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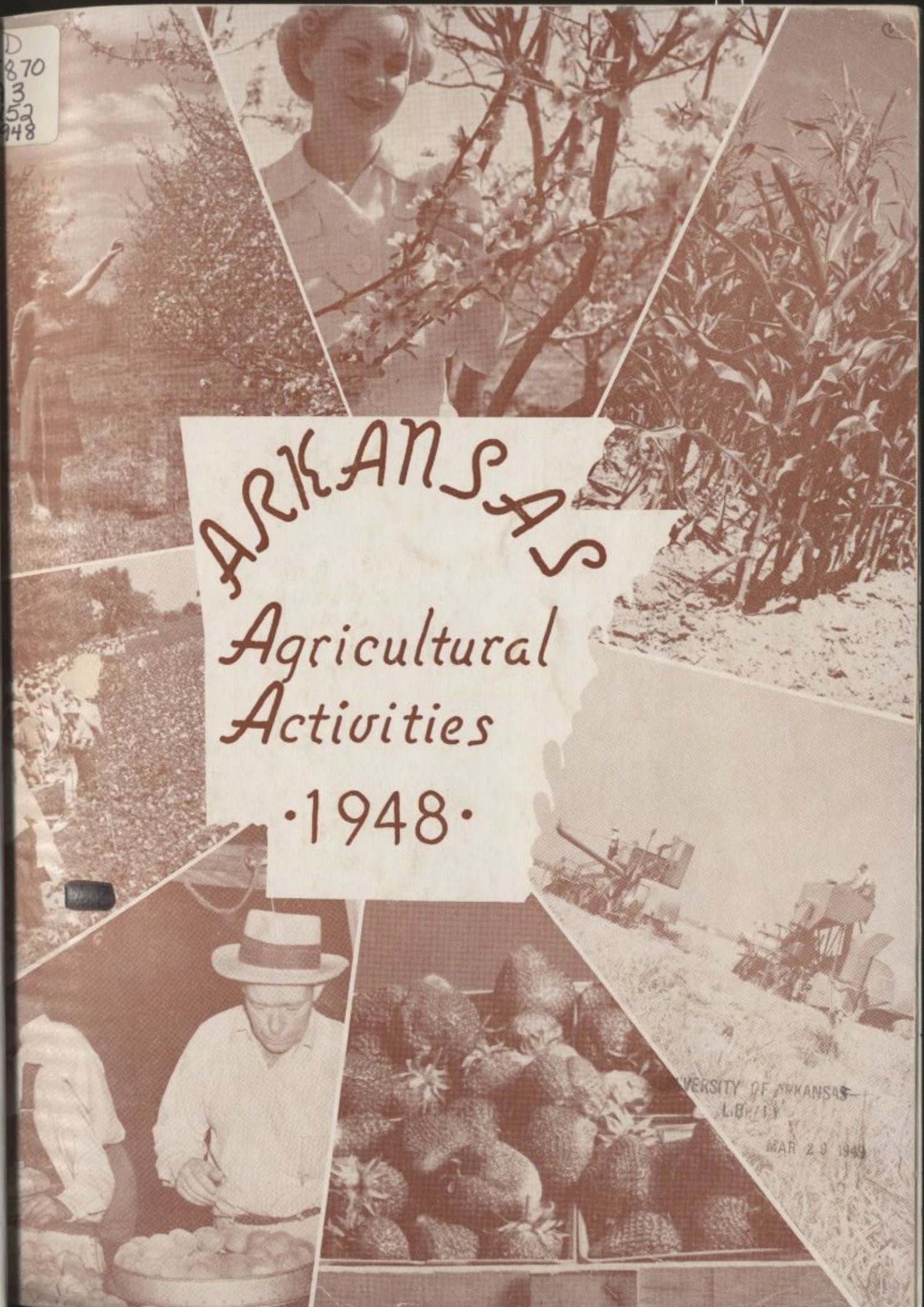

ARKANSAS

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Transporting workers presents a problem only when considerable distance is involved. During the past season there were a number of instances in which workers were transported for a distance of 30 miles or more to the job each day by truck or bus. Through an arrangement with the State Extension Service in Dallas County, workers were transported daily to Pine Bluff from a point 50 miles distant. The use of busses is much to be preferred, if available.

There is, also, much improvement that can be made generally in providing facilities which properly safeguard the health of the workers. Considerable improvement was made in a number of instances during the past year. Recent experience has shown that the migratory worker is becoming more conscious of living conditions in farming areas and is demanding more in the way of satisfactory living conditions from the employer. This means that farmers who do not have adequate facilities will present problems of recruitment for this reason. Therefore, considerable work in the educational field is being done and should be expanded toward correcting this situation.

Since information stations were set up on a temporary basis, that part of the service and the location of the stations were not well established in the minds of the public. Because of their importance to the program, permanent stations in a greater number should, therefore, be established at vulnerable points of entry into the state with adequate facilities to care for migrant's needs when they stop to secure information.

More road side signs and similar advertising might be used to direct migratory workers to Employment Security Division offices in order that the utilization of such workers might be more evenly distributed.

FOREIGN WORKERS

Problems encountered in the use of foreign labor, in this instance, Mexican Nationals, included the usual complications due to language bar-

FARM LABOR
TENT OFFICES
OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

ARE STRATEGICALLY
LOCATED FROM TIME TO
TIME IN THE VARIOUS
FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL
ACTIVITY

riers as well as those having to do with special recruitment procedures, additional costs, definite requirements with regard to housing, wages, etc.

