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| oct.... | 4.45 | 6.52 | --- | --- | 4.17 | 4.14 | 6.78 | 6.12 |
| Nov. | 4.80 | 6.94 | - | 8.48 | 4.15 | 3.15 | 5.59 | 7.11 |
| Dec | 4.74 | --- | 5.63 | 5.42 | 4.88 | 3.22 | 5.49 | 7.61 |
| Wh. ended: : 6.6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan. 3..: | --- | --- | 5.42 | 3.42 | 5.75 | 4.37 | 6.33 | 6.12 |
| 10.. | --- | --- | 5.07 | 3.21 | 4.54 | 3.33 | 5.83 | 4.94 |
| 17.. | --- | --- | 4.96 | 3.36 | 1.05 | 2.56 | 5.28 | 4.60 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oct...... | 4.95 | 6.62 | - | --- | 4.06 | 3.87 | 6.67 | 6.73 |
| ITov. | 5.33 | 6.82 | 5.76 | 7.82 | 4.01 | 3.16 | 7.01 | 8.04 |
| Dec...... | 5.03 | --- | 5.98 | 4.86 | 4.27 | 2.77 | 7.02 | 7.49 |
| Wk. ended: : |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jon. 3..: | --- | --- | 5.43 | 3.47 | 4.63 | 2.91 | 6.47 | 6.84 |
| " 10.. | --- | --- | 4.81 | 3.29 | 4.31 | 3.09 | 6.29 | 5.05 |
| " 17. | --- | --- | 4.65 | 3.78 | 3.90 | 2.76 | 6.24 | 4.42 |

Compiled from weekly reports of the California Fruit Growers Exchange, New Fork, and the Chicaso Fruit and Vegetable Reporter.

Table 4.- Apoles and pears: Weishted average auction price ver box, specified varieties and all grades, New York and Chicaso, OctoberJanuary, 1945-46, and 1946-47


1/Washington, Fancy and Extra Fancy. 2/ Choice grade.
Compiled from N. Y. Daily Fruit Reporter, and Chicaro Fruit and Vegetable Reporter.
Table 5.- Apples, eastern and midwestern: Wholesale orice per bushel for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. NO. 1 when quoted) and $2 \frac{1}{2}-$ inch minimum size, at New York and Chicaso, September-January, 1945-46 and $1046=47$


Compiled from records of the Froduction and Marketing Administration.

Tarle 6.- Oranges (excluding tengerines): Tctal weekly shipments from producing areas, by varieties, october-January, 1945-46 and 1946-47 II


I/ Rail, boat, and truck. Total track shipments from Texas; interstate truck shipments from California-Arizona; interstate and intrastate truck shimments (excluding trucked to canners and to boats) from. Florida. All data subject to revision. Figures include oranges which were in mixed-citrus: shipments.
2/ Including 77 cars from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi in these 14 weeks. 3/ Including 115 cars from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi in these 14 weeks. Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 7.- Grapefruit and lemons: Total weekly shipments from producing - . areas, October-January, 1945-46 and 1946-47 I/


I/ See footnote 1 on Table 6.
Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.
Figures in tables 6 and. 7 were converted to carloads on the following basis: Oranges - Hla. 490 boxes per car, Texas 511 boxes, Calif. 561 boxes; grapefruit Fla. 510 boxes, Texas 511 boxes, Calif. 561 boxes; lemons - 464 boxes per car.
U. S. Department of Agriclilture Washington 25, D. C.

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[^0]:    I/ The pack data on canned fruits are compiled in equivalent cases of 24 No. $2-1 / 2$ cans by the Bureau of Agricultural Jcononics from various sources and include apples, apolesauce, apricots, apricot pulp, berries, cherries (including brined), cocktail and salad, cranberries, figs, grapefruit segments, olives (including brined), peaches, peach pulp, pears, plums, and prunes.

