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COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
War Time Farm Adjustment Program
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

[1942]
FSA

Tues P.M. Mar. 17

A new program designed to continue full production on the vital agricultural lands of Japanese and others vacating Pacific Coast military zones was put in operation today by the Farm Security Administration under orders of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army.

Chief purpose of the new organization, known as the Wartime Farm Adjustment Program, will be to supervise the fair disposition of evacuated land and to aid qualified farmers to take over the land and obtain operating credit.

The program will be administered by 5C field agents who today began operations at U. S. Employment Service Offices in Washington, Oregon, California and Southern Arizona. They will be directed by Laurence I. Hewes, Jr., regional director of the Farm Security Administration, aided by Ralph W. Hollenberg, FSA assistant regional director, and William C. Helvey, chief of the new program.

Field agents are under instructions to contact Japanese and other farmers who are evacuating, bring them together with qualified farmers capable of taking over their land, and referee fair arrangements between the two.

"Our field agents will see that the Japanese are able to make a fair disposition of their land, and we will see that maximum production of war crops is guaranteed by the new operator," Hewes said. "We're going down the line to see that this applies to arrangements with landlords, lien holders, produce buyers, contractors, and others.

"We will assist in finding operators for the land who are qualified to grow the vegetables the Japanese has planted, or the kind of food needed in the war. If they agree to produce war crops, we will assist such farmers in getting credit. If we can't help them get a loan from private sources, the Farm Credit Administration or a rehabilitation loan from our regular FSA offices, we have the authority and funds to make special production loans. Continued use of the land is our objective, but payment of the loan in full and on schedule is expected.

"This program is a basic war measure. Japanese now produce from 35 to 50 per cent of the vegetables grown in California, and California production in many crops constitutes from a third to two-thirds of the Nation's vegetable production.

"Since increased production under the Food for Freedom program affects food supplies to our own defense workers and Army as well as British and Russian supplies, keeping the Japanese land in production is an essential part of our military effort."

The field agents will work closely with local Employment Service representatives, who have been assigned by the Army to handle problems of employment, assistance in moving, etc., for Japanese who are evacuating.

Hewes announced that field agents would be located at U. S. Employment Service offices in the following locations:

Northern California—Salinas, San Jose, Watsonville, Alameda, Berkeley, Hayward, Oakland, Pittsburg, Richmond, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Rosa, Fresno, Merced, Stockton, Visalia, Chico, Marysville, and Sacramento.

Southern California—El Centro, Indio, Redlands, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Ana, Inglewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Pedro, Santa Monica, Torrance, Alhambra, Burbank, Pasadena, Pomona, San Fernando, Whittier, Bakersfield, Santa Maria, and Ventura.

Arizona—Phoenix.

Oregon—Hood River and Portland.

Washington—Bremerton, Raymond, Seattle, Tacoma, and Yakima.

Additional offices will be opened later at Ukiah, Ontario and Covina in California.

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WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

May 21, 1942

In reply refer to:
WFA-NPC

FOR ACTION AS INDICATED

TO ALL WFA FIELD AGENTS

SUBJECT: News
Release

The following news release, or one similar to it, should be issued two or three days before the closing of the field office. Field agents are free to add to or change the release and should take care to express thanks to groups and individuals who have assisted in their work.

Sincerely yours

Laurence I. Hewes, Jr.
Regional Director

Production on the _____ acres of farm land in the _____ area vacated by the evacuation of Japanese and Japanese-Americans will be continued without interruption, _____, special field agent for the agricultural division of the Wartime Civil Control Administration, announced today in a final statement thanking _____ area groups and individuals for their cooperation.

Work of the WCCA agricultural division is now complete and the agricultural representatives will leave the U. S. Employment Service office at _____ street next _____, Mr. _____ said. Loan accounts of new operators who received loans to keep the evacuated farms in production will be transferred to the WCCA office at _____ Street, _____, pending final transfer to the Farm Security Administration's rural rehabilitation office at _____ Street, _____ city.

During its two-months period of activity, the _____ office aided in the transfer of _____ farms, Mr. _____ said. \$ _____ in special production loans was granted to substitute operators. Other operators received credit from regular public and private agencies. _____ transfer deals were involved.

Mr. _____ declared the state can be assured of virtually full production on usable farm acreage in the county. Early observers had been doubtful that transfers could be completed prior to evacuation of the Japanese without waste or abandonment of some crops. The area grows chiefly _____, _____, and _____.

