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Employment Security Commission of Arizona
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POST-SEASON FARM LABOR REPORT FOR 1948

STATE OF ARIZONA

JAMES A. RORK
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DIRECTOR

FRANK A. POTTER
FARM PLACEMENT SUPERVISOR

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broccoli, and miscellaneous vegetables. However with the exception of the spring cantaloupe crop in the Yuma Valley, where Mexican Nationals are used, domestic or local labor usually suffices for the balance of the year. It appears, therefore, that Arizona's greatest labor needs will be in the month of September through January.

C. Labor Supplies

1. Local

Local labor will nearly always find fairly steady work in agriculture. Much of the local farm labor lives on small plots and usually produces some one crop each year. The balance of the time, not required on their own place, is spent in working for wages in whatever crops are active at the time.

Local farm workers in the field and commercial vegetable crops average 80% male and 20% female as to sex. Race characteristics show 30% Anglo-American, 60% Spanish-American, and 10% Negro and other races. While nearly all local female workers are employed as stoop labor, race seems to make no difference in the occupational status of the male workers. Skill is the only phase that usually enters into the picture, and if a person has the required skill, his race is not considered. It is a common occurrence in Arizona as in other states for local workers to show preference for certain occupations or activities. As a rule local workers will not engage in cotton chopping while there is still melon picking to be done or cotton picking when there is lettuce cutting activities. We do not mean to infer that they will not engage in those activities at all, as they will and do chop and pick cotton, but they prefer and are employed for the vegetable and grain crops in preference to the migratory worker.

In the past two or three years there have been rather large groups of migratory workers, both White and Negro, who when the cotton picking was completed remained on in the government camps, the rent at that time being $1.50 per week. These workers went into cotton chopping as soon as chopping jobs were available in the spring. However, the farmers in the areas where these workers lived did not engage them for other crops and they were not considered local workers even though they may have been in the area for two or three years.

2. Intrastate and Interstate

There is not much shifting of intrastate workers in Arizona. Periods between crops are too short to allow workers to move to other areas. The attendant expense would not be wiped out by the short period of employment and most workers prefer to

spend the time between crops on their own places, or try to find some odd job in construction or similar work for the waiting period.

Interstate migratory workers are utilized in the cotton harvest to the extent that they are available. Since the present 1948-49 cotton harvest season is not over at the time of writing this report, the following statistics will not be final but will indicate the trend of four months.

Migratory farm workers arrived in Arizona from 32 states and Mexico, 88% of those workers stated their preference or desire to work in Arizona to pick cotton, 12% were going on to other states, with California the first choice. In the same group we found that 27% were Anglo-American, 25% were Negroes, 47% were Latin-Americans, and 1% were Indians. Approximately 60% were brought here under contract or the assurance of a job with a particular farmer.

It was found that these workers came predominantly from those states which in the past have been considered supply states. The greatest number came, first from Texas, second from Oklahoma, third from Arkansas, and fourth from New Mexico. Of all migratory workers in the vicinity, 55% came directly from Texas and 20% from Oklahoma. All these workers came from the East into Arizona through the southern routes, i.e. U. S. Highways 70 and 86. Very few came from the West. Of those from Texas, 20% were the direct result of recruitment by the Cotton Growers Association. More will be said about this under Section IV below.

3. Other Sources

Considering the total volume of labor used, we find that but 3% of it has been foreign labor. These foreign workers are all Mexican Nationals who were contracted under the agreement between Mexico and the United States. The largest group of these workers have been utilized in the Yuma Valley area. Certification for 1,300 was made for this area where it was found that for as many years as agiruclture has been followed in the area, Mexican Nationals were used for stoop labor in the fields.

Under the tri-state agreement with the Indian Service, Indian workers have been brought to various areas and used in vegetable work, particularly carrots and cotton. However, it has been found that the Indians do not like to pick cotton, principally because they have not developed the skill and speed necessary to earn average wages. A group of about 100 Navajo Indians are being taught how to pick cotton in the Safford area and it is believed that this group will provide the nucleus necessary to direct more Indians toward this work. Approximately 1,000 Navajo Indians are being used in

vegetable work as compared with an average of 300 in past years. The Apache Indians from the San Carlos Reservation have worked as cotton pickers for years as have the Pima Indians. This season approximately 500 Apache Indians worked at cotton picking in the Safford area. It is not known how many Pima Indians worked in agriculture, however, since through custom they work in various crops throughout the year, they are considered as local workers.

