MINNESOTA DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND SECURITY

SEASONAL Agricultural Workers Hired for Principal Minnesota Farm Crops – 1950

Principal Crops	Work Performed	Season Needed		Approx. Acreage	Pct. Mechanized	Peak Total Workers Hired	Pct. E.S. Penetration	SOURCE OF LABOR SUPPLY			
		From	To					(Live at job site or commute) LOCAL	(Brought in and quartered) INTRA-STATE	INTER-STATE	FOREIGN
Nursery	Planting, Transplanting, etc.	Apr. 5	Sep.15	4,507		1,518	44	1,448		70	
Vegetables	Thinning Hoeing Harvesting	Apr. 1	Nov.5	22,000		13,971	85	11,401	320	Tex. 2,200	Bah. 50
Sugar Beets	Thinning) Hoeing) Topping	May 15 Sep.15	Aug 1 Nov 1	61,332	50	5,897	20	137	235	5,525	
Green Peas (Canning)	Pitch peas at vinery	Jun 10	Jul 20	52,200		4,076	41	2,408	320	Okla. Wis. Mo.-Ia. 470	Bah. 878
Corn Detasseling	Pulling Tassels	Jul 1	Aug 5	32,303	Riding equip. 30	4,848	65	4,848			
Small Grain	Harvest	Jul 1	Sep 15	8,664,000	85	26,000	26	17,800	3,700	Ia. Wis. Mo. N.D. 4,500	
Sweet Corn (Canning)	Snap Corn	Aug10	Sep 25	61,400	40	2,908	67	449	319	Tex. Mo. Ia. Ark. 486	Jam. 155 Bah. 964 P.R. 535
Potatoes	Picking	Sep15	Oct 20	98,000	45	10,670	69	6,170	4,200	Tex. Ia. Wis. Okla. 300	
Field Corn	Harvest	Oct 1	Nov 15	5,111,000	98	5,595	29	5,400	147	48	

~~MSES-1223 (Rev. 3-24-50)~~

MINNESOTA DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND SECURITY

*SEASONAL Agricultural Workers Hired for Principal Minnesota Farm Crops - 1951

Principal Crops	Work Performed	Season Needed From - To	Approx. Acreage	Pct. Mechanized	Total Workers Hired	SOURCE OF LABOR SUPPLY (Live at job site or commute) LOCAL	Brought in and Quartered OUT-OF-AREA	OUT-OF-STATE	OUT-OF-COUNTRY
Nursery	Planting Transplanting, etc.	Apr.5-Sept.15			1,454	1,050	354		50 Bahamans
Vegetables	Thinning Hoeing Harvesting	Apr.1-Nov.5	22,000		13,000	10,943	1111 Domestics	680 Tex-Mex. 50 Indians(Neb.)	20 Barbados 196 Mex-Nat'ls
Sugar Beets	Thinning Hoeing	May 15-Aug.1	55,799		5,008	263	42 Indians	3596 Tex-Mex.	1107 Mex-Nat'ls
	Topping	Sept.15-Nov.1	54,000	85	1,385	111	12 Indians	1212 Tex-Mex.	50 Mex-Nat'ls
Green Peas (Canning)	Pitch Peas at vinery	Jun.10-Jul.20	49,199		4,366	2,054	233	189 Tex-Mex. 51 Ia.-Mo.	1384 Bahamans 325 Jamaicans 134 Barbados
Hybrid Seed Corn	Pulling Tassels	Jul.1-Aug.5	35,468	30 Riding Equip.	4,769	4,104			
Small Grain	Harvest	Jul.1-Sept.15	9,787,000	85	23,000	16,259	3600	3000 Ia.-Wis.-Mo.-Ark.	141 Bahamans
Sweet Corn (Canning)	Snap Corn	Aug.10-Sept.25	73,483	32	3,387	1,098	185	352 Tex-Mex. 10 Mo.	1316 Bahamans 325 Jamaicans 80 Barbados 21 Mex-Nat'ls
Potatoes	Picking	Sept.15-Oct.20	69,057	15	6,000	1,300	450 Indians 3150	900 Tex-Mex. 200 Wis.-S.D.-Ia.	
Field Corn	Harvest	Oct.1-Nov.15	5,281,083	98	5,600	5,600			

MSES-1223 (Rev. 1/30/52) *Above workers are in addition to regular farm hands employed.