"This record would have been impossible without the whole-hearted cooperation of many individuals and groups," Mr. _____ said. "I want to especially thank the _____ county War Boards, the agricultural commissioner, the Japanese-American Citizens League, _____, _____, and other groups and individuals for their patriotic assistance."

Mr. _____ will return to his regular position as a _____ with the Farm Security Administration at _____ immediately. Mr. _____, assistant field agent, will return _____.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

WFA-DW
4642

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AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SAN FRANCISCO, April _____. Farmers who wish to take over farming operations vacated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans must make their own arrangements with the Japanese to purchase or lease the land, or to take over the present lease, L. I. Hewes, Jr., regional director of the Farm Security Administration, declared today in correcting misunderstandings about the government's role in transferring Japanese land.

"Some people have been under the impression that Farm Security has taken over these farms and is assigning new operators to them," Hewes said. "This is not correct. We are bringing the Japanese and operators interested in their farms together and are refereeing arrangements between the two. If a farmer is qualified to operate the land, we will assist him in getting operating credit after he has acquired the land, providing other credit is not available.

"Applicants for these farms should report to the Farm Security agent at the Wartime Civilian Control Administration 'service centers' located in U.S. Employment Service offices, but we warn them that it is idle to do so unless they are experienced in this highly skilled type of agriculture and unless they are financially able to make the initial arrangements for operating the land."

U. S. Department of Agriculture State and County War Boards are cooperating fully in finding new operators and stand ready to arbitrate arrangements between them and the Japanese, Hewes said.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

WFA-DW
4942

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

San Francisco, April ____ Large farm operators and small farmers and farm workers, including Mexicans and Filipinos in many instances, are eligible to receive loans for operating vacated Japanese and Japanese-American farm land, it was announced today by the agricultural division of the Wartime Civilian Control Administration.

WCCA officials said that aliens of non-enemy countries, including Mexicans and others, are eligible to receive loans if they have lived several years in their community, intend to stay, and have applied for first naturalization papers.

Filipinos born outside of the United States but who have an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States are also eligible in most instances, WCCA officials said.

Citizens of Mexican and Filipino descent who were born in the United States are eligible for loans if they are otherwise qualified and are competent farm operators.

Special Farm Security Administration loans are made for operating vacated land, after it has been leased or purchased by individual farmers or organizations, if credit cannot be obtained elsewhere. Interested farmers are asked to report to the Wartime Civilian Control Administration "service centers" located in U. S. Employment Service offices, or to U. S. Department of Agriculture County War Boards if a WCCA office is not located in their area.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SALE OR LEASE--LARGE SHARE OF CALIFORNIA FLOWER INDUSTRY. UNITS OF ONE TO TWENTY ACRES, GLASS-FRAME AND FIELD. ALL EQUIPMENT IN AND MUCH ACREAGE PLANTED. OWNERS MUST EVACUATE. QUICK ACTION IS IMPERATIVE.

Ever since the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army announced the evacuation of Japanese and Japanese-Americans from West Coast areas, the wholesale and retail flower people of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities have worried over the eventual fate of their multi-million dollar industry. The nerve center of this industry in its current transition stage is Farm Security Administration, on whom the Army relies for the transfer of greenhouses and nurseries from Japanese evacuees to approved American operators.

In the San Francisco Bay region alone, the flower producers annually send about \$10,000,000 worth of cut flowers, bulbs, potted plants, seedlings, and ornamental shrubs to the metropolitan markets. These come from San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Francisco counties. San Mateo county virtually lives by its flower harvests. The investment for greenhouses and nurseries ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 each, is estimated at \$6,000,000. As much as 40 percent of the land and the farm production in the Bay region has been attributed to Japanese ownership and labor.

Communities in the region are greatly worried at the possible slump in trade and income, and the industries in California and elsewhere that supply tools, fertilizer, glass, piping, and other equipment, wonder who will replace some of their best customers as the Japanese leave. The general public, accustomed to an abundance of carnations, snapdragons, roses, gardenias, and sweet peas, hears of an early shortage and perhaps a disappearance of certain varieties.

With the issuance of the Army evacuation order, on March 13, special field agents of the Farm Security Administration were rushed into West Coast farming areas. They were instructed to obtain a registration of all Japanese and Japanese-American land holdings, to supervise and referee contracts between the owners and qualified American operators, and to plan future production after the properties were transferred. These measures were part of a general program to maintain a normal volume of food from West Coast farms.