D. Mechanization

Improved mechanical methods of operation this past year has not affected the labor requirements to any great extent, in that approximately the same amount of labor has been necessary, although much larger acreages have been planted in several crops. Mechanical cotton pickers are being used in increasing numbers in the State, however due to the lack of a satisfactory defoliant, the increase in acreage has increased the number of workers needed in spite of the increase in the number of mechanical pickers. From various sources, it is rumored that a better defoliant has been produced and will be used next year, and that those machines presently in the State, plus those ordered for delivery next year, will make big inroads in the number of workers needed for cotton picking in the 1949-50 season. This remains to be seen, even though it is possible.

E. Shortages and Surpluses

Under C above, mention was made of groups of workers who remained in the State after cotton picking season was completed instead of moving to other areas as is customary with migratory workers. This group formed a surplus of between 3,000 to 5,000 in March and April. The latter part of April and the first past of May, just as cotton chopping work developed, which would have utilized between 4,500 and 5,000 workers, recruiting agents for employers in other states arrived and transported approximately 4,000 of these workers to states north of Arizona. This produced a shortage of the same number with the result that cotton chopping dragged along in some areas, being completed at approximately the same time as picking began. In some fields the chopping was not completed. Under normal conditions of other years, these workers would have migrated to Arizona in May and been put to work here on arrival, but by virtue of their remaining here through the winter, they were recruited before the jobs fully opened.

There is always a shortage of cotton pickers in Arizona and all of the 20,000 who migrated here to work have been utilized in addition to a nearly similar number of local and intrastate workers. At any time during the peak of the season an additional 4,000 workers could have been used except that no housing was available for them. While cotton pickers will occupy tent houses, those having floors and three-foot wooden walls, very few care to occupy tents

So far as the migratory worker engaged in seasonal farm work, housing is the greatest drawback. It is not so much the quality of housing but the quantity. A great many tents have been used this past cotton season, and while tent houses (those with floors, doors, and 3-4 ft. wooden side walls) are fully acceptable by these workers, tents without floors are not acceptable after freezing weather arrives. The answer would seem to be more of the former federally operated farm labor camps of the type at Avondale.

As stated elsewhere in this report, we submitted an order for 5,000 cotton pickers to Texas and it further developed that the order did not leave Region VIII's office. Several growers who went to Texas to recruit under the Cotton Growers Association license also called at local offices in Texas. Here they were told that they had no order from Arizona. They stated if Arizona got busy and submitted an order they could help them recruit workers. You can readily see the light in which this placed us with some of our growers, as we informed them of the order which we had placed with Texas. It is extremely hard to explain such matters satisfactorily and indeed we should not be required to explain. If the order is accepted it should be distributed. If not accepted we should have been notified. This was the only problem we encountered in recruitment. Because of the publicity given the high starting cotton picking rate, migratory workers came to Arizona in sufficient numbers to satisfactorily handle the cotton harvest.

V Foreign Labor

A. During the past year fourteen orders were received from employers for foreign workers. These orders totaled 4,519 workers for contracting and recontracting, and of which 4,514 were for Mexican National agricultural workers and five for Basque sheepherders.

B. All the above requests were recommended by the Arizona State Employment Service. These included 2,000 workers for Yuma (1300 plus 700) for both contracting and recontracting. Twenty-five hundred workers for both contracting and recontracting in the Phoenix area for vegetable and cotton growers, plus fourteen cowboys in the Tucson area and five Basque sheepherders, who never arrived, for Phoenix.

On the order of 2,500 workers for both vegetable and cotton growers, the cotton growers cancelled out their portions of 1300 and because of the medical clause vegetable growers contracted only 600 of the 1200 requested. This is indeed a contrast with 1947 when a minimum of 3500 Mexican National workers were used in the State.

