Farm Labor

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FARM EMPLOYMENT PEAK TWO PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR
WAGE RATES CONTINUE MODERATE INCREASE

The 1960 high point in estimated farm employment was reached in the September survey week with a total of 9.1 million workers. This is 2 percent below the high mark of late September 1959 and a new low in the estimates for this time of year. Farm family workers totaled 6.3 million, 2 percent less than last year. Hired workers were estimated at 2.8 million, also 2 percent less than last year.

The September survey week (18-24th) brought generally favorable farming weather across the Nation. Cotton harvest was active in most producing areas and made the usual strong demands for pickers. Machine harvesting continues, however, and promises to reduce total cotton labor. In the cotton States from Texas eastward, the September period showed a gain of a fourth over the low level of a month earlier. The number of all workers showed about the average percentage change from August in the West Central regions as corn and soybean harvests were starting slowly pending advancing maturity. Employment gained slightly more than average in the Mountain region due to varying harvest and livestock work, and in New England, partly influenced by early progress of the Maine potato harvest. Pacific States showed little change with less gain than usual over August levels.

Gains in hired employment over a month earlier were greatest in South Central States where each cotton grower wanted his cotton out of the field quickly. The Texas hired employment estimate of a third a million was the highest monthly total for that State since September 1955.

Farm Wage Levels Reach New October Highs

Farm wage levels for all reported hiring arrangements on October 1 were the highest of record for the fall season. The composite hourly wage, cash only, of $0.820 per hour was an advance of 2 percent above the previous October high of last year. The index of the composite rate was 613 percent of the 1910-14 average, adjusted for seasonal variation. Increases in rates compared with a year earlier show stronger demand for regular workers paid by the month than for hourly and short-time day labor. Detailed State wage comparisons are shown on pages 6 and 7.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
La 1 (10-60)
Crop Reporting Board
Washington, D.C.

Fall Harvests Make Good Progress

Late season harvest in many sections livened the farm scene during the September survey week, September 18-24, as summer turned to fall. Comments on work progress apply to this period. In the Southeast, cotton harvest was half or more finished in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Florida vegetables for early fall harvests suffered loss from heavy flooding rains but work moved ahead in general farming areas of the north and western parts of the State. Peanuts in Georgia were 90 percent dug and 75 percent threshed and in South Carolina the harvest was about half completed. Tobacco harvest was well toward completion in North Carolina and Virginia burley tobacco cutting was about half finished. Peanut digging was one-tenth finished. Apple harvest was active with over one-third of the crop picked. Corn tangled and flattened by hurricane winds in coastal strip from eastern North Carolina northward was making slow harvest work. In some fields, mechanical pickers could work one-way only and much hand salvage was required.

Northward through Middle Atlantic States and New England, potato digging was active with notable progress on Long Island, in the Steuben, New York, area and more rapid than usual for early season in Aroostook, Maine. Harvest of apples was general. Cranberry harvest was active in Massachusetts and New Jersey. Lancaster, Pennsylvania, tobacco harvest was about complete.

Kentucky and Tennessee tobacco cutting moved in on the final quarter under good weather. Combining started on soybeans and grain sorghums and much late hay was saved. Alabama cotton opening outran the labor supply as picking reached one-fifth complete and took priority over other work except in commercial peanut areas. Mississippi cotton harvest increased rapidly. Increased machine use promised to prevent or greatly reduce labor shortage through the remainder of the harvest given favorable field conditions.

Arkansas cotton rapidly approached machine picking stage, with hand work active. Rice harvest was about one-fifth completed after some rain delay. Combining early soybeans started. Louisiana harvest reached one-fifth completion for cotton, two-thirds for rice, and one-half for corn. Sugarcane planting was about one-half finished. Oklahoma cotton picking moved slowly pending fuller opening but grain sorghum combining was about one-fourth done, and winter wheat seeding passed two-fifths completion. Texas rice harvest was half finished, cotton one-fourth of State total, and corn picking three-fourths complete. Varied work important in the State's huge expanse included peanut digging in the Cross-Timber area, flax planting in the south and wheat seeding which was four-fifths finished in the High Plains. Sheep and goat shearing neared completion on the Edwards Plateau.