Minnesota Division of Employment and Security

SEASONAL LABOR USED FOR PRINCIPAL FARM CROPS - 1952

Major Crops	Work Performed	Season From - To	Approx. Acreage	Percent of Work Done Mechanically	Number of Workers Used at Peak	SOURCE OF LABOR SUPPLY			
						(Live at Job site or commute) LOCAL	Brought in and Quartered		
							OUT-OF-AREA	OUT-OF-STATE	OUT-OF-COUNTRY
Nursery	Planting, etc.	Apr.5-Sept.15	4,306	-	1,530	1,430	-	80 Tex. Mex.	20 B.W.I.
Asparagus	Harvest	Apr.20-July 1	2,075	-	670	265	-	405 Tex. Mex.	-
Onions	Weeding	May 10-June 20	5,770	-	2,165	1,409	-	530 Tex. Mex.	226 Mex. Nat'l
	Topping	Sept.1-Oct.10	5,700	30	2,265	1,299	-	740 Tex. Mex.	226 Mex. Nat'l
Other Vegetables*	Hoeing, Harvesting, etc.	May 1-Nov. 1	11,304	-	3,379	2,253	-	50 Indiana-Neb. 797 Tex. Mex.	279 Mex. Nat'l
Sugar Beets	Hoeing	May 15-Aug. 1	62,177	-	4,420	38	-	3,342 Tex. Mex.	1,040 Mex. Nat'l
	Harvest	Sept.15-Nov.1	62,000	94	680	239	-	441 Tex. Mex.	-
Green Peas	Pitch peas at Vinery	June 10-July20	62,318	-	4,883	2,715	380	192 Tex. Mex.	1,596 B.W.I.
Green Beans	Picking	July 10-Aug.10	2,050	-	2,818	1,385	-	950 Tex. Mex.	483 B.W.I.
Lima Beans	Picking	Aug.1-Sept.15	1,130	-	68	47	-	2 Tex. Mex.	19 B.W.I.
Hybrid Seed Corn	Pulling Tassels	July 1-Aug.5	36,690	Riding Equip. 10	6,397	6,302	95	-	-
Raspberries	Picking	July 10-Aug.1	820	-	1,415	1,415	-	-	-
Small Grain	Harvest	July 1-Sept.15	7,687,000	85	21,697	21,097	500	100 Other States	-
Sweet Corn	Snap Corn	Aug.10-Sept.25	94,363	70	4,186	1,733	712	439 Tex. Mex.	1,284 B.W.I.
Potatoes	Picking	Sept.15-Oct.20	68,000	45	9,878	7,709	942	1,010 Tex. Mex.	217 Mex. Nat'l
Field Corn	Harvest	Oct.1-Nov.15	5,281,000	98	10,907	10,907	-	-	-

MSES-1223A (10/1/52) *Grouped, since labor needs for each separate crop are intermingled.

Minnesota Department of Employment Security
SEASONAL LABOR USED FOR PRINCIPAL FARM CROPS - 1953

Major Crops	Work Performed	Season From - To	Approx. Acreage	Percent of Work Done Mechanically	Number of Workers Used at Peak	SOURCE OF LABOR SUPPLY			
						LOCAL	Brought in & quartered OUT-OF-AREA	OUT-OF-STATE	OUT-OF-COUNTRY
Nursery	Planting, etc.	Apr. 1-Nov. 15	4,300		2,216	2,216			
Asparagus	Harvest	Apr.20-July 1	2,200		490	12		478 Tex.	
Onions	Weeding	May 10-June 20	4,300		633	100		350 Tex.	183 Mex.
	Topping	Sept.1-Oct. 10	4,100	10%	724	75		475 Tex.	174 Mex.
Other Vegetables*	Hoeing, Harvesting, etc.	May 1-Nov. 1	16,501		3,637	2,525	175	631 Tex. 98 Fla.	208 Mex.
Sugar Beets	Hoeing	May 15-Aug. 1	69,800		4,888	44		3,742 Tex.	1,102 Mex.
	Harvest	Sept.15-Nov.1	63,800	95%	4,100	2,658	620	822 Tex. (Hand Toppers)	
Green Peas	Pitch peas at Vinery	June 10-July 20	56,500		3,229	1,507	15 Ind 57	115 Tex.	1,535 BWI
Green Beans	Picking	July 10-Aug.20	2,500		1,696	325	15	840 Tex. 60 Fla.	174 Mex. 282 BWI
Strawberries	Picking	June 15-Jul.15	720		600	600			
Hybrid Seed Corn	Pulling Tassels	July 1-Aug.5	37,000	Riding Equipt. 10%	5,189	4,984	205		
Raspberries	Picking	July 10-Aug.1	820		1,519	1,519			
Small Grain	Harvest	July 1-Sept.15	7,368,000	Combined 85%	21,000	15,000	5,000	1,000 IA. Neb. N.D. Wis.	
Sweet Corn	Snap Corn	Aug.10-Sept.25	92,200	Mech. Picked 75%	1,958	467	35	157 Tex.	20 Mex. 1,279 BWI
Soy Beans	Harvest	May 10-Oct. 1	1,351,000	Combined					
Potatoes	Operating Equipt. Picking	Sept.15-Oct.20	78,000	Combined 45%	3,696	2,307	757	563 Tex. 38 Fla.	31 Mex.
Field Corn	Harvest	Oct. 1-Nov.15	5,598,000	98% Mech. Picked		Work done mostly by regular help and casual help.			