It should be noted that in all cases concerning the importation of Mexican Nationals as agricultural workers before a statement of need was issued by the Director, the State Farm Labor Advisory Committee was fully informed as to the particulars of the case and their vote in the matter obtained. These men, all prominent in Arizona agriculture, were considered to have first-hand information as to the needs of the several areas and their recommendation was followed in all instances. This action, of course, followed the canvass of all local offices.

C. Approximately 1,873 foreign workers were either recontracted or contracted during the past season. This work began in June with approximately 1,473 recontracted during the month. This group continued through July with the addition of 99, making a total of 1,572. During August, some of the Yuma group took a furlough which left about 1,000 working during August. In September the number increased to 1,700 and during October to the peak number of 1,873. Several factors contributed to the situation that while over 4,000 workers were recommended to be contracted, less than 2,000 were actually used. One order for 700 was cancelled. On an order for 2,500 workers, 1,300 of which were to be used in cotton and 1,200 in vegetables, a good many of the vegetable employers refused to contract when the medical clause was inserted in the contract. Again the cotton group all cancelled their requests when the break-through at El Paso was rumored. The total number requested was needed and could have been used had they been contracted in September and October under the original contract.

D. So far as Arizona employers are concerned, there are no problems encountered in the use of Mexican National agricultural workers. Farmers in Arizona have used these workers for years. They are accustomed to their ways and seem to get along with them very well.

E. In an effort to promote recruitment of intrastate domestic workers which would in turn reduce this necessity for foreign workers, a long-range program has been initiated for the use of Navajo Indians. Navajo Indians are excellent workers in vegetable crops and approximately 1,000 have been used the past year. They do not care to pick cotton for reasons of their own but over 100 have been recruited and used in this crop. While this is a long-range program and several years of effort will be required before the Indians will come down to Central Arizona to work in agriculture of their own volition, their use should reduce the need of Mexican National workers by approximately 1,000 in the coming year. There is, however, one objection. Navajo Indians do not care to work in Central Arizona during the extreme heat, although numerous Navajo Indians who have worked in industry for a number of years have become used to the heat and work in the area the year-round. It may be that the coming year is too soon to count on any Indian workers during June, July, August, and September. If this be the case, additional foreign workers may be needed.

ARIZONA
EXHIBIT #190

STATISTICS OF INFORMATION STATIONS BY MONTH

B E N S O N

MONTH	CREWS	FAMILY	INDIVIDUAL	WITH CONTRACTS	WHITE	NEGRO	LATIN AMERICAN	OTHER
August	17	76	106	1,182	704	583	706	0
September	5	72	142	2,644	1,050	1,196	2,107	23
October	123	57	558	3,102	829	1,326	1,983	10
November	57	57	263	1,380	1,034	799	1,411	10
December	0	15	21	201	463	329	1,922	0
TOTAL	202	277	1,090	8,509	4,080	4,233	8,129	43

S A F F O R D

MONTH	CREWS	FAMILY	INDIVIDUAL	WITH CONTRACTS	WHITE	NEGRO	LATIN AMERICAN	OTHER
August	0	11	12	0	28	0	99	1
September	0	65	149	85	221	120	154	7
October	21	86	282	560	415	141	626	20
November	14	173	599	682	763	260	1,004	0
December	2	143	578	159	485	177	618	5
TOTAL	37	478	1,620	1,486	1,912	698	2,501	33

Y U M A

MONTH	CREWS	FAMILY	INDIVIDUAL	WITH CONTRACTS	WHITE	NEGRO	LATIN AMERICAN	OTHER
August	0	11	4	0	7	0	86	0
September	1	41	319	292	95	11	332	0
October	0	52	451	404	148	24	428	0
November	2	29	46	62	234	18	69	55
December			(C L O S E D N O V E M B E R 3 0)					
TOTAL	3	133	820	758	484	53	915	55

