

## FOOD EXPORTS AGAIN SET A RECORD

United States exports of food set a record in 1948-49 for the fourth consecutive year.

The 49,521,000,000 pounds of food shipped to foreign countries during 1948-49 is 15 percent more than in the previous year and more than 5 times the average tonnage exported in 1935-39. Exports accounted for more than 16 percent of the food distributed during the 12 months.

Exports of grains made up 82 percent of the total tonnage of food shipped abroad, an even larger proportion than in other postwar years. The dollar shortage tended to stimulate purchases of grains by European countries since these products provide food energy at lower cost than most other foods.

Exports of wheat and wheat products (grain equivalent) totaled 30,084,000,000 pounds, up more than 3 percent from 1947-48. Rice exports amounted to 912,000,000 pounds, the same as a year earlier while shipments of other grains—corn, barley, grain sorghums, oats, rye and their products—totalled 9,553,000,000 pounds, almost double those of a year earlier.

Fats and oils exports also showed a definite increase last year, chiefly because of the increase in supplies of United States vegetable oils and animal fats. The 889,000,000 pounds shipped abroad was almost 60 percent larger than in 1947-48. Shipments of fruits, vegetables, dry edible beans and peas, soybeans and peanuts and similar foods totaled 7,153,000,000 pounds, a 10 percent gain over the previous year.

The only food groups for which exports were less in 1948-49 than the previous year were meats and dairy products. Meat shipments amounted to only 73,000,000 pounds, less than in each of the 3 preceding years and 40 percent less than the 1935-39 average. Exports of cheese, canned milk and dried milk totaled 857,000,000 pounds. While this was smaller than in any other postwar year, it was more than 20 times the 1935-39 average.

Countries participating in the European recovery program took 63 percent of our food exports in 1948-49. Far Eastern countries received 19½ percent to rank second, while the Latin-American Republics with 9.2 percent were third. Among individual countries or areas, the area of Germany occupied by the United States and Britain took the largest share of our food exports with Far East areas under American military control ranking second.

Financial gifts and loans by the United States Government again contributed significantly to record food exports. These gifts and loans financed from 55 to 60 percent of shipments in 1948-49. Financing by military agencies of food exported for civilian feeding in occupied areas continue to make up a large part of gifts and loans.

The United States Department of Agriculture procured almost two-thirds of the total food exported in 1948-49. The food was acquired either specifically for export programs or under price support operations. United States military agencies and countries receiving assistance through Economic Cooperation Administration depended heavily on the Department for procurement of many foods.—USDA.