The language barrier is probably the most important because it prevents the establishment of closer relations between the employer and his workers. It also prevents ready settlement of controversial issues which naturally arise when workers are not familiar with working conditions and other factors relating to employment. The official interpreter from Texas rendered an excellent service in his assistance with the settlement of grievances and disputes. One employer had no foreign labor problems because his group included a Mexican who was familiar with both languages and who acted in a liaison capacity between the employer and the workers, thus enabling the relationship to be kept on a level of mutual understanding.

This liaison man served, also, as an umpire in other disputes that occurred within the same community; and his assistance proved very valuable. Probably further investigation could be made of the advisability of procuring more such persons, if Mexican Nationals are needed in the future.

Another problem encountered had to do with complaints lodged with the Mexican Consul with regard to whether living conditions met the requirements of the contract. It is known that several charges of failure to meet requirements were made by the Consul without proper investigation of the actual conditions. This problem could be limited by better attention to the investigations of the complaints with more than one agency acting in making the investigation. It is suggested that the investigation be made jointly by representatives of the Employment Security Division, the Immigration Authority and the Mexican Government.

Another problem presented itself because in many instances the worker had not become accustomed to doing farm work; and, therefore, the employer was paying as much under contract for the poor worker as for the one who was accustomed to agricultural work. It is suggested that better selection of the worker would overcome this difficulty.

Another problem developed because a number of workers left their jobs and returned to Mexico prior to the expiration of the contract; one planter lost 22 in this manner. This resulted in the employer losing both the services of the worker and the money deposited at the border station providing for the transportation to the worker's home. The development of an incentive plan, to be included in the contract, might prove beneficial in holding workers on the job throughout the season.

Mexican workers, the same as others, are subject to disabling illnesses and injuries. A number of cases are known where accidents occurred while the worker was off the farm, but was cared for by the employer at consi-

derable expense. In at least one instance, special transportation was provided back to Mexico after five weeks hospitalization and orthopedic expenses had been defrayed.

It is further recommended that the contract be simplified; that consideration be given as to stationing a deputy consul in each state office contracting for Mexican labor in order to expedite the transfer of such workers through observation of the situation; and lastly that the recruitment process be devised to speed up the transfer of these workers according to schedules.

TYPICAL WORKERS

Hipolite Ramirez, Mexican, lives at Welasco, Texas with his wife and six children, ranging in age from 18 months to 14 years. Up until four years ago, he and his wife earned their living by day work in the area near their home in such vegetable harvests as tomatoes, onions and carrots. At that time, he was recruited by Juan Gonzales, crew leader, for employment on a 2,500 acre cotton plantation in Poinsett County in Eastern Arkansas. Each succeeding year he has returned to his employer in this state, traveling with his family in one of the crew leader's trucks. With the exception of last year, when Hipolite made a 40 acre sharecrop with this planter, the Ramirez family maintains a rugged work schedule. Moving with the Texas vegetable harvests during the late winter and spring months, they arrive in Poinsett County by May 1 to chop cotton. By August 1 they travel back to Texas to pick cotton there. Soon after the first of September they are to be found in the cotton fields of their Arkansas employer, where they remain until late December, at which time they depart for their home and the

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a greater extent in the Helena area, where a tight farm labor supply usually exists. Woodworking plants in that area, whose high seasonal requirements usually occur concomitantly with those of agriculture, present keen competition in the distribution of local labor.

Labor Supply

To meet the demands for labor it was necessary to recruit workers locally, from other counties in Arkansas, from out-of-state sources and from a foreign country.

The bulk of the local labor supply was comprised of unemployed males, older men, housewives, children and high school and college students. In addition, the usual shift of workers from domestic and low paying industrial jobs took place; and numbers of small farm owners and laborers commuted daily from neighboring counties during periods of low activity in their home communities. Some 3,000 workers, chiefly from Tennessee, were sent into the Forrest City area each day by the Memphis Tri-State Farm Placement Office. The majority of the local workers were Negroes.

Intra-state workers came, principally, from the Ozark Mountain Region of Northwest Arkansas. Employers in every section of the State, except one, considered this group superior to other types of migrant workers and found their work to be highly satisfactory. Planters in the county of exception reported demands of these workers as to housing and living facilities were excessive, and that many returned home when most needed. The majority of these workers were white.

Many states were represented by the inter-state group. Texas furnished the largest number, many of whom stopped enroute home from harvests in the Great Lakes Region. Other workers came chiefly from Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Kentucky. The Texas Mexicans traveled in groups of families, often with single individuals attached.

Foreign Workers

The only foreign workers employed were from Mexico, secured by contract with that Country. The only crop activity which

requires their usage is the cotton harvest. Approximately 29% more Mexicans were brought into Arkansas during last year than in 1948. While fewer foreign workers may be needed in the future, so long as harvest demands approximate last year's level, Mexican Nationals will continue to be an important segment of the farm labor force in Arkansas. It was demonstrated last season that local and intra-state labor could be recruited in greater numbers than had been thought possible. Every effort will be made to fully utilize workers from these sources before applying for foreign labor. For example, early in the harvest season, orders were received in the Blytheville and Newport areas for a total of 16,560 Mexican Nationals from 55 employers. Many were filled entirely with domestic labor and all were partially filled with the result that 26 planters employed 7,350 Nationals.

Problems and Recommendations

Housing continued to be the paramount obstacle in the recruitment and referral of harvest workers. While the condition is steadily improving, many landowners have found it impractical to increase or even repair the housing facilities of pre-war days because of the expense involved. Probably the greatest strides were made in Mississippi County, the location of the heaviest demands for migrant labor.