Western stockmen prepared for winter as livestock moved from grazing on high summer ranges to lower ranges or valley bases. Over one-half of Montana livestock had moved from summer ranges. Wyoming lamb and cattle fall marketings were moving steadily. Harvest of dry beans was active in all leading areas in Mountain States and sugar beets almost ready. Fall potato harvest was active in Idaho and leading areas in other States. Seeding winter wheat continued and neared completion in eastern Colorado and New Mexico. Cotton picking increased in Arizona and New Mexico.

Harvest of fruit and other heavy labor use crops continued active in California, Oregon, and Washington. By September 24, most of the California raisins had dried on their trays in

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Farm employment and indexes, September 1960, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1959	August average 1955-59 1/	August 21-27, 1960	September average 1955-59 1/	September 20-26, 1959	September 18-24, 1960
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	7,384	9,251	8,344	9,832	9,336	9,120
Family labor	5,459	6,311	5,694	6,906	6,442	6,283
Hired labor	1,925	2,940	2,650	2,926	2,894	2,837
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	54	57	51	55	52	51
Family labor	54	57	51	56	52	51
Hired labor	57	57	51	54	53	52

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.
2/ Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm wage rates and indexes, October 1, 1960, United States

	July 1, 1960	October average 1955-59	October 1, 1959	October 1, 1960
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.812	$ 0.759	$ 0.806	$ 0.820
Per month with house	$200.00	$168.00	$181.00	$186.00
Per month with board and room	149.00	133.00	141.00	147.00
Per week with board and room	36.75	33.00	34.25	35.50
Per week without board or room	47.50	40.50	42.00	43.75
Per day with house	5.30	4.80	5.20	5.30
Per day with board and room	6.90	5.70	6.00	6.20
Per day without board or room	6.50	6.30	6.70	6.90
Per hour with house	.92	.93	.97	1.00
Per hour without board or room	1.02	.84	.89	.90
INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Farm wage rates (Adjusted for seasonal variation)	631	566	602	613
Prices received by farmers 2/	236	239	239	237

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
2/ Index for 15th of previous month.

Workers on Farms, September 1960

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	September average 1955-59 1/			September 1959 Week of 20-26			September 1960 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	213	114	99	193	102	91	195	102	93
New York	228	140	88	206	125	81	197	121	76
New Jersey	69	35	34	64	33	31	66	33	33
Pennsylvania	254	191	63	232	176	56	221	170	51
Middle Atlantic	551	366	185	502	334	168	484	324	160
Ohio	291	226	65	276	219	57	265	208	57
Indiana	254	206	48	237	194	43	227	182	45
Illinois	291	231	60	274	216	58	261	206	55
Michigan	251	197	54	232	183	49	230	180	50
Wisconsin	329	277	52	311	264	47	298	253	45
East North Central	1,416	1,137	279	1,330	1,076	254	1,281	1,029	252
Minnesota	312	261	51	297	244	53	285	239	46
Iowa	327	279	48	305	259	46	302	264	38
Missouri	401	312	89	366	292	74	378	293	85
North Dakota	126	96	30	114	88	26	119	84	35
South Dakota	116	99	17	105	91	14	108	92	16
Nebraska	174	148	26	166	142	24	171	148	23
Kansas	192	166	26	179	156	23	182	154	28
West North Central	1,648	1,361	287	1,532	1,272	260	1,545	1,274	271
Del.-Md.	94	59	35	90	57	33	84	53	31
Virginia	252	177	75	244	165	79	233	163	70
West Virginia	94	80	14	88	75	13	85	71	14
North Carolina	606	499	107	567	452	115	560	451	109
South Carolina	302	233	69	319	240	79	299	233	66
Georgia	323	233	90	316	220	96	280	202	78
Florida	111	66	45	102	56	46	102	55	47
South Atlantic	1,782	1,347	435	1,726	1,265	461	1,643	1,228	415
Kentucky	295	234	61	290	217	73	301	223	78
Tennessee	364	270	94	367	259	108	364	260	104
Alabama	315	228	87	288	204	84	268	186	82
Mississippi	558	396	162	518	365	153	489	328	161
East South Central	1,532	1,128	404	1,463	1,045	418	1,422	997	425
Arkansas	368	211	157	339	181	158	309	162	147
Louisiana	272	157	115	271	147	124	265	151	114
Oklahoma	214	153	61	206	142	64	208	140	68
Texas	637	337	300	624	311	313	647	314	333
West South Central	1,491	858	633	1,440	781	659	1,429	767	662
Montana	61	47	14	57	45	12	59	45	14
Idaho	87	59	28	81	56	25	84	54	30
Colorado	98	63	35	87	58	29	94	59	35
N.Mex.-Ariz.	136	42	94	130	37	93	110	40	70
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	87	58	29	80	53	27	78	54	24
Mountain	469	269	200	435	249	186	425	252	173
Washington	130	85	45	131	81	50	124	82	42
Oregon	108	70	38	103	68	35	96	65	31
California	492	171	321	481	169	312	476	163	313
Pacific	730	326	404	715	318	397	696	310	386
UNITED STATES	9,832	6,906	2,926	9,336	6,442	2,894	9,120	6,283	2,837

