

touch-controlled, the food compartment is circular and the height-adjustable shelves rotate, and the ice-cube compartment has trays with cam-lifting devices for easier removal. If anything liquid is spilled, it doesn't make a mess on

the bottom, but runs into a gutter and is drained off. There is a capacious vegetable-storage bin. About the only thing it doesn't do is go out and do its own shopping.

*Science News Letter, May 13, 1944*

## AGRICULTURE

## German Food Situation

Due to change for the worse this year because of shortages of manpower, fertilizers and other factors, U. S. Department of Agriculture official states.

➤ THE GERMAN FOOD situation may change for the worse soon because of shortages in manpower, fertilizers and other production factors. Production in 1944 may be considerably below that of the preceding years, and the 1945 food supply will probably be drastically curtailed.

This is the opinion of Dr. J. H. Richter of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, expressed in the official publication, entitled *Foreign Agriculture*. Germany's production and consumption of food thus far in this war have been at a level far above those of 1914-18, he says.

"In contrast to the situation in 1914, Germany's food economy in 1939 was well prepared for war," he declared. "Following a period of sustained expansion, agricultural production had reached a high level. Over 85% of the nation's food supply was produced from domestic resources, the only substantial deficit being in fats and oils. From 1937 until the outbreak of war, stocks of grain, fats and sugar had been accumulated in considerable quantities."

In the years just prior to World War

I, German livestock was dependent upon the importation of feed to the extent of about 38% of the total output of livestock products. In 1939 the dependence on imported feeds was not more than 10% with the result that livestock production has been considerably less affected in the past four years than during the 1914-18 period.

An important factor in the high level of farm production was the relatively large supply, up to 1943, of commercial fertilizers other than phosphates. Especially important was the availability of nitrogen in quantities six or seven times as great as in the previous war.

"This excess, even after allowance has been made for the drastic reduction in phosphates, may still be estimated as accounting for an annual crop production of over 6,000,000 tons in terms of grain," Dr. Richter states.

In his opinion, Germany's own production has remained the backbone of its wartime food supply, despite the importation of substantial quantities requisitioned in other parts of continental Europe under German control.

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High Visibility Yellow was suggested for trucks, hoists, steps, edges, and railings; Safety Green for first aid rooms, stretchers and locations of medical equipment; and Traffic White, Gray or Black were offered for setting of traffic lanes, aisles, storage areas and corners.

For the benefit of the 4% of the population who are color-blind, Mr. Denning urged use of safety symbols in connection with safety colors—triangles or arrow with orange, cross with green, square with red, and disk with blue.

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## Safer Future Promised

➤ A SHINING and safer future, with materials visible in the dark, was predicted by Dr. G. F. A. Stutz, of the New Jersey Zinc Company.

Fluorescent pigments visible in ultraviolet light and phosphorescent materials that glow in the dark, he said, serve many war uses and will illuminate the post-war road to safety.

Aviators in planes forced down at sea release fluorescent dye powders that tint a large area of water, making it visible to rescue planes, and dyed panels of silk are used by ground troops to signal planes.

Fluorescent pigments are being used in plastics, paper, paints, printing inks, and powders, and in coatings for instrument boards and panels of ships, planes, and control rooms where darkness is desirable but visibility must be maintained.

A fluorescent plastic envelope, activated by ultraviolet light, permits read-

## SAFETY

## Reducing Accidents

➤ A RAINBOW of industrial colors to protect war workers, with high spots picked out as Alert Orange, Precaution Blue, and High Visibility Yellow, is the home-front safety scheme advanced by Matt Denning, of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, before the 15th Annual Convention of the Greater New York Safety Council.

In line with the Safety Council's foremost objective—"to reduce accidents in our homes, on our streets, in our industries and elsewhere"—new spring safety colors were exhibited that add

"three-dimensional seeing" to safety precautions, on the theory that the human eye quickly recognizes colors and the brain learns to associate colors with certain equipment.

Alert Orange, a "loud shouting color," was recommended for application to such industrial danger spots as electrical switch boxes, machinery guards, pulleys and gears. Fire protection equipment and locations were to be designated by a "noisy" red, while Precaution Blue was to identify equipment not to be used, moved or started.

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