SES-1223A (10-1-52) * Grouped, since labor needs for each separate crop are intermingled.

State Summary (Statistical)
Total workers in major seasonal crops

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by Date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country	
						Mex.	BWI
Work in Nursery, Asparagus, Onions, Other Veg., Sugar Beets, Green Peas, Green Beans, Strawberries, Hybrid, seed corn, Raspberries, Potatoes, Sweet corn	Apr. 12	98	98				
	19	1325	1274	32	19 T.M.		
	26	1742	1644	79	19 "		
	May 3	2245	1779	147	319 "		
	10	3193	2650	91	452 "		
	17	3349	1982	169	1198 "		
	24	7275	1993	144	5138 "		
	June 1	7376	2014	167	5195 "		
	7	7519	2257	164	5098 "		
	14	9216	2042	84	6949 "	141	
	21	11,135	3614	280	7100 "	141	
	28	13,984	5660	163	7179 "	178	804
	July 5	13,153	4715	194	7042 "	253	949
	12	13,163	5357	171	6417 "	249	969
	19	13,387	5560	139	6723 "	246	719
	26	13,720	7432	64	5978 "	246	
	Aug. 2	10,889	6064	53	4360 "	209	203
	9	5083	2857	59	1827 "	137	203
	16	4683	2777	87	959 " 35 Fla.	138	687
	23	4294	2684	91	530 " 85 "	98	806
	30	4752	2853	101	824 " 85 "	93	796
	Sept. 7	3899	2763	93	235 "	19	786
	13	5574	3901	473	388 "	60	752
	20	3487	1755	131	937 "	53	611
	27	2897	1564	178	1102 "	53	
	Oct. 4	4337	2025	990	1246 "	76	
	11	4550	2177	948	1326 "	99	
	17	3371	2102	470	709 "	90	
	25	2322	1758	61	454 "	49	
	Nov. 1	1290	1019	53	167 "	51	
	8	1321	1218	24	62 "	17	
	15	842	780	24	24 "	14	
	22	661	651	10			
	29	264	259	5			
	Dec. 6	167	162	5			
	13	151	151				

The above chart shows the number and the place of origin of the workers employed in seasonal crops that require special recruiting programs. Local offices report the number of workers currently employed in each such crop at the end of each week for their respective areas. The above chart is a composite of these reports.

NURSERY

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Planting, transplanting, pruning, cultivating, bundling, labeling, spraying, etc. nursery	Apr. 12	98	98					
	19	1001	974	12	15 T.M.			
	26	1313	1220	78	15 "			
	May 3	1515	1352	131	32 "			
	10	* 2019	1919	88	12 "			
	17	1571	1431	108	32 "			
	24	1599	1459	108	32 "			
	June 1	1574	1469	73	32 "			
	7	1574	1472	70	32 "			
	14	1512	1398	82	32 "			
	21	1631	1528	83	20 "			
	28	1668	1557	91	20 "			
	July 5	1272	1174	78	20 "			
	12	1284	1246	18	20 "			
	19	1392	1328	44	20 "			
	26	1322	1270	32	20 "			
	Aug. 2	1209	1157	32	20 "			
	9	1111	1059	32	20 "			
	16	1073	1021	32	20 "			
	23	1036	984	32	20 "			
	30	975	923	32	20 "			
	Sept. 7	836	810	26				
	13	761	756	5				
	20	674	669	5				
	27	611	604	7				
	Oct. 4	516	509	7				
	11	556	549	7				
	17	555	549	6				
	25	490	480	6	4 "			
	Nov. 1	442	422	4	16 "			
	8	523	501	4	18 "			
	15	485	473	4	8 "			
	22	451	451					
	29	249	249					
	Dec. 6	152	152					
	13	141	141					

* Peak Employment

Nurseries in Minnesota are scattered statewide, although more concentrated in the Twin City area and the Eastern part of the state. Total acreage about 4,500.

