

Florida's Citrus Shipments Top Records for 19 Years

LAKELAND. — (AP) — Civilian purchasing power, extensive government buying, together with curtailed supplies of spring fruits and vegetables "resulted in the heaviest continuous shipments ever experienced by the Florida citrus industry, and distribution was the most widespread in 19 years," according to the annual summary of Florida's 1942-43 citrus season made public yesterday by the Lakeland office of the federal-state market news service.

Despite those tremendous shipments, the summary points out that favorable factors "helped to boost Florida's auction price averages to the highest level in 13 years, or since 1929-30."

Oranges sold at auction have brought an average of \$3.77 per box, or 98 cents more than oranges sold up to the same time last season, the report shows. This price prevailed despite a 10,000,000 box increase in production—from 26,600,000 last year to 36,600,000. Seven million boxes of this increase moved in interstate shipments, with canners, intrastate shipments and express movement accounting for the remainder.

Canning of grapefruit reached nearly 18,000,000 boxes, compared with less than 10,000,000 last sea-

son. Much of this was utilized by the state's three concentrate plants, whose entire output is being taken by the government for lend-lease purposes.

Total grapefruit utilization amounted to 27,112,000 boxes, compared with slightly less than 20,000,000 boxes last season. Grapefruit so far has brought an auction price average of \$3.10 per box, compared with \$2.51 up to the same date last year.

H. F. Willson, manager of the market news service office here, emphasized in the summary that "the record high production for the state which, in peacetime would have been a decided surplus, turned into a scarcity with demand exceeding supply. The fresh fruit sales program changed to one of allotments with not enough citrus to go around."

Willson praised the railroads for moving Florida's huge citrus crop, his summary stating that "railroads accomplished the almost impossible in handling the heavy shipments. During the past two years they not only took over the 19 to 27 per cent ordinarily handled by boats, but also accounted for the truck decrease from 17 to 23 per cent down to 12 per cent. On a car basis, approximately 88 per cent of the

crop was handled by the railroads during the 1942-43 seasons."

Willson called the season just closing one of "unprecedented developments, but surpassing all previous years. And never before was the industry faced with such shortages in materials and labor and problems in transportation—all of which will be carried over into next season. On the other hand, in no preceding year can be found so many seasonal factors in competing districts which were definite 'breaks' toward the most successful marketing of Florida's bumper crop."

The summary gives total Florida citrus movement by rail and truck through June 19 as 85,276 cars, compared with 76,617 cars last season.

He's Not Interested In Ration Problems

RICE LAKE, Wis. — (AP) — The Barron county ration board has a letter on file from a man who can hope for no more this side of heaven. He wrote:

"Ration Board, Sirs: This is not against you personally but I have to write you. I have 600 pounds sugar left yet so don't need any ration sugar. I have meat two and three times a day. Mostly beef. I have all the butter I want all the time. I have two sets of first line tires still with paper on. I have all the gas I want and more so to heck with you."

Poultrymen Have Ple

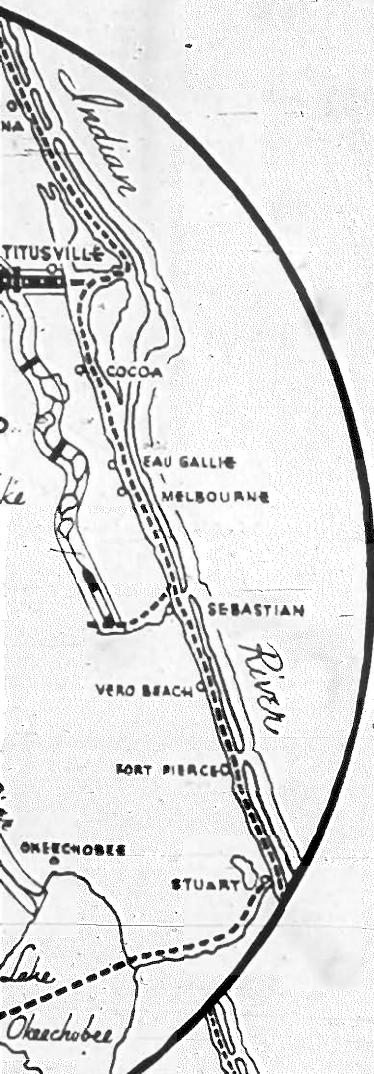
JACKSONVILLE. — Poultrymen here are pleased with the new program revamped to use now available, but the special poultry the Florida Poultry Association, said yesterday.

"There are a lot of corn in the court action in Washington of its release is declared. 'In the will have to de wheat and barley by vitamin A leafy vegetables."

In order to results obtained ference in Washington will be called week or two to natives of the p association, the P ers association a service will be added.

Youth Improv

Critically injured afternoon by a Rock road in Ralph Leonard year-old son of cock, was reported in Mound Park night.



Stripes are youth

Summer Dresses

Made of Striped Shirting