The City of Blytheville rented barracks at the former army air base to farmers; a prisoner of war barracks, dwellings and other building were made livable, and considerable new housing was built. Several gin operators furnished a limited amount of housing to small planters, and in some instances large landowners recruited and housed sufficient labor to supply their less fortunate neighbors. Since it is undesirable to accumulate a sufficiently large labor surplus in the State on a permanent basis, because of the periods of unemployment between seasons of agricultural activity, the establishment of labor camps appears to be the solution which will augment the necessary movement of migratory labor in certain areas. Toward this end representatives of this Agency are working with farm associations in the Jonesboro and Helena areas for the immediate establishment of camps to be located at points of scarce labor supply in order that small farmers may be better served. Interested persons in the Jonesboro area plan to visit the Springdale Labor Camp in the near

future to secure ideas for building a camp to house 100 families to be located in the western district of Craighead County.

Since this State relies heavily upon the flow of transient labor, a point of contact and direction is needed on the Missouri-Arkansas borderline to direct this movement from the North. Unless Missouri establishes an information station at this point, it is recommended that this Agency take steps to locate such a station at the entrance to this State in Northeast Arkansas. Along this line, operation of an information station at Newport, adjacent to the Delta Counties of Eastern Arkansas and at Mandeville, situated in Southwest Arkansas at the gateway to Texas, should be continued. These stations should be opened about August 15 in order to make full use of this important segment of the labor supply (because of the late opening date, about 90% of the transient labor had passed through Newport when the station began operations last year).

Other recommendations include:

1. The continued exchange of Texas Mexican labor by arrangment with Texas. In this regard, it is suggested that consideration be given to revision of the agreement in order that growers who have not previously employed these workers may qualify.

2. Intensify recruitment efforts in the non-cotton producing sections of Northwest Arkansas.

3. Place greater emphasis on the "picture taking program" used in connection with the new type order form which permits the worker to exercise greater selectivity in choosing a job.

4. Encourage the establishment of small housing centers in areas of greatest need.

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from urban centers such as Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Harrison, Rogers and Springdale.

For "other vegetable and fruit harvests" only a small number of intrastate and interstate workers are used mostly in the northwestern section of Arkansas, with most of these workers from adjacent counties in Arkansas and Oklahoma. In these groups there were slightly more men than women and a substantial number of these are housed in the Springdale Labor Camp.

Intrastate and interstate workers for vegetable canning activities compare closely with those for other vegetables and fruits.

OTHER GRAINS

In the "other grains", corn was the more important, with this crop showing production of 38,610,000 bushels as against 28,368,000 in 1949. The wet season was favorable to this crop.

LABOR

Other Sources

Foreign Labor

Foreign labor was utilized only for the cotton picking activity, with 10,550 Mexican Nationals employed at the peak of this activity. Records show that 93 different employers submitted orders that could not be filled with domestic labor. The number ofworkers involved was

Top photo: Picking grapes in northwest Arkansas.
Bottom: Harvesting green beans.

20,125. Requests for foreign labor were recommended for 92 different employers involving 14,935 workers. Our records show 1,300 employed during the first half and 5,200 during the last half of September, 10,300 during the first half and 10,550 during the second half of October, and 10,500 during the first half and 9,400 during the second half of November.

The foreign workers generally were good workers and compared favorably with domestic labor. There were cases in which minor disputes arose between these workers and their employers, but it is believed that this was largely because of the language barrier which interferred with attempts to work out points of disagreement.

Because of the large anticipated increase in cotton production, anticipated for 1951, it is expected that a much greater number of foreign workers will be needed during the coming year.