Most nursery workers employed during the peak season are local, casual laborers. This industry provides a considerable amount of employment for the day laborers, both men and women, who are steady and dependable when on the job and who otherwise may not be suited to the "hustle and bustle" of industrial production.

Wages paid vary from $.75 to $1.25 per hour. Peak employment reached 2019 workers during the week of May 10.

It will be noted by the above tabulation that nearly all nursery workers were of local origin and that the local supply was supplemented by a small number of Texas Mexicans who were not recruited but return to this work each year for varying periods.

ASPARAGUS (Field)

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	EWI	Other
Planting, cultivating, cutting asparagus	Apr. 26	15	15					
	May 3	248		15	233 T.M.			
	10	205	15		190 "			
	17	229	4	15	210 "			
	24	307	67	30	210 "			
	June 1	307	67	30	210 "			
	7	* 309	23	30	256 "			
	14	331	62	2	267 "			
	21	305	36	2	267 "			
	28	276	18	2	256 "			
	July 5	231	8	2	221 "			
	12	42	8	2	32 "			

* Peak Employment

Normally about 2200 acres of asparagus are commercially grown and harvested in Minnesota each year. The greater portion of the acreage is in the Hollandale area.

Recruitment of most of the workers is arranged through a clearance order direct to the Texas Employment Commission. Procuring these workers is made easier due to the excellent housing and supervision provided by the employers.

Another reason why workers like to take on the asparagus job is that it starts early, about April 15, and is completed in time for the bean picking which starts in July. From there the workers ususally assist in the sweet corn pack and do other work in mixed vegetables, thus providing continuity of employment throughout the summer season.

SUGAR BEETS (Field)

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Thinning, weeding, hoeing sugar beets	May 3	--	--	--	--			
	10	--	--	--	--			
	17	752	5		747 "			
	24	4510			4510 "			
	June 1	4546	5		4541 "			
	7	4548	30		4518 "			
	14	6444	37		6370 "	37		
	21	6472	82		6353 "	37		
	28	* 6679	209	5	6391 "	74		
	July 5	6646	213	11	6273 "	149		
	12	6219	118	11	5944 "	146		
	19	6588	120	11	6314 "	143		
	26	5611	103	11	5354 "	143		
	Aug. 2	3863	188	11	3558 "	106		
	9	1167	67	11	1089 "			
	16	394	52	6	336 "			
	23	223	52	6	165 "			
	30	132	51	6	75 "			
	Sept. 7	15			15 "			
	13	110	18		92 "			
	20	165	19		146 "			
Harvesting sugar beets, oper. beet comb, tractors, trucks, sorting, gleaning and hand topping	Sept. 27	330	69		261 "			
	Oct. 4	504	157	25	322 "			
	11	553	220	33	300 "			
	17	839	508	33	298 "			
	25	* 862	517	35	310 "			
	Nov. 1	284	149	30	105 "			
	8	382	362	2	18 "			
	15	54	42		12 "			

* Peak Employment

About 72,300 acres of sugar beets were grown in Minnesota in 1954. The acreage covers an area from the southern boundry in the south central area of the state and follows along the western part nearly to the Canadian border with the exception of a few counties in the central part. The greater portion of the sugar beets are grown in the Red River Valley where the soil and climatic conditions are well suited for this kind of crop. No irrigation is required in Minnesota. The acreage planted to sugar beets is expanding and the world's most modern sugar processing plant went into operation at Crookston, Minnesota last September

Recruiting workers for thinning, weeding and hoeing is done largely by company recruiters who do their hiring in Texas. These Domestics were supplemented by 149 Mexican Nationals in 1954 as compared to 1100 Nationals in 1953. About 60 youth in the Marshall local office area worked in sugar beets this year and did a creditable job. They were all members of the Minnesota "Odd Jobs Club". Their work performance was above expectations and in 1955 plans are under way to expand this program. These youth used long handle hoes and worked in fields that had been mechanically thinned.

