

Previously Assumed Commitments for 1946

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The Government was aware that the situation in 1946 would be extremely serious. Some time ago we assumed large commitments for the present year. We are carrying out all these commitments. Over 350 million bushels of wheat will be exported. In addition we expect to ship 600 to 700 million pounds of meat, 125 million pounds of cheese, some 600 thousand cases of evaporated milk, 100 million dozen eggs and 30 million bushels of oats. By the end of July we shall have shipped all the wheat accumulated in the elevators during the war years.

In the fall of 1943 the price of wheat was advanced from 90¢ to \$1.25 a bushel, and the returns on other grains were also increased. At the same time wheat acreage reduction payments were discontinued. Since that time our wheat acreage has been increased by about 40%: from less than 17 million acres to almost 24 million acres in 1945, with a view to providing greater quantities of wheat for a hungry world. This was a measure of preparedness which has not been equalled by any other country. The Government, moreover, has full control of wheat supplies and can direct them where they may be required.