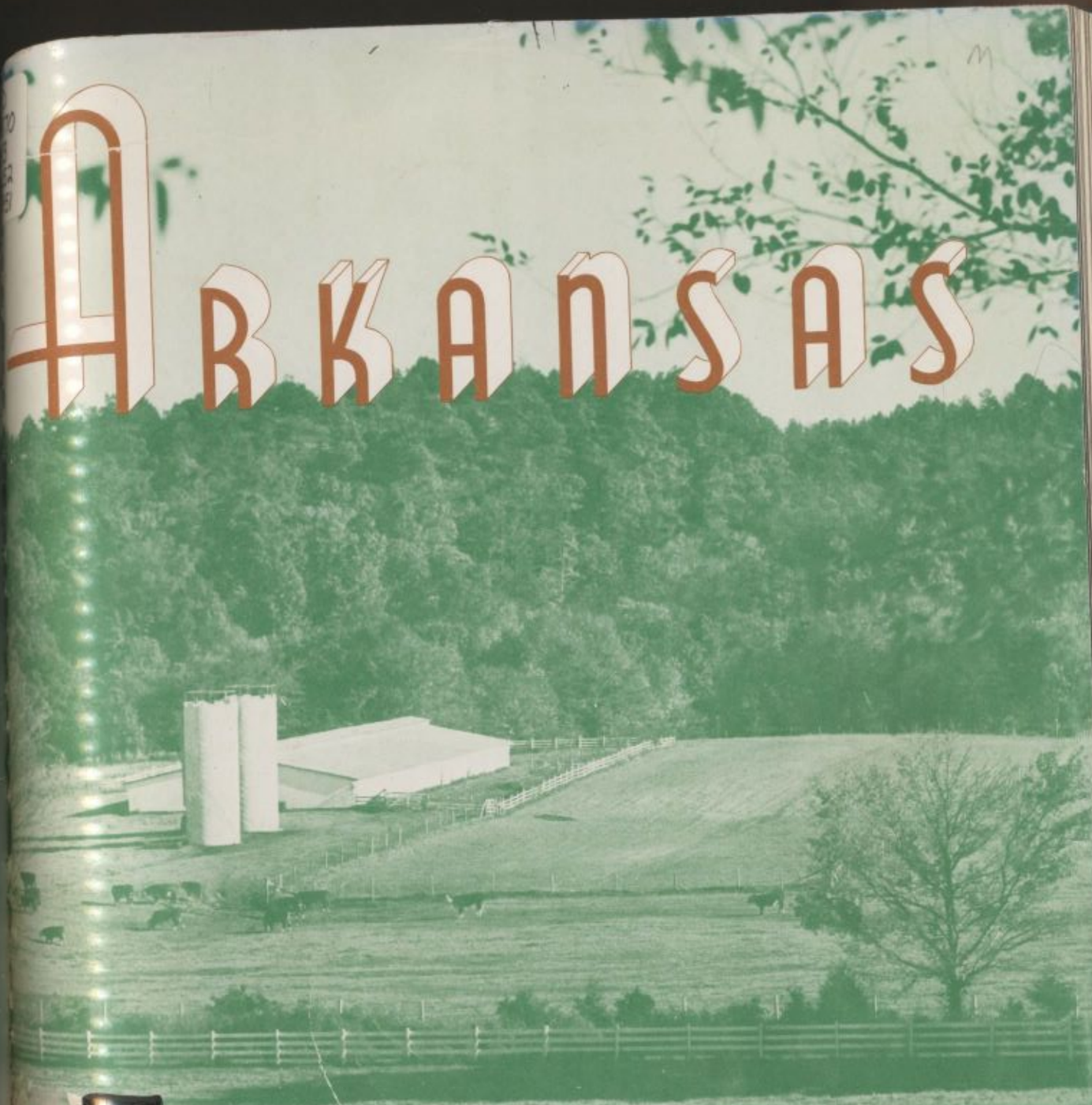
Mechanization

Because of the late crop and heavy rains, very little cotton in 1950 was harvested by mechanical pickers. Further improvement in such machines, and more gins will require changes to better handle machine-picked cotton, before general use of mechanized pickers can be made.

Continued expansion in use of mechanical cotton choppers occurred during the year, as well as in check-row planting, with both developments helping to lessen the need for hand labor for cotton chopping activity.

Harvesting and threshing rice by the old method. Rice farmers now employ the use of huge combines.

ARKANSAS



Agricultural Activities

1951

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TABLE I

INFORMATION STATIONS

DATE OPEN First Period, March 26 to June 10 PLACE Mandeville, Arkansas

Total Workers	Male	Female	Non-Workers	Mexican Nationals
10,149	6,543	2,626	980	2,492

Last Work Area		Next Work Area			
Texas	6,950	Arkansas	4,083	Wisconsin	437
Mexico	3,199	Michigan	2,943	Missouri	103
		Ohio	979	Kentucky	77
		Indiana	842	Tennessee	24
		Illinois	661		

DATE OPEN Second Period, August 20 to December 6

Total Workers	Male	Female	Non-Workers	Mexican Nationals
13,180	11,970	769	444	8,801

Last Work Area				Next Work Area	
Mexico	9,819	Wisconsin	146	Arkansas	8,617
Texas	1,603	Ohio	102	Missouri	2,410
Arkansas	918	Missouri	64	Texas	1,271
Indiana	274	Illinois	5	Mexico	463
Michigan	239			Tennessee	173
				Mississippi	43

TABLE II
INFORMATION STATIONS

DATE OPEN September 5 to October 5 — PLACE Newport, Arkansas

WORKERS NOT STOPPED	3,041	Number Going North	2,216
		Number Going South	825
WORKERS STOPPED BUT NOT SENT TO ANY EMPLOYER	198	Number Going North	87
		Number Going South	111
NUMBER OF WORKERS SENT TO EMPLOYERS	449	*Regular	429
		**Temporary	20

COMMENTS: Workers were Mexican Nationals and Texas Mexicans with some white persons. Most traffic south was families with children to return to school.

* Placements for work lasting four or more days.

** Placements for work lasting three or less days.

DATE OPEN September 30 to October 20 — PLACE Sikeston, Missouri

TOTAL PERSONS SENT TO ARKANSAS 367

Total Persons	Total Workers	Male	Female	Non-Workers
367	258	152	215	109

WORK ARRANGEMENTS IN ARKANSAS:

Had Work	Did Not Have Work
90	277

TABLE III
ARKANSAS FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT TREND

AGRICULTURE

Semi-Monthly Period	ES-224 EMPLOYMENT							
	1951							
	Total	Local	Intra-State	Inter-State	Foreign	1950 Total	1949 Total	1948 Total
1 - 14	58,600	34,400	18,100	6,100	0	24,650	37,850	36,100
15- 31	109,500	73,100	21,700	10,900	3,800	98,150	62,350	36,400
1- 14	56,900	44,200	3,300	5,900	3,500	52,400	60,900	29,900
15-30	63,900	50,200	3,600	5,900	4,200	45,300	75,200	35,300
1- 14	100,000	73,000	5,800	13,600	7,600	25,650	50,400	35,200
15-31	87,200	66,400	2,800	10,700	7,300	22,600	41,000	38,500
1- 14	6,700	4,900	500	600	700	16,900	6,750	22,300
15-31	4,400	3,400	500	300	200	8,400	12,000	10,400
.1 -14	36,600	29,700	2,200	1,400	3,300	19,800	75,850	24,600
.15-30	84,900	47,800	4,900	6,500	25,700	50,300	91,100	49,100
1 -14	89,600	46,800	5,100	8,100	29,600	64,300	86,350	74,700
15-31	91,500	46,000	5,300	9,500	30,700	65,400	71,450	77,300
1 -14	72,200	39,800	3,800	7,700	21,000	71,500	77,900	74,200
15-30	58,400	35,600	5,200	5,200	12,400	51,300	74,000	61,200