About 93,000 people of Japanese ancestry faced evacuation, under the Army's order, the bulk of them in California and the remainder scattered through Washington, Oregon, and Southern Arizona. These farmers owned and operated nearly 6,000 farms, covering about 200,000 acres, also largely in California. It soon became evident to Farm Security agents, as they undertook arrangements for transferring the farms, that their principal stumbling block would be the land devoted to floriculture.

To nursery and greenhouse operators generally, some of the difficulties sound like an old story. Other details are not so well known. Few people realize the extent to which certain racial or ethnic groups, notably the Japanese, have made flower growing a professional heritage. This rests on a substantial basis of skill, experience, cooperative management and hard work. The Japanese again, those who had migrated to California as well as the American-born, were familiar with soil and climatic conditions. The land and weather conditions of Japan are frequently comparable with those on our West Coast. Conditions that require Japanese evacuation have also caused an exodus of skilled Filipino labor, but in the opposite di-

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rection. Guns take precedence over trowels among Filipino youths today, and few will even consider military deferment.

Suggestions were soon heard that the glass frames be converted to vegetable growing, with flowers sacrificed to the Nation's emergency needs. But hothouse tomatoes and egg plant in California have never made an extensive industry. They must compete most of the year with field types, and few people believe that such competition will ever be more than a profitable sideline. As the newspapers and radio stations carried information from day to day on available farms, the relative scarcity of flower growers to replace the Japanese was sharply emphasized. Those greenhouse and nursery operators within the area who could expand their holdings proved insufficient to absorb many of the largest and best Japanese establishments.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Do you remember when we could buy roses and carnations, snapdragons and gardenias, from the familiar little street-corner stands that seemed as much a part of the San Francisco Bay region as the Golden Gate Bridge?

This is not fantasy, but the likely form of some future yarn on the past color and fragrance of streets in Bay region cities. All too likely, that is, unless a new crop of nurserymen and greenhouse operators springs up to replace thousands of Japanese and Japanese-Americans who have been evacuated by Army order.

That the profession of glass-frame and field specialists has not risen to their opportunity is one of the problems troubling Farm Security Administration, the agency working under the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration to arrange for the transfer of Japanese enterprises into qualified new hands.

Just about half of the multi-million dollar flower industry in San Mateo and Alameda counties faces neglect and possible ruin, WCCA officials estimate.

"That estimate covers only the production end. In the metropolitan flower markets, in business circles that thrive or fail with growing conditions around Hayward, Redwood City, and similar towns, many persons are beginning to wonder if their livelihood has gone, at least for the duration."

Part of the difficulty, officials say, is the nature of the flower industry. Skilled techniques are required, more than in any other branch of agriculture, and relatively large investments in equipment.

Interested operators will be welcomed by Farm Security field agents in Hayward and San Mateo. Agents are located at Army WCCA service centers, in offices of the U. S. Employment Service at San Mateo and in the Post Office at Hayward. Applications will not only please Farm Security Administration, but an old faithful customer and friend of the flower industry, the general public.

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WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Security Administration
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

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5842

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Loans granted by Farm Security Administration for the purchase of machinery by new operators on evacuated Japanese farms total \$566,992, it was revealed today by the Agricultural Division of the Wartime Civil Control Administration.

The sum represents 474 loans, of which California operators have received 270, for \$232,876; Washington operators 152, for \$193,588; Oregon operators 50, for \$140,128; and Arizona operators 2 for \$400.

The machinery includes various items of equipment needed for continuing production of food in vital defense areas. The bulk was purchased from Japanese operators, and the remainder from dealers in new and second-hand equipment.

Machinery loans account for approximately 25 percent of the money borrowed for all purposes by the new operators, said WCCA officials. The total for all loans to date is \$2,240,245.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Wartime Farm Adjustment Program
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

DW
31742

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 18, 1942

Field offices of the newly-created Wartime Farm Adjustment Program, created to see that full production continues on agricultural land vacated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans subject to evacuation orders, were in full operation today at the local U. S. Employment Service office at _____ Street.

The new program being directed by the Farm Security Administration under orders from the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, is intended to supervise the fair disposition of the land being voluntarily evacuated by Japanese and to aid qualified farmers in taking over the land and obtaining operating credit.