About 322 Texas Mexican workers either remained in Minnesota or returned for fall harvest operations. Most of the Tex. Mex. left after the hoeing was completed, about July 25 to August 5 for work in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and other states. A large percent of these Texas Mexicans were routed to new employment through the Employment Service. About 126 stayed to pick sweet corn.

MIXED VEGETABLES

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State		Out Country		
							Mex.	BWI	Other
Weeding, thinning, transplanting, hoeing, harvesting mixed vegetables	Apr. 19	324	300	20	4	T.M.			
	26	346	342		4	"			
	May 3	414	360		54	"			
	10	898	648		250	"			
	17	797	542	46	209	"			
	24	859	467	6	386	"			
	June 1	949	473	64	412	"			
	7	1038	682	64	292	"			
	14	879	495		280	"	104		
	21	* 2342	1583	195	460	"	104		
	28	2110	1589	10	407	"	104		
	July 5	1904	1387	10	403	"	104		
	12	1700	1243	58	296	"	103		
	19	1348	1118	4	123	"	103		
	26	1782	1170	5	504	"	103		
	Aug. 2	1322	1099	5	115	"	103		
	9	1431	1153	11	130	"	137		
	16	1298	933	4	188	" 35 Fla.	138		
	23	1206	936	7	150	" 35 "	78		
	30	1239	988	15	127	" 35 "	74		
	Sept. 7	738	675		44	"	19		
	13	768	640	2	79	"	37	10	
	20	717	612	2	66	"	37		
	27	798	706	2	59	"	31		
	Oct. 4	572	487	2	56	"	27		
	11	589	492	2	76	"	19		
	17	574	512	2	41	"	19		
	25	609	540	10	40	"	19		
	Nov. 1	437	396	4	20	"	17		
	8	314	282	3	12	"	17		
	15	151	133		4	"	14		
	22	152	152						

* Peak Employment

Workers employed in the cultivation and harvesting of mixed vegetables came from varied backgrounds and areas. The above table reveals that the greatest percent were locals and the next highest group came from Texas. In the vegetable gardening areas surrounding Minneapolis nearly all work done in the vegetable fields was performed by youth supervised by the Minneapolis employment office. This program was called the Minneapolis Market Garden Youth Program. About 1500 youth applied annually for this work and 900 to 1000 participated. The number sent out via "day-haul" daily by the Minneapolis office was about 125 with a peak of 400. No foreign labor was used in this area.

Other excellent youth programs operated to take care of employment in mixed vegetables were operated by the Fairmont, Hopkins, Austin, Faribault, Albert Lea and St. Paul offices. Most of these programs were organized under the "Odd Jobs Club" program.

GREEN PEAS (Field)

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Pitching pea vines, handling boxes and other work around viner stations and in fields	Apr. 26	68	67	1				
	May 3	68	67	1				
	10	71	68	3				
	June 7	50	50					
	14	50	50					
	21	60	60					
	28	2576	1612	55	105 T.M.		804	
	July 5	3100	1933	93	125 "		949	
	12	* 3568	2392	82	125 "		969	
	19	1649	929	80	124 "		516	
	26	522	406	16	100 "			

* Peak Employment

About 58,700 acres of green peas were grown in Minnesota in 1954 commercially This represents a slight increase over the 56,500 acres grown in 1953. In 1954 Minnesota ranked 4th in the production of green peas for canning.

The green pea harvest is one of the most critical jobs requiring seasonal labor in Minnesota. Due to the sensitive timing as to when peas are ready for processing, workers must be continually "on the job" so as to be available when needed. A few hours delay may materially change the quality of the peas.

Pitching peas is a "he-man's" job and Domestic workers who are minded to, and have the necessary stick-to-it-ive-ness, can do it very well. However, it seems that local workers are just beginning to get interested in doing this kind of work. During the past several years when there has been generally full employment, it was quite impossible to interest home labor in doing such strenuous work as pitching pea vines. In harvesting the 1954 crop it will be noted by the above chart that only 969 foreign workers were used as compared to 1535 at the peak of the 1953 season. Nearly 900 more local Domestic workers have become interested in pitching pea vines.

Pay is good and the living quarters are entirely adequate and in many cases may be considered as excellent. The charges for food are reasonable and living quarters are usually furnished without charge.

This work may be considered especially suitable for high school seniors and college men since it fits well into their vacation periods.