TABLE IV
FOOD PROCESSING

Semi-Monthly Period	ES-224 EMPLOYMENT							
	1951							
	Total	Local	Intra-State	Inter-State	Foreign	1950 Total	1949 Total	1948 Total
1 - 14	3,300	3,000	200	100	0	2,725	2,000	3,500
15- 31	3,900	3,300	300	300	0	4,400	2,650	850
1- 14	1,800	1,400	200	200	0	1,950	3,000	2,500
15-30	1,400	1,200	100	100	0	1,450	2,750	1,900
1 -14	1,800	1,400	200	200	0	700	1,600	1,800
15-31	1,800	1,300	300	200	0	1,200	1,200	2,600
1 -14	1,600	1,400	100	100	0	1,000	1,250	6,800
15-31	3,600	3,400	100	100	0	2,200	1,950	7,800
1-14	2,800	2,600	100	100	0	4,450	1,900	7,300
15-30	2,000	1,800	100	100	0	3,300	1,500	3,750
1 -14	1,600	1,600	0	0	0	1,950	2,450	2,400
15-31	1,400	1,400	0	0	0	2,000	2,450	1,600
1 -14	400	400	0	0	0	1,100	500	300
15-30	400	400	0	0	0	800	600	600

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ne 15-30	63,900	50,200	3,600	5,900	4,200	45,300	75,200	35,300
ly 1- 14	100,000	73,000	5,800	13,600	7,600	25,650	50,400	35,200
ly 15-31	87,200	66,400	2,800	10,700	7,300	22,600	41,000	38,500
g. 1- 14	6,700	4,900	500	600	700	16,900	6,750	22,300
g. 15-31	4,400	3,400	500	300	200	8,400	12,000	10,400
pt.1 -14	36,600	29,700	2,200	1,400	3,300	19,800	75,850	24,600
pt.15-30	84,900	47,800	4,900	6,500	25,700	50,300	91,100	49,100
t. 1 -14	89,600	46,800	5,100	8,100	29,600	64,300	86,350	74,700
t. 15-31	91,500	46,000	5,300	9,500	30,700	65,400	71,450	77,300
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July 1- 14	100,000	73,000	5,800	13,600	7,600	25,650	50,400	35,200
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Aug. 15-31	4,400	3,400	500	300	200	8,400	12,000	10,400
Sept.1 -14	36,600	29,700	2,200	1,400	3,300	19,800	75,850	24,600
Sept.15-30	84,900	47,800	4,900	6,500	25,700	50,300	91,100	49,100
Oct. 1 -14	89,600	46,800	5,100	8,100	29,600	64,300	86,350	74,700
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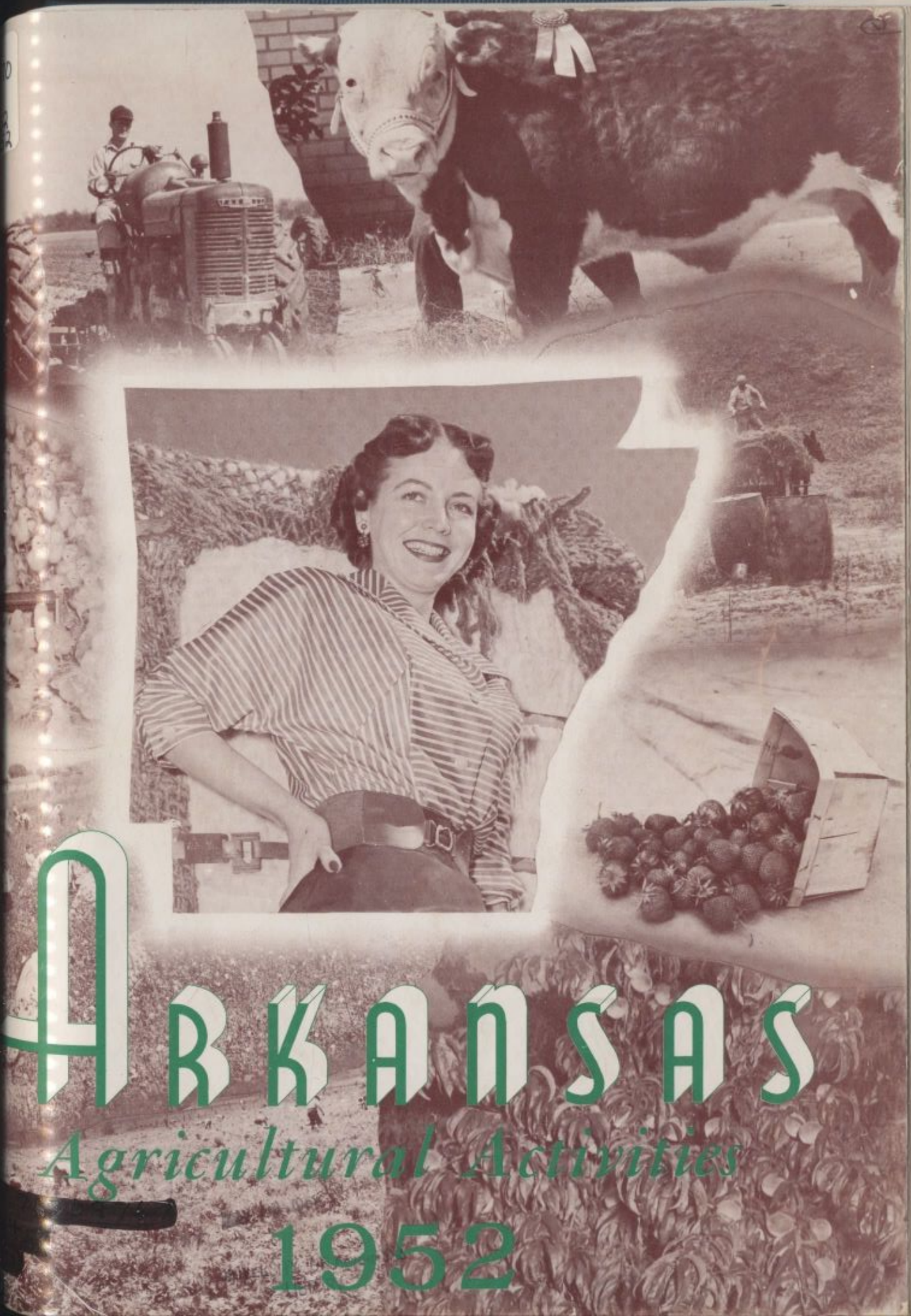
June 1- 14	1,800	1,400	200	200	0	1,950	3,000	2,500
June 15-30	1,400	1,200	100	100	0	1,450	2,750	1,900
July 1 -14	1,800	1,400	200	200	0	700	1,600	1,800
July 15-31	1,800	1,300	300	200	0	1,200	1,200	2,600
Aug. 1 -14	1,600	1,400	100	100	0	1,000	1,250	6,800
Aug. 15-31	3,600	3,400	100	100	0	2,200	1,950	7,800
Sept. 1-14	2,800	2,600	100	100	0	4,450	1,900	7,300
Sept.15-30	2,000	1,800	100	100	0	3,300	1,500	3,750
Oct. 1 -14	1,600	1,600	0	0	0	1,950	2,450	2,400
Oct. 15-31	1,400	1,400	0	0	0	2,000	2,450	1,600
Nov. 1 -14	400	400	0	0	0	1,100	500	300
Nov. 15-30	400	400	0	0	0	800	600	600