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual average 1959, July and August 1960

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average 1959			July 1960 Week of 24-30			August 1960 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	162	99	63	182	108	74	186	102	84
New York	171	108	63	193	117	76	217	118	99
New Jersey	49	29	20	57	31	26	59	33	26
Pennsylvania	202	164	38	233	184	49	240	190	50
Middle Atlantic	422	301	121	483	332	151	516	341	175
Ohio	260	223	37	280	223	57	262	206	56
Indiana	228	201	27	255	212	43	233	195	38
Illinois	256	206	50	293	218	75	245	190	55
Michigan	229	185	44	275	206	69	272	197	75
Wisconsin	299	269	30	321	284	37	324	285	39
East North Central	1,272	1,084	188	1,424	1,143	281	1,336	1,073	263
Minnesota	276	236	40	360	276	84	321	259	62
Iowa	293	254	39	353	271	82	326	269	57
Missouri	280	238	42	306	257	49	333	265	68
North Dakota	94	74	20	136	92	44	136	95	41
South Dakota	94	82	12	114	91	23	115	93	22
Nebraska	158	134	24	210	162	48	178	143	35
Kansas	165	140	25	204	148	56	193	146	47
West North Central	1,360	1,158	202	1,683	1,297	386	1,602	1,270	332
Del.-Md.	71	47	24	90	51	39	92	51	41
Virginia	210	154	56	242	143	99	244	165	79
West Virginia	75	62	13	88	69	19	85	71	14
North Carolina	432	330	102	732	409	323	664	457	207
South Carolina	206	141	65	261	148	113	254	164	90
Georgia	197	143	54	165	114	51	207	150	57
Florida	103	50	53	76	41	35	82	43	39
South Atlantic	1,294	927	367	1,654	975	679	1,628	1,101	527
Kentucky	244	198	46	274	186	88	258	192	66
Tennessee	256	204	52	237	170	67	235	176	59
Alabama	158	124	34	100	82	18	128	99	29
Mississippi	270	213	57	210	170	40	272	209	63
East South Central	928	739	189	821	608	213	893	676	217
Arkansas	222	136	86	216	101	115	232	119	113
Louisiana	164	99	65	142	77	65	155	90	65
Oklahoma	176	139	37	165	114	51	173	115	58
Texas	448	271	177	522	267	255	526	268	258
West South Central	1,010	645	365	1,045	559	486	1,086	592	494
Montana	50	38	12	64	38	26	56	41	15
Idaho	67	47	20	90	55	35	88	56	32
Colorado	69	52	17	90	57	33	87	60	27
N.Mex.-Ariz.	95	33	62	99	35	64	104	34	70
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	60	42	18	79	49	30	68	45	23
Mountain	341	212	129	422	234	188	403	236	167
Washington	117	78	39	172	95	77	141	86	55
Oregon	96	67	29	136	76	60	106	65	41
California	382	149	233	394	142	252	447	152	295
Pacific	595	294	301	702	313	389	694	303	391
UNITED STATES	7,384	5,459	1,925	8,416	5,569	2,847	8,344	5,694	2,650