Hourly pay averages about $1.00 per hour. This rate varies considerably for the reason many employers pay a guaranteed base wage plus an incentive wage bonus. Standards set to achieve bonuses are not beyond the reach of the average workers.

STRAWBERRIES

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
Picking strawberries	June 21	325	325					
	28	* 675	675					
	July 5	640	640					
	12	325	325					

* Peak Employment

While strawberry and raspberry picking is of minor importance in Minnesota, it does offer seasonal employment to youth living within the community for a short time.

Preparation for recruitment for strawberry pickers began early in the spring when schools were visited and an outline of the seasonal work, where youth might be employed, was presented by an interviewer from the local office. Minnesota uses a special registration form, MSES-1079, for students on which they indicate the kind of work they desire during vacation season or after school hours and on weekends.

About 85% of the strawberry pickers recruited were youth and no serious problems were experienced during the working season. In general, they did a very creditable job. Nearly all berry pickers were transported to work via day-haul. About 720 acres of strawberries were grown in Minnesota in 1954.

RASPBERRIES

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Picking raspberries	July 12	25	25					
	19	400	400					
	26	* 620	620					
	Aug. 2	500	500					
	9	100	100					

* Peak Employment

Workers for raspberries were recruited in the same manner as for strawberries. Registrations were taken in all the schools within commuting distance of the raspberry fields and arrangements for the assembling of the workers and transportation was made in nearly all cases by a local office representative. More youth applied for raspberry picking than were needed to do the job. Most of the raspberry acreage was in Minneapolis, Hopkins, St. Paul and Winona areas. About 85% of the pickers were youth. The turnover was negligible. The pickers were all locals and were transported to work via some day-haul method. A total of about 820 acres of raspberries are grown in Minnesota.

CORN DETASSELING

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Pulling Tassels	July 19	1380	1380					
	26	* 3863	3863					
	Aug. 2	2176	2176					
	9	21	21					

* Peak Employment

The number of acres planted for raising hybrid seed corn was 36,000, which was slightly less than the amount planted in 1953.

Nearly all detasseling was done by school youth who were transported to and from work via day-haul. Local office personnel and Employment Security Representatives both assisted in either supervising this program or getting it underway..

The introduction of sterile corn has reduced the need for detasselers somewhat, but gleaning is still necessary since there are many "slips".

Riding equipment has not reduced the labor requirements perceptibly. It does, however, lessen fatigue and allows for closer supervision.

Pay was generally $.60 per hour with $.10 hour bonus for completing the job. Earnings ranged from $50 to $100 per youth. Length of season for bulk of detasseling was July 19 to August 2.

There were more youth requesting corn detasseling work than jobs available. About 4500 youth applied and, as the above chart shows, 3863 were employed. They look forward to these jobs as an opportunity to earn some vacation money. The normal season for detasseling corn is from July 5 to August 15.

GREEN BEANS (Field)

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Picking green beans	July 19	630	285		142 T.M.		203	
	26	* 2023	1201	5	614 "		203	
	Aug. 2	1819	944	5	667 "		203	
	9	1222	426	5	588 "		203	
	16	625	156	4	415 "		50	
	30	236	148		88 "			
	Sept. 7	25	25					

* Peak Employment

About the same acreage was planted with beans for harvesting when green for canning and freezing as in 1953. There was a perceptible change, however, in the type of labor used. About three times as many locals were used as in 1953. Peak locals used in 1953 were 419 or 20% of the total. In 1954 the peak was 1201 locals or 60% of the total. This healthy increase in the use of domestic labor for vegetable work was largely due to a new interest created through the introduction of youth work programs. At least 900 of the bean pickers of local origin were members of the Odd Jobs Club Program or the Market Garden Youth Program.

While the season is not long, it provides gainful employment for youth who, in general, are not suited for industrial or other employment of a strenuous nature.

The season usually starts after the middle of July and ends about August 20. This period fits very well into school vacations.

Earnings per youth were $3.00 to $7.50 per day.

SWEET CORN (Field)

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Driving mechanical corn snapping equipment, trucks, tractors and hand snapping sweet corn	Aug. 9	21	21					
	16	1248	570	41			637	
	23	1711	694	44	109 T.M. 50 Fla.	8	806	
	30	1716	699	46	117 " 50 "	8	796	
	Sept. 7	* 1929	922	42	126 " 50 "		789	
	13	1677	702	97	79 " 50 "	7	742	
	20	1138	382	95	50 "		611	
	27	75	10	65				

* Peak Employment

About 93,800 acres of sweet corn were grown in Minnesota in 1954 giving Minnesota a ranking of 2nd in the United States.

