

harvest in September to worry about possible squeezes between free rough rice prices and fixed milled prices.

Nearly all American rice is milled (de-hulled and de-coated), polished, and covered with glucose and talc for sales appearance. With our varied diet we don't need the brown outer coat with the B₁ vitamin that protects Oriental rice eaters from beri beri.

• **Most Sales in Bulk**—Food value of all varieties is the same (not including wild rice, which is not rice at all), and merchandising of the crop doesn't change much. Louisiana growers are small Cajon farmers, most others are big; package rice is a small part of the trade, most of it still going into the southeast in 100-lb. bags.

Wheat Bonanza

Kansas, in a fair way to harvest second bumper crop in a row, gets a windfall from grain that seeded itself.

Last year Kansas produced a quarter of all this country's winter wheat, and it looks as though the state is in a fair way to repeat in 1942. Right now the Jayhawkers' prairies look like front yards in an exclusive neighborhood; the state is at its tailored best.

• **And Now a Windfall**—On top of that, there's a gift crop to sweeten the Kansas farmer's kitty to the tune of several million dollars. This comes from the lifting of federal restrictions so that it is possible to move the combines onto the approximately 2,000,000 acres of volunteer wheat.

Topsy-like, the wheat just grew. The seed fell to the ground during harvest last year. The rain came. By Sept. 1, 15 to 25 days before the regular planting date, the Topsy-crop was standing high enough so that many farmers moved hungry cattle and sheep into the fields, and collected the first instalment on this money harvest.

• **Feed It and Have It Too**—Pasturing of this volunteer crop continued throughout the winter, and if not a grain of it were ever threshed, farmers would have a fancy profit from the volunteer crop. But, early this year, the government, taking cognizance of the "Food-for-Freedom" program, announced that if the farmers would follow certain restrictions, the crop might be harvested, and the farmers would not be penalized under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program.

Most Kansas farmers are cooperators with the AAA, and under ordinary circumstances the crop would have been plowed under as excess production. (Kansas farmers have again approved the federal marketing control program in a

referendum held May 2; the vote was 51,101 to 15,983.)

• **Some Strings Attached**—Farmers co-operating with the Triple-A program who choose to harvest their volunteer wheat will be able to earn both agricultural conservation payments and parity payments, provided:

(1) Their acreage of seeded wheat is within their 1942 allotments, and they comply with other provisions of the AAA program.

(2) They store their volunteer wheat on the farm as long as it is subject to a marketing quota penalty.

(3) They seed within their 1943 wheat acreage allotments.

That the Kansas farmer is unusually prosperous is shown in the fact that the 1941 cash farm income for the state was \$427,714,000, the highest since 1928, according to a report by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Kansas Board of Agriculture.

• **Two Bumper Crops**—The government now tentatively estimates the Kansas 1942 wheat harvest at 172,700,000 bu., fifth largest in the state's history (last year's bumper crop topped that figure by barely 300,000 bu.). Making the outlook all the brighter, the number of cattle in Kansas also is up by 12% in comparison with a year ago, and prices are good. Only difficulty is shortage of labor, and every effort is being made to (1) enlist high school boys, (2) get farmers to swap work with their neighbors, and (3) talk local business men into helping on the farms.

Growing Problem

Winter wheat is ripening, it's a bumper crop, prices are good, but old grain still clogs terminal and rural bins.

As the wheat harvest of the Southwest draws closer, there is no discernible break in the prospect of inadequate storage facilities (BW-Apr.25'42,p81). On May 16 the Kansas Grain, Feed and Seed Dealers Assn. totted up country elevator space throughout the state and found only 13,000,000 bu. of empty space out of 42,000,000 bu. of capacity in licensed houses.

• **Terminal Space Short**—Terminal and subterminal space available in Kansas and southern Missouri River points added only 25,000,000 bu. of empty space. Deducting turning space from the total of empty bins leaves about 35,000,000 bu. Considering that movement through elevators will be much slower than normal under the existing permit system, Kansas, core of the Southwest problem, will be completely unable to fit a crop of 173,000,000 bu. into existing bins.

Meanwhile, the War Production Board has taken pains to point out that grain bins made of wood and containing no metal except nails, strapping and small hardware, are specifically exempted from General Limitation Order L-26

Victory Gardens—by the Right Gardeners

Main problem of the Department of Agriculture in getting earth turned for Victory Gardens is to steer enthusiasm into the right channel. The goal is 5,760,000 gardens compared with 4,431,000 last year. But don't spade up the rose garden, the backyard, or the empty lot across the street, if you haven't already. The garden goal is strictly for farm gardens, perhaps also a few community or school gardens where produce can be consumed within hailing distance, requiring no processing or transportation.

That's not the only reason why the Department of Agriculture worries about the thumbnail tilling of suburbanites and city dwellers. Such well-intentioned but misdirected backyard experiments, conducted by amateurs who have equipped themselves with shiny new trowels, spades, and hoes, mean a waste of steel and a waste of vegetable seed.

More food is certainly an aim, but commercial gardens will provide plenty of fresh vegetables, in some



cases too many (BW-May23'42, p77). Home gardens are merely to furnish more vitamins for the American diet, save some transportation, replace a fraction of curtailed vegetable canning packs by home preserving (with a minimum of sugar).