Farm wage rates October 1, 1959 1/

State and region	Per month		Per week		Per day		Per hour		Composite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With board	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	190.00	137.00	40.00	53.00	-	-	10.10	-	1.12	.975	570
N.H.	200.00	144.00	40.00	57.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.11	.974	628
Vt.	184.00	148.00	38.00	52.00	-	-	8.90	-	1.10	.936	598
Mass.	216.00	156.00	44.00	59.00	-	-	10.00	-	1.20	1.042	668
R.I.	219.00	162.00	46.00	61.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.20	1.059	728
Conn.	219.00	163.00	46.00	60.00	-	-	10.60	-	1.28	1.095	740
New Eng.	199.00	146.00	41.50	55.50	-	-	9.90	-	1.15	1.000	641
N.Y.	203.00	138.00	36.00	51.50	-	-	8.80	-	1.13	.887	546
N.J.	212.00	150.00	38.00	52.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.14	.909	643
Pa.	182.00	129.00	33.50	45.25	-	-	8.20	-	1.04	.813	650
Mid. Atl.	198.00	137.00	35.50	49.50	-	-	8.70	-	1.10	.867	600
Ohio	170.00	121.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.30	-	1.06	.845	577
Ind.	172.00	126.00	-	-	-	6.30	7.90	-	1.05	.841	602
Ill.	195.00	149.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.20	-	1.10	.912	626
Mich.	195.00	132.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.70	-	1.07	.876	583
Wis.	193.00	143.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.70	-	1.09	.895	568
E.N.Cent.	185.00	135.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.60	-	1.08	.875	590
Minn.	189.00	146.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.80	-	1.11	.873	548
Iowa	195.00	157.00	-	-	-	8.10	10.00	-	1.15	.907	559
Mo.	155.00	117.00	-	-	-	5.90	7.20	-	.98	.726	642
N.Dak.	189.00	159.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.10	-	1.06	.852	462
S.Dak.	181.00	147.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.90	-	1.03	.820	492
Nebr.	201.00	155.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.70	-	1.10	.880	587
Kans.	195.00	146.00	-	-	-	7.60	9.40	-	1.10	.864	684
W.N.Cent.	181.00	142.00	-	-	-	7.20	8.90	-	1.07	.832	574
Del.	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	8.40	-	1.05	.929	861
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	7.80	-	1.00	.879	879
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	6.40	-	.81	.701	764
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.90	-	5.50	-	.75	.644	496
N.C.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.80	-	.70	.622	694
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.50	-	4.00	-	.50	.439	581
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	4.70	-	.64	.540	596
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	6.00	-	.75	.659	665
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.70	-	5.50	-	.70	.609	677
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.80	-	.82	.752	591
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.90	-	.64	.599	526
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	4.55	-	.60	.566	550
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.70	-	4.10	-	.55	.519	498
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.95	-	4.70	-	.63	.589	537
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	5.80	-	.73	.704	598
La.	-	-	-	-	4.55	-	5.20	-	.64	.619	567
Okla.	-	-	-	-	6.70	-	7.70	-	.94	.911	632
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.10	-	6.80	-	.81	.790	605
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.70	-	6.30	-	.77	.749	608
Mont.	217.00	177.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.14	.971	470
Idaho	246.00	191.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.15	1.013	564
Wyo.	216.00	158.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.15	.961	472
Colo.	216.00	159.00	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.05	.913	586
N.Mex.	180.00	132.00	-	-	-	-	6.90	-	.82	.718	579
Ariz.	245.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	8.80	-	.96	.890	587
Utah	238.00	205.00	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.17	1.012	620
Nev.	250.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.35	1.078	570
Mountain	223.00	167.00	-	-	-	-	8.70	-	1.01	.894	544
Wash.	265.00	213.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.24	1.28	1.252	611
Oreg.	241.00	179.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.17	1.18	1.154	568
Calif.	291.00	217.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.13	1.20	1.180	551
Pacific	283.00	213.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.15	1.21	1.187	563
U. S.	181.00	141.00	34.25	42.00	5.20	6.00	6.70	.97	.89	.806	602

1/ Certain wage rates are not published where they are relatively unimportant, but are estimated for use in computing U.S. averages. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm wage rates October 1, 1960 1/