ARKANSAS

Agricultural Activities

1952

OTHER FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The harvest and processing of other fruits and vegetables such as spinach, kale and mustard greens, field peas, radishes, sweet corn, grapes and apples, required only a minimum of seasonal workers. The peak in employment for the harvesting of these other fruits and vegetables occurred during the first half of July when 7,000 seasonal workers were engaged.

FOOD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES

Food processing activities showed two peaks of employment. Strawberry processing in May reached a peak of 5,075 seasonal workers. The other peak was reached in canning of green beans in September with a peak of 5,750 cannery workers. The 5,075 peak in May was composed of 4,875 local workers, 125 intrastate workers and 75 interstate workers. The September peak of 5,750 was composed of 5,250 local workers, 300 intrastate workers and 200 interstate workers. The local workers are practically all women, most of them following this work year after year and retiring from the labor force when the food processing plants are not operating. The majority are housewives.

GRAINS

Rice is the chief grain crop in Arkansas with a total money yield in 1952 of $54,636,000. Corn was second with a value of $25,083,000. Oats ranked third with $4,078,000. Then came wheat with $832,000 and barley with $136,000. These crops are heavily mechanized and require practically no seasonal labor. Numerous placements of regular on-farm workers are made by the Farm Placement Service in these crops, generally skilled operators of farm machinery.

FOREIGN LABOR

During the cotton chopping and picking activities all the domestic workers available were used. The

labor situation for these two activities became acute and several areas had to resort to utilization of Mexican Nationals and British West Indies workers. The first Mexican Nationals were brought into the state during the second half of May when a total of 1,680 were used. For the remainder of the year Nationals in the state numbered as follows: June 3,705, July 2,300, August 250, September 15,325, October 24,150, November 13,825 and December 1,350. A total of 332 employers placed orders for 27,376 Mexican Nationals. A peak of 3,705 Nationals were used for cotton chopping and 24,150 for cotton picking. Approximately 500 British West Indies workers were used for cotton chopping and 650 for cotton picking.

Fewer problems and less dissatisfaction arose out of the use of foreign labor this year than in past years. Only minor individual differences occurred between employers and employees. These differences possibly could have been prevented had requirements concerning use of foreign labor been better explained and users of Mexican Nationals better informed prior to the arrival of the workers. The only complaint received concerning the use of British West Indies workers was their lack of experience in agricultural work.

MECHANIZATION

The steady growth of mechanization continued in the state during 1952. Several factors such as labor shortages, higher wages and the need for dependable assistance has stimulated a desire for the use of machines. The advances of mechanization in the state helped to alleviate somewhat the need for workers, but on the whole mechanization was a negligible factor with reference to labor requirements.