The number of workers needed to staff the field force has declined rapidly the past four years due to mechanization. About 75% of the 1954 crop was harvested with picking machines. Only 806 foreign workers were used to snap sweet corn by hand during the 1954 season as compared to 1279 in 1953 and 1742 in 1951. With full employment, as was experienced in the first eight months of 1954, very few domestic workers could be induced to snap sweet corn. Of the total 1929 workers used at peak employment, as shown on the above table, 1140 were domestics. Most of these domestics were used to operate mechanical equipment, with the exception of about 126 Texas Mexicans and 50 Negroes from Florida who snapped corn by hand.

About 3/4 of the foreign workers used during the pea pack were held over for corn snapping. (Areas for sweet corn are about the same as for green peas.) These workers have not, at least to date, displaced any domestic help. Nearly all foreign workers used for snapping sweet corn for canning came from the British West Indies. The Mexican Nationals shown above were used to snap sweet corn for the fresh vegetable market.

The fact that some farmers cut the stalks for fodder after the corn is picked prevents some acreage from being harvested mechanically. Picking machines do not leave any standing stalks that may be cut. This factor may prevent the corn snapping process from becoming 100% mechanized.

POTATOES

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Operating potato digger, potato combine, tractor, truck; sorting, gleaning, picking potatoes	Aug. 9	10	10					
	16	45	45					
	23	118	18	2	86 T.M.	12		
	30	454	44	2	397 "	11		
	Sept. 7	406	331	25	50 "			
	13	560	55	354	135 "	16		
	20	823	73	29	705 "	16		
	27	1083	175	104	782 "	22		
	Oct. 4	2745	872	956	868 "	49		
	11	* 2862	916	906	950 "	90		
	17	1413	533	429	370 "	81		
	25	371	221	10	100 "	40		
	Nov. 1	127	52	15	26 "	34		
	8	102	73	15	14 "			
	15	152	132	20				
	22	58	48	10				
	29	15	10	5				
	Dec. 6	15	10	5				
	13	10	10					

* Peak Employment

About 80,000 acres of potatoes were harvested in 1954, which is 2,000 over the 1953 acreage. The crop was of good quality and the acreage production high.

Prior to 1950 about 7,000 workers in the Red River Valley alone engaged in potato picking each fall. Many of this number depended on these earnings to supplement the family budget. It will be noted the peak employment for potato pickers for the entire state in 1954 was only 2,862 workers. Hardest hit by mechanization are the Indians living on the White Earth, Red Lake, Cass Lake and Leech Lake Reservations in the north-northwest part of the state, who during past years earned a substantial part of their fall revenue from picking potatoes in the Red River Valley.

Harvesting potatoes mechanically requires workers who may be recruited quite readily from the local supply. The average potato combine requires a tractor driver, a combine operator and from 6 to 8 sorters. Since sorting potatoes is not stoop labor, many housewives apply for the job. Pay is usually $1.00 per hour, which is below hand picking earnings, but more acceptable to the average person who is past the age or not otherwise physically able to endure such stoop jobs and, therefore, responds more readily to recruitment.

The above chart includes combine and tractor operators, sorters, gleaners (not always used) and hand pickers.

FOOD PROCESSING
(State Summary)

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by Date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country	
						Mex.	BWI
Canning - peas, corn, vegetables, Processing sugar beets	June 21	356	356				
	28	4351	4253	85	13 T. M.		
	July 5	5156	4891	233	32 "		
	12	4424	4224	169	31 "		
	19	3212	3019	162	31 "		
	26	603	600	3			
	Aug. 2	483	483				
	9	583	583				
	16	4942	4874	53	15 "		
	23	8710	8525	155	18 " 12 Fla.		
	30	9433	9206	195	32 "		
	Sept. 7	10,065	9817	210	38 "		
	13	9555	9457	92	6 "		
	20	5351	5351				
	27	3950	3850	100			
	Oct. 4	2567	2367	200			
	11	2975	2775	200			
	17	2646	2446	200			
	25	2697	2497	200			
	Nov. 1	3665	3565	100			
	8	2170	1980	190			
	15	2670	2595	75			
	22	2905	2830	75			
	29	2375	2300	75			
	Dec. 6	2375	2300	75			
	13	2375	2300	75			
	20	850	850				
	27	850	850				

The above table shows the number of workers and the period they are needed to staff the plants that process Green Peas, Vegetables, Sweet Corn and Sugar Beets.