ARIZONA
EXHIBIT # 190

MIGRATION THROUGH INFORMATION STATIONS, NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1948

NOVEMBER	BENSON	SAFFORD	YUMA	DAILY TOTAL	AGGREGATE TOTAL
1	55	108	7	170	13,650
2	66	84	0	150	13,800
3	112	89	16	217	14,017
4	120	64	5	189	14,206
5	80	16	10	106	14,312
6	97	65	9	171	14,483
7	150	126	0	276	14,759
8	146	70	6	222	14,981
9	113	105	10	228	15,209
10	87	75	31	193	15,402
11	129	78	0	207	15,609
12	110	62	45	217	15,826
13	114	69	4	187	16,013
14	150	71	0	221	16,234
15	179	64	17	260	16,494
16	146	61	12	219	16,713
17	154	77	52	283	16,996
18	116	51	8	175	17,171
19	108	70	25	203	17,374
20	146	31	5	182	17,556
21	65	47	0	112	17,668
22	87	57	19	163	17,831
23	102	68	4	174	18,005
24	37	116	18	171	18,176
25	83	58	0	141	18,317
26	116	37	17	170	18,487
27	129	71	44	244	18,731
28	97	54	0	151	18,882
29	47	40	10	99	18,979
30	113	43	2	158	19,137

DECEMBER	BENSON	SAFFORD	DAILY TOTAL	AGGREGATE TOTAL
1	67	104	171	19,308
2	96	40	136	19,444
3	111	51	162	19,606
4	96	73	169	19,775
5	44	80	124	19,899
6	82	99	181	20,080
7	240	56	296	20,376
8	210	74	284	20,660
9	177	57	234	20,894
10	177	103	280	21,174
11	143	54	197	21,371
12	178	58	236	21,607
13	147	33	180	21,787
14	87	75	162	21,949
15	100	27	127	22,076
16	162	40	202	22,278
17	75	41	116	22,394
18	86	33	119	22,513
19	38	41	79	22,592
20	33	18	51	22,643
21	149	34	183	22,826
22	86	27	113	22,939
23	23	9	32	22,971
24	9	2	11	22,982
25	C H R I S T M A S		D A Y	
26	24	12	36	23,018
27	24	12	36	23,054
28	11	11	22	23,076
29	24	10	34	23,110
30	9	6	15	23,125
31	6	5	11	23,136

INFORMATION STATIONS - MIGRATION BY MONTH

ARIZONA
Exhibit #190

INDICATING STATE OF ORIGIN						
State	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Alabama		10	4	4	9	27
Arizona	111	85	113	214	55	576
Arkansas	126	231	242	406	131	1,136
California	47	264	220	212	3	746
Colorado	2		13	30	47	92
Florida		13		8		21
Idaho			6	2	5	13
Illinois		1		11		12
Indiana			5	14		19
Iowa			2	18		20
Kansas	11	7	10	6		34
Kentucky			5			5
Louisiana	6	8	12		2	28
Michigan			21		6	27
Minnesota	5					5
Mississippi	3	1		23	1	28
Missouri	26	12	44	155	117	354
Montana				3		3
Nebraska		16		9	14	39
Nevada		3				3
New Mexico	50	170	271	559	253	1,303
New York			2	2		4
N. Carolina		5		2		7
N. Dakota	4					4
Ohio	17		17	27		61
Oklahoma	596	1,363	832	668	316	3,775
Oregon		4	10	19		33
Pa.				2		2
Tennessee		1		14		15
Texas	1,197	2,820	3,678	3,186	3,040	13,921
Washington			28	4		32
W. Virginia			3			3
Wisconsin	7		7	19		33
Wyoming		2		2		4
MEXICO	6	300	405	38		749
TOTAL	2,214	5,316	5,950	5,657	3,999	23,136

INDICATING STATE OF DESTINATION						
State	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Arizona	1,769	4,704	5,420	4,730	3,531	20,154
Arkansas	3					3
California	421	412	425	909	446	2,613
Miss.			42			42
New Mexico		19		10	22	51
Oregon	2	2	3			7
Texas	15	179	58	8		260
Washington	4		2			6
TOTAL	2,214	5,316	5,950	5,657	3,999	23,136