In the planting and cultivation of crops the use of machinery did not affect the labor situation any

TABLE IV

SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT IN MAJOR CROP AREAS - STATE SUMMARY

Semi-Monthly Period	AGRICULTURE				
	Total	Local	Intra-State	Inter-State	Foreign
April 1 - 15	2,500	2,500			
April 16 - 30	9,750	5,375	3,425	950	
May 1 - 15	72,850	43,525	20,975	8,350	
May 16 - 31	75,355	50,150	16,700	6,825	1,680
June 1 - 15	53,800	42,840	3,625	3,650	3,685
June 16 - 30	60,825	47,290	4,705	4,525	4,305
July 1 - 15	49,600	38,550	4,825	3,425	2,800
July 16 - 31	26,125	23,950	1,025	750	400
August 1 - 15	18,000	16,300	1,075	375	250
August 16 - 31	22,875	20,875	1,175	575	250
September 1 - 15	69,400	59,300	3,000	3,245	3,855
September 16 - 30	105,725	78,100	4,150	7,500	15,975
October 1 - 15	129,720	92,500	4,745	7,675	24,800
October 16 - 31	110,750	76,800	4,350	6,650	22,950
November 1 - 15	63,525	42,850	1,800	4,400	14,475
November 16 - 30	42,075	28,475	1,650	3,400	8,550
December 1 - 15	17,400	14,250	775	1,025	1,350

TABLE VI

PEAK SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE 18 LOCAL OFFICE AREAS HAVING MAJOR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

Office	Month Peak Occurred	Total	Local	Intra-State	Inter-State	Foreign
Blytheville	October	39,350	24,500	1,000	4,500	9,350
Fayetteville	May	15,750	12,000	2,500	1,250	0
Forrest City	October	22,150	18,000	500	750	2,900
Fort Smith	April	2,300	2,300	0	0	0
Harrison	May	6,000	3,500	2,000	500	0
Helena	October	6,350	4,450	250	475	1,175
Hope	October	1,800	1,750	0	0	50
Jonesboro	October	28,400	18,500	1,500	700	7,700
Mena	April	750	325	225	200	0
Monticello	October	7,870	6,000	545	325	1,000
Newport	October	6,000	4,500	0	800	700
North Little Rock	October	6,300	4,700	350	200	1,050
Paragould	October	7,500	7,000	500	0	0
Pine Bluff	October	5,000	3,100	300	225	1,375
Rogers	May	5,400	3,200	1,200	1,000	0
Russellville	July	1,800	1,400	400	0	0
Searcy	May	33,000	13,000	15,000	5,000	0
Texarkana	June	1,500	1,490	0	0	10

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ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL REPORT 1953

BAYARD TAYLOR, ADMINISTRATOR

PREPARED BY
REPORTS AND ANALYSIS SECTION
ARKANSAS EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
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TABLE II Arkansas

State Summary--Employment of Seasonal Hired Workers in Agriculture and Food Processing and Agricultural Placements, By Half Month Periods, 1953

Period	Agricultural Employment				Agricultural Placements 2/	Food Processing Employment 1/		
		Domestic						
	Total	Local	Non-Local	Foreign		Total	Local	Non-Local
January 1-15	800	800						
January 16-31	475	475			9109	300	300	
February 1-15	650	650						
February 16-28	1275	1275			9513	500	500	
March 1-15	2075	2075						
March 16-31	2050	2050			11406	1000	1000	
April 1-15	2150	2150						
April 16-30	1150	1150			9529	600	600	
May 1-15	13495	11035	2460					
May 16-31	45694	37940	4000	3754	37761	1150	1135	15
June 1-15	55490	43018	4813	7659				
June 16-30	57175	45152	4383	7640	182387	750	700	50
July 1-15	30185	24792	1310	4083				
July 16-31	28570	26186	1232	1152	89790	1200	1150	50
August 1-15	16212	14834	1368	10				
August 16-31	5854	4810	1044	0	66153	600	500	100
September 1-15	58757	53237	3898	1622				
September 16-30	82893	59424	8543	14926	180557	4060	4009	51
October 1-15	106423	73466	10216	22741				
October 16-31	114996	81635	10235	23126	279372	1720	1720	
November 1-15	90294	65291	5150	19853				
November 16-30	56758	48961	2200	5597	191566	300	300	
December 1-15	29102	28000	600	502				
December 16-31	500	500			35750	200	200	

Note: Employment shown in half month periods. Accurate levels of employment could not be shown by monthly periods due to highly seasonal nature of crop activities.

1/ Placements are totals for each month; food processing employment for week including 15th of month.

2/ Includes placements made by Volunteer Farm Placement Representative.

heads of families and group leaders who had previously been employed in the state by area. They were requested to send information with regard to the number of workers they expected to recruit and to pass along the information to other workers who might be interested in such work. A complete information sheet was also mailed to workers previously used giving minute details as to housing, wages, etc.

The information station at Mandeville provided information to migrant workers with regard to crop conditions and location of heavy labor demands. The station also collected data as to number and types of workers. The results of the station were considered very important in better directing labor supplies. A total of 8,544 workers passed through the station this year as compared with 4,977 during 1952. The majority secured jobs in Arkansas. In addition to the information station, three mobile trailer untis were in operation to recruit intra-state workers. The trailers moved into different areas as recruitment in one area was completed. They were a very important segment of the farm placement program.

The Springdale Labor Camp, composed of 200 shelters each constructed to house a family of four, proved again to be an important factor in securing workers for the vegetable and fruit harvest in Northwest Arkansas. In this area a need for seasonal farm labor exists almost continuously during the year. An Employment Security Representative was in charge of placement activities at the camp, which housed about 800 workers at peak.