Processing starts with the peas, which begins usually about the middle of June and ends the latter part of July. Several of the canning companies process vegetables using a light labor force after the pea pack is completed and before the corn pack starts which is about August 15. The corn pack continues until the latter part of September when about one-half of the plants start the fall vegetable pack which continues operating until the early part of December. The sugar beet processing plants begin operations the latter part of September and complete their run the latter part of December.

Staffing the food processing plants has not been difficult the past several years. Nearly all labor is of local origin, as indicated by the above table, and local offices have all potential available labor registered well in advance of the start of the season.

Food Processing - GREEN PEAS

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Work in processing plant	June 21	356	356					
	28	4351	4253	85	13 T.M.			
	July 5	* 5156	4891	233	32 "			
	12	4424	4224	169	31 "			
	19	3212	3019	162	31 "			
	26	603	600	3				
	Aug. 2	483	483					
	9	583	583					

* Peak Employment

The staffing of the processing plants for the pea pack requires about the same number of workers each year. 1954 labor requirements were almost identical with requirements for 1953.

The pea pack affords excellent opportunities to youth, especially students, who are available for work from June 10 to August 5. There usually is about 10 days between the green pea pack and the sweet corn pack, which allows for a short vacation. Youth who do a creditable job in the pea pack usually are offered employment during the corn pack.

The above chart shows that nearly all the labor force is composed of local domestics.

Food Processing - SWEET CORN

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Work in processing plant	Aug. 16	4942	4874	53	15 T.M.			
	23	8710	8525	155	18 " 12 Fla.			
	30	9433	9206	195	32 "			
	Sept. 7	*10,065	9817	210	38 "			
	13	9555	9457	92	6 "			
	20	5351	5351					
	27	1640	1640					

* Peak Employment

There are 36 factories in Minnesota that process sweet corn. The number of workers required in 1954 was slightly less than the year previous. Much of the labor is called back or held over from the green pea pack. Turnover is becoming less each year, reflecting a healthy attitude toward this kind of work. During the greater portion of the season applicants outnumbered the jobs. Nearly all workers are of local origin. A high percent of the workers are upper high school youth and college students

Food Processing - MIXED VEGETABLES

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Work in processing plant	Sept. 27	815	815					
	Oct. 4	1072	972	100				
	11	1480	1380	100				
	17	1151	1051	100				
	25	1202	1102	100				
	Nov. 1	* 2170	2170					
	8	675	580	95				
	15	1525	1450	75				
	22	1760	1685	75				
	29	1525	1450	75				
	Dec. 6	1525	1450	75				
	13	1525	1450	75				

* Peak Employment

Processing vegetables usually follows immediately after the corn pack although some vegetable processing is done between the pea and corn packs. Nearly all the required labor is held over from the corn pack. Processing starts about Sept. 25 and ends the latter part of December. No difficulty is experienced in staffing the six plants that process mixed vegetables. Nearly all work is done by local labor since high school youth and college students have returned to school.

First Processing - SUGAR BEETS

Activity	Month and Date	Total Workers Used (by date)	Local	Out Area	Out State	Out Country		
						Mex.	BWI	Other
Working in factory	Sept. 27	1495	1395	100				
	Oct. 4	1495	1395	100				
	11	1495	1395	100				
	17	* 1495	1395	100				
	25	1495	1395	100				
	Nov. 1	1495	1395	100				
	8	1495	1400	95				
	15	1145	1145					
	22	1145	1145					
	29	850	850					
	Dec. 6	850	850					
	13	850	850					
	20	850	850					
	27	850	850					

* Peak Employment

There are four sugar beet plants in Minnesota which employed a total of 1495 workers during the 1954 season. They are located at Chaska, East Grand Forks, Moorhead and Crookston. The Crookston plant is considered the most modern sugar processing factory in the world and was built at a cost of nearly $10,000,000. It was built to help the East Grand Forks plant take care of the tremendous sugar beet production in the heart of the Red River Valley. The combined daily production of the four plants is about 2,700,000 lbs. of sugar. This requires the processing of over 10,000 tons of beets daily.

Working conditions in the plants are excellent and the labor turnover is negligible. About 10% of the labor force are women.

The average processing campaign is from September 20 to December 25.