Florida's Citrus Shipments Top Records for 19 Years

LAKEVILLE — (AP) — Citizen purchase power, extensive government buying, together with curtailed supplies of other fruits and vegetables has resulted in the highest continuous shipment ever experienced by the Florida citrus industry, and distribution was the highest in 19 years, according to the annual report of the Florida citrus season made public yesterday at the state citrus office in Lakeland.

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 1933-34."

Oranges sold at auction have been an average of $2.77 per box, or 58 cents more than the average for the same time last season, the report shows. This increase was due to an increase in production of 26,600,000 boxes last year to 36,600,000. Seventeen million boxes of this increase moved in interstate shipments, with centers in the northeastern United States and the eastern seaboard accounting for the remainder.

Canning of grapefruit reached nearly 10,000,000 boxes, compared with less than 10,000,000 last season.

Much of this was utilized by the state's three separate plants, whose entire output is being taken by the government for lend-lease purposes. Total grapefruit utilization amounted to 77,817,000 boxes, according to the report, or less than 28,000,000 boxes last season. Grapefruit has far outstripped an auction price average of $3.18 per box, compared with $1.11 up to the same date last year.

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

Wilson praised the railroads for moving Florida's huge citrus crop, his summary stating that "the railroads accomplished the almost impossible task of handling the heavy shipments. During the past two years they had only taken over the 38 to 27 per cent ordinarily handled by boats, but also handled for the truck decrease of 22 per cent down to 22 per cent."

He's Not Interested in Ration Problems

BRIE LAM, Wash. — (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, Sir! This is not against you personally but I have to write you. I have 800 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 good rubber on. I have all the gas I want and more so to be back with you."

Poultryman Have Pleasure

JACKSONVllle, Fla. (AP) — The cattleman's sons have been having a fine time recently, for the special purpose of the Florida Poultry Association, said yesterday: "There are so many boys in the cattle industry in Florida that we have to set aside a special day for them to enjoy themselves. We are very pleased with the results."

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Youth Improving

Cattlemen's Conference: by a Rock road in rural communities, 24-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bright of Hudspeth Park, West Palm Beach, reports: "We have been having a fine time lately. The weather has been warm and sunny, and we have enjoyed ourselves. We are looking forward to more of the same."