Clearance played an important role in recruiting large numbers of migratory workers. Orders that could not be filled within a local office area were sent to all local offices in the state. If the orders still remained unfilled they were then sent to all state administrative offices contiguous to Arkansas, then to the Regional Office in Dallas, then to adjoining regions and if still unobtainable, the coordinating facilities of the National Office of the Bureau were introduced. All regions were combed in order to exhaust every source of domestic labor before certifying a need for foreign workers. Inter-area and inter-state clearance procedures were very effective and fully utilized.

Most of the intra-state workers were from non-farm counties in north-central Arkansas. Practically all were white workers primarily in family groups. The inter-state workers were largely of Mexican origin from Texas. Others came from Oklahoma, Missouri, Alabama and Tennessee. They were in family groups or crews of which about 55 per cent were males.

Inter-state workers from Texas came into the state on U. S. Highway 67 through Texarkana to Little Rock. From Little Rock, they traveled U. S. Highway 67 into northeast Arkansas, U. S. Highway 70 into east-central Arkansas and U. S. Highway 65 into south-east Arkansas. Workers from Oklahoma moved into the state over U. S. Highway 64. Workers from Missouri came into north-east Arkansas over U. S. Highway 65 and into north-west Arkansas over U. S. Highway 71. Workers from Tennessee came into the state on U. S. Highway 64 and moved into demand areas on U. S. Highways 64, 79 and 61.

Puerto Rican Contract Workers: No Puerto Rican workers were used.

Foreign Workers: Foreign labor was utilized only for cotton chopping and picking. Records, representing both individual and association orders, show that a total of 361 employers placed orders for foreign labor for cotton chopping and 423 for cotton picking. A peak of 7,659 foreign workers were used in

cotton chopping and 23,126 in cotton harvesting, representing 14 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, of total seasonal requirements in the two activities. British West Indians numbered 300 in chopping and 700 in picking. The remaining foreign workers were Mexican Nationals. There were very few complaints from foreign workers and practically none from the employers who were extremely well satisfied with the work done by foreign labor, even though it was more expensive than domestic labor.

Area employment ceilings were operated very smoothly with no administrative or procedural difficulties encountered other than minor problems as to the size and timing of ceilings and demand. The wage finding program proved less difficult than that used during the previous year. The program seemed adequate as to techniques, however, it appears that redelination of crop wage areas will be necessary for the coming year.

Community Programs: Educational programs for users of foreign labor were set up in areas where a demand existed for this type of labor. The programs were carried on by local office personnel and were aimed at educating foreign labor users as to the law governing their use. These programs helped eliminate many problems that were encountered in previous years.

Problems: Lack of housing was the major problem which interfered with effective recruitment and placement. Employers are aware of this problem and are making progress each year to eliminate it. Also the location of farms in extreme outlying districts present problems of recruitment because of their location as to routes generally traveled by migratory labor and the distances from urban local supply centers.

Shortages and Surpluses: The only significant shortages occurred in the cotton picking activity. This was caused by extremely dry, hot weather which caused cotton to open rapidly with a resultant heavy demand for workers at one particular time. All cotton areas reported shortages with the largest (8,500) at Forrest City. Also, Helena, Pine Bluff, Hope, Monticello, North Little Rock, and Blytheville experienced shortages. The peak shortage of 13,825 occurred the second half of October. The ideal harvest weather which continued through October and most of November enabled the best utilization of the available labor supply and no cotton was known to have been lost due to shortages of labor. No significant surpluses of labor existed.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Evaluation: The overall operation of the state farm placement program appears entirely adequate. As has been stated, there were no instances reported in which there was a loss of an agricultural product because of an insufficient supply of labor. Very favorable progress was shown in methods of recruitment, efficiency of placements and techniques for the clearance of workers. The accomplishments of the farm placement service during the harvest season were outstanding since the closing of eight local offices resulted in a greater area coverage by fewer personnel. The full impact of this situation is expected to be felt during 1954 if it remains unchanged.

Several problems that have consistently hindered recruitment efforts arose, such as: inadequate housing for migrant workers, reluctance of agricultural communities to accept migrant workers as necessary to their economic welfare, overestimating of labor needs by employers, and the failure of workers to keep commitments. The farm placement service encourages better housing and relationships but must have the cooperation of the community and the workers. When overestimating of labor needs occurs the farm placement representatives are forced to

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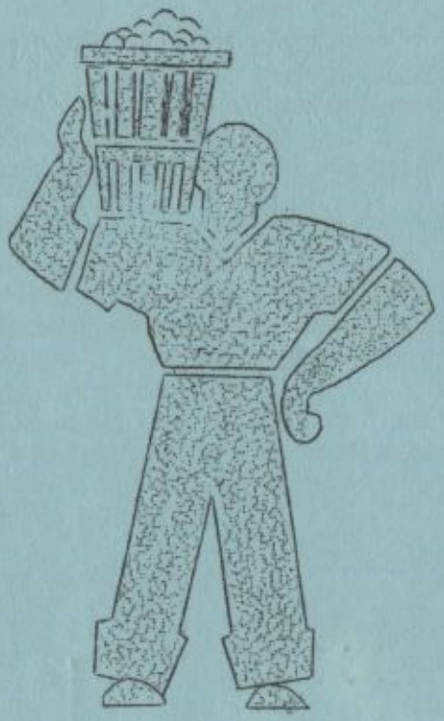

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