The local office, one of 60 established this week in California, Arizona, Washington and Oregon, is in charge of Mr. _____, former rural rehabilitation supervisor for the Farm Security Administration at _____. The office is being operated in conjunction with "service centers," established by the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration to help Japanese and others voluntarily moving from prohibited military zones.

"My job is to contact Japanese farmers who propose to evacuate their farm land voluntarily, see that they get a fair disposition of their land or farming operations, and see that the land is continued in full production of vital war crops," Mr. _____ said.

"Japanese who wish assistance in disposing of their land before voluntarily evacuating are urged to get in touch with me. Farmers who are able to grow the kind of crops already on the land, or who are willing to plant crops needed for war purposes, are also urged to come in.

"Our office wants to bring these two together, see that a fair deal is made, and then assist the new operator to continue the land in production. We're going to see that fair deals are made all the way around, with landlords, lien holders, produce buyers, contractors and others.

"The Wartime Farm Adjustment Program office will also help them in obtaining credit," Mr. _____ said.

"If we are unable to help the new operator get credit from banks, private sources or the Farm Credit Administration, we may be able to help him get a Farm Security rural rehabilitation or 'Food For Victory' loan," he explained.

"If none of those are available, we have the funds and authority to make special production loans, on which we naturally expect payment in full and on schedule.

"Keeping the Japanese lands in production is essential to America's military effort since Japanese grow a large proportion of the Nation's vegetables," Mr. _____ said. He said estimates show Japanese in California grow from 35 to 50 percent of the vegetables grown in the state, and that in many crops the state of California produces from a third to two-thirds of the country's vegetables.

Mr. _____ will work closely with Mr. _____, local representative of the U. S. Employment Service, which has been instructed by the Federal Security Agency and the Army to assist the Japanese after they leave their land.

"Other field agents of the Wartime Farm Adjustment Program," Mr. _____ said, "are located as follows:

Northern California--Salinas, San Jose, Watsonville, Alameda, Fresno, Merced, Stockton, Visalia, Chico, Marysville, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Berkeley, Hayward, Oakland, Pittsburg, Richmond, San Francisco, San Mateo. Southern California--El Centro, Indio, Redlands, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Ana, Inglewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Pedro, Santa Monica, Torrance, Alhambra, Burbank, Pasadena, Pomona, San Fernando, Whittier, Bakersfield, Santa Maria, and Ventura. Arizona--Phoenix. Oregon--Hood River and Portland. Washington--Bremerton, Raymond, Seattle, Tacoma and Yakima.

Additional offices will be opened later at Ukiah, Ontario and Covina in California."

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FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SAN FRANCISCO, March _____. Crop losses running into millions of dollars are threatened unless California farmers take immediate steps to operate Japanese and Japanese-American farms now producing vegetables urgently needed in the war, L. I. Hewes, Jr., regional director of the Farm Security Administration, warned today.

Hewes, who heads the agricultural division of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration, said that the 100 special Farm Security agents, cooperating with other agencies in aiding Japanese and helping negotiate transfer of Japanese farm operations, cannot save the crops unless American farmers are willing to take over Japanese operations.

"The 225,000 acres of Japanese and Japanese-American farm land in California produce a substantial share of the nation's vegetable supply," Hewes said.

"These farms are worth nearly \$70,000,000, not counting the value of crops already planted.

"It is mandatory that this land be kept in production. Losses are already occurring and within the next four to six months heavy losses are threatened in such crops as tomatoes, celery, spinach, peas, onions, garlic and snap beans. Tomato plants are now ready for transplanting and it is essential they be gotten into the ground without delay, for the Japanese produce a large share of the tomato pack scheduled to be purchased by the Army. Losses are also occurring in the Japanese poultry industry."

Nearly 6000 Japanese and Japanese-American farms have been listed by Farm Security agents and more than 1000 American farmers have expressed interest in operating on this land, but more new operators are needed, Hewes said. He urged all farmers interested to follow Army instructions and report at once to Farm Security agents at WCCA "service centers" at U. S. Employment Service offices in cities and towns. The agents will help farmers acquire land and can make them

loans to keep the land in production.