State and region	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour		Composite rate per hour	Indexes of Composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	198.00	148.00	37.50	55.00	-	-	9.90	-	1.10	.968	566
N.H.	214.00	156.00	45.00	58.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.11	.992	640
Vt.	196.00	154.00	39.50	53.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.12	.960	614
Mass.	220.00	156.00	45.00	61.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.22	1.065	682
R.I.	223.00	156.00	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.40	-	1.20	1.065	733
Conn.	223.00	156.00	44.00	63.00	-	-	10.80	-	1.31	1.120	757
New Eng.	206.00	152.00	40.50	57.25	-	-	10.00	-	1.16	1.009	646
N.Y.	211.00	146.00	38.25	53.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.14	.908	558
N.J.	214.00	155.00	38.00	54.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.15	.922	652
Pa.	189.00	134.00	35.50	47.75	-	-	8.40	-	1.08	.846	675
Mid. Atl.	205.00	144.00	37.25	51.50	-	-	9.00	-	1.12	.891	617
Ohio	178.00	138.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.30	-	1.09	.881	601
Ind.	182.00	134.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.30	-	1.06	.861	616
Ill.	202.00	156.00	-	-	-	7.60	9.30	-	1.11	.927	636
Mich.	205.00	142.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.00	-	1.07	.890	593
Wis.	200.00	148.00	-	-	-	7.20	8.90	-	1.09	.903	572
E.N.Cent.	193.00	144.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.80	-	1.08	.893	603
Minn.	186.00	146.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.80	-	1.11	.872	547
Iowa	202.00	162.00	-	-	-	8.20	10.10	-	1.14	.913	563
Mo.	153.00	117.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.70	-	1.00	.743	656
N.Dak.	199.00	162.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.30	-	1.07	.866	470
S.Dak.	187.00	150.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.00	-	1.05	.836	502
Nebr.	214.00	160.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.90	-	1.12	.902	601
Kans.	200.00	154.00	-	-	-	7.80	9.70	-	1.11	.883	699
W.N.Cent.	184.00	144.00	-	-	-	7.30	9.10	-	1.07	.838	578
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.00	-	8.70	-	1.05	.944	875
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.40	-	8.30	-	1.06	.924	924
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.50	-	.83	.718	782
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.90	-	5.70	-	.75	.648	499
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.95	-	5.70	-	.71	.623	695
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.15	-	.52	.456	604
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.85	-	.65	.551	608
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	6.30	-	.80	.698	705
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.70	-	.73	.631	702
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.55	-	6.10	-	.84	.773	608
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.85	-	.63	.594	522
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	4.65	-	.60	.569	553
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	4.25	-	.52	.501	481
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.80	-	.62	.586	535
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	5.90	-	.74	.714	606
La.	-	-	-	-	4.70	-	5.10	-	.64	.618	566
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.10	-	8.20	-	.97	.946	656
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.10	-	6.70	-	.77	.758	580
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.40	-	.76	.743	604
Mont.	227.00	179.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.13	.978	474
Idaho	249.00	194.00	-	-	-	-	10.30	-	1.21	1.053	587
Wyo.	229.00	162.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.15	.973	477
Colo.	224.00	166.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.10	.956	613
N.Mex.	185.00	132.00	-	-	-	-	7.20	-	.85	.741	597
Ariz.	247.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	8.80	-	.97	.895	591
Utah	250.00	195.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.20	1.031	632
Nev.	265.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.25	1.048	554
Mountain	233.00	172.00	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.07	.940	572
Wash.	263.00	211.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.23	1.29	1.259	614
Oreg.	240.00	181.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.21	1.178	580
Calif.	298.00	216.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.18	1.24	1.219	570
Pacific	290.00	213.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.18	1.24	1.220	578
U.S.	186.00	147.00	35.50	43.75	5.30	6.20	6.90	1.00	.90	.820	613

1/ Certain wage rates are not published where they are relatively unimportant, but are estimated for use in computing U.S. averages. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

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sunny vineyards and were out of danger. Table grape picking continued and grapes for the wine crush were moving in large tonnage. Peak harvest of prunes, pears, and peaches was past, and dried fig harvest was about over as was almond harvest. Tomato harvest for processing continued heavy; citrus harvest was light. Cotton picking and harvest of grain sorghum and dried beans expanded slowly. Oregon winter pear harvest was in closing stages in Hood River and Medford districts. Klamath area potato harvest was starting early. Washington's apple harvest was starting slowly on a near-average crop, about a fifth of the U.S. commercial crop. Dry bean harvest had started in the Columbia Basin. Fall grain seeding in most leading wheat areas waited for more moisture.

Farmers in North Central States were combining earliest soybean fields. About one-fourth had been combined in Illinois, a fifth in Missouri, and an eighth in Ohio. Other States were less advanced. Wheat seeding had been slowed in many sections by dry soils but was over-half finished in Kansas, ahead of last year. Nearly three-fourth of Michigan's navy beans had been pulled but few threshed. During the week frost hit hard in northern Michigan and sent more immature corn to the silos. Corn generally was winning its race to maturity but little picking had been done other than hybrid seed corn. In parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota, wet corn fields delayed silage harvest so much that farmers joked about mounting forage choppers on boats.