"We are also receiving disturbing reports of new operators who are plowing up Japanese crops," Howes said. "The Army has declared that any Japanese plowing up a crop or refusing to keep it in cultivation is guilty of sabotage, and we must point out that the identical effect is created by any American farmer who refuses to grow the vegetables already planted in land which he is acquiring."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

San Francisco, April _____. Greenhouses and nurseries, like truck farms, are now available in large number to American farmers as a result of the Army war-time evacuation program in defense areas.

Hundreds of the glass-frame and field establishments, hitherto operated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans along the Coast, can be saved from loss by the prompt application of qualified men, according to Laurence I. Hewes, regional director of Farm Security Administration, which is handling the disposition of evacuated agricultural land for the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration.

Growing crops of flowers and shrubs represent a value of possibly \$25,000,000 throughout California, said Hewes today, and their value in terms of community income and trade is also an important factor.

Greenhouse and nursery men who are interested should go at once to WCCA "service centers" at U. S. Employment Service offices in various cities and towns and apply to the Farm Security agents there. Agents of the Farm Security Administration, who make arrangements with qualified operators to take over greenhouses and nurseries from evacuees, are finding the situation complicated by the comparative shortage of skill and experience, since in many areas floriculture is almost exclusively a Japanese industry. In the region between San Francisco and Millbrae, more than 95 percent of the agricultural land has been operated by people subject to evacuation. In San Mateo County, which annually ships about \$2,500,000 worth of greenhouse and field flowers, about \$1,000,000 represents Japanese ownership and labor.

Possibility that the greenhouses could be converted to vegetable production is slight, said Hewes. Glass-frame production of tomatoes or egg-plant, in competition with field crops, does not seem practical, and few field men are ready to undertake such an experiment.

While the government is trying to save a large part of the flower industry,

suburban communities with large nurseries are worried over the loss in trade that will result if new operators are not quickly found. Street-corner merchants and larger flower shops will also be seriously affected.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SAN FRANCISCO, April _____. Nearly a third of the rich Japanese and Japanese-American farmland on the Pacific Coast has been transferred under supervision of the Farm Security Administration to new operators since the Department of Agriculture agency took over the job at Army orders three weeks ago, it was estimated today by L. I. Hewes, Jr., FSA regional director.

At the same time Hewes, in charge of the agricultural division of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration, announced that all agricultural interests in the West Coast were fully mobilized to meet the emergency and that large canners, packers, processors and land companies had expressed a willingness to work with Farm Security and the U. S. Department of Agriculture War Boards in acquiring and operating Japanese farming operations.

Incomplete returns from the field show that more than 1000 Japanese and Japanese-American farms, totaling 50,000 acres, were satisfactorily transferred to new operators during March, Hewes said, adding that unreported transfers would substantially raise that figure.

FSA field agents have registered 6000 farms totalling approximately 200,000 acres and have received applications to acquire vacated farms from more than 2000 farmers. Applications for production loans totalling more than \$1,000,000 have been received from the new operators. They are being referred to regular credit agencies, but are receiving special Farm Security loans when necessary. To date the loans are averaging about \$3000 each.

"All agricultural interests on the Pacific Coast are now mobilized to meet this vital emergency and keep these lands in production," Hewes said. "This mobilization includes both small and large farmers, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and state departments of agriculture.

"Department of Agriculture officials have conferred with representatives

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of growers and cooperative associations, lending agencies, and processors, packers, canners, land companies, who, in order to assure continued production have agreed to give all aid possible, including acquiring and operating, at least temporarily, Japanese land on a large scale. We have conferred with representatives of the California State Chamber of Commerce, Canners League, Deciduous Growers League, Central California Berry Growers Association, Poultry Producers of Central California, Grower Shipper Vegetable Association of Salinas, Western Growers Protective Association and the Bank of America.

"This step was taken because it was clear that it would be extremely difficult if not impossible to save these vital crops by dealing entirely with individual units and individual farmers. Keeping up production is the all-important issue, and our policy of assisting all farmers and loaning money to whoever can operate the land is the surest way of seeing that essential crops are not lost. All arrangements will be supervised by the Department of Agriculture.

"Every agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has also been mobilized through the State and County War Boards, which will assist in finding new operators and refereeing arrangements between them and the Japanese. We are also receiving full cooperation from William J. Cecil, director of the California State Department of Agriculture.

"Qualified new operators, both large and small, are urgently needed to operate the vacated farms, and all experienced farmers who are interested should report at once to the Farm Security agent located at the WCCA "service center" at the nearest U. S. Employment Service office," Howes said.

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U.S.
Farm Security
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

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ECONOMICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

San Francisco, April _____. Gold rush days, when fresh eggs sold for \$10 each, may be duplicated soon for strawberry eaters. People who take theirs with sugar and cream, shortcake fanciers, and raders of the family jam pot, all face this harsh deprivation unless our truck farmers are moved to rescue them.

It's the war striking again at our institutions, says the Agricultural Department of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration.

"Strawberries in California have been grown almost entirely by Japanese and Japanese-Americans who are being evacuated from the military zones" a department Bulletin explains. "It is safe to say that these people have given us 95 percent of the State crop and have made California the third largest strawberry producer in the nation. In Santa Clara county alone, their evacuation has left 50 vacant farms, covering a total of 188 acres. The value of strawberry crops in this area is \$100,000 or more.

"The strawberry farms range in size from one to eleven acres, are completely equipped, and may be purchased or leased from their owners by farmers who are thoroughly experienced in this branch of horticulture. Many deals are being transacted in the locality of San Jose and other strawberry centers, through Farm Security agents located at U. S. Employment Service offices, but not nearly enough to assure a continued supply for the markets and canneries.

"In California as a whole, Japanese and Japanese Americans produce strawberries on about 11,000 acres. Each acre normally yields about five tons, or 15,000 baskets, through the season from April to October. Fields are picked at intervals of two to six days, and each picker can gather about fifteen crates a day. The large expense involved, for fertilizer and other equipment, not to mention the special skill for which the Japanese and Japanese-Americans are

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famous, make the transfer of 11,000 acres of strawberry farms a huge problem.

"Applicants who can demonstrate plenty of experience are wanted immediately. They can depend on a square deal in buying or renting strawberry farms, and competent operators who cannot obtain loans through the usual sources are eligible for special Farm Security loans."

Applicants for the strawberry ranches in Santa Clara county and elsewhere are urged to report at once to the special Farm Security Administration agent or the Wartime Civilian Control Administration "service centers" located in the U. S. Employment Service office.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

WFA-DW
41042

Evacuation of all Japanese and Japanese-Americans from the _____ area means that all Japanese farm operations in the area must be transferred to new operators within the next five days, it was announced today by Mr. _____, special field agent at the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration "service center" at the U. S. Employment Service office, _____ Street, _____.

"Although some _____ Japanese farms have been transferred to new operators in the past few weeks, the order for immediate evacuation of Japanese and Japanese-Americans in this area means that we must immediately find new operators for approximately _____ farms, totaling about _____ acres," Mr. _____ said.

"This is an opportunity to contribute a patriotic service to the nation by keeping this essential agricultural land in production. We want every experienced farmer interested in taking over some of the Japanese operations to report to us immediately.

"We will bring them in contact with the Japanese operators and help them make arrangements to take the operations over. Farmers may make their own arrangements with the present operators, but the Army has requested that all deals clear through us before being closed."

Farms which must be immediately purchased or leased by new operators include farms growing _____, _____, _____, and _____. They vary in size from _____ to _____ acres, but are mostly around _____ acres, Mr. _____ said.

"If operators are of proven competence and are ready to keep this vital land in production of war crops, we will help them get credit," Mr. _____ said.

"All private lending agencies have been requested to give immediate priority to such loan applications, as have all Farm Credit Administration agencies.

"If experienced operators are unable to obtain credit elsewhere, we may be able to make them special Farm Security Administration loans, provided they

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have secure tenure and are protected against foreclosure or judgments.

Mr. _____ said that a special evacuation control unit of the Farm Security Administration, headed by Mr. _____, was working at the Civil Control Station where Japanese are reporting. The evacuation crew is listing all untransferred land, but applicants for farms should see Mr. _____ at the WCCA "service center" in the U. S. Employment Service office, _____ Street, _____.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
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FOR RELEASE IN AFTERNOON PAPERS, APRIL 17:

SAN FRANCISCO, April _____. New regulations to assure fair disposal and continued productivity of more than 100,000 acres of farm land still operated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans on the West Coast were issued today by the agricultural division of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration. The new regulations include, under certain conditions, the authority to freeze and temporarily operate Japanese farms when crop losses are threatened.

The authority is vested in Laurence I. Hewes, Jr., Chief of the WCCA's agricultural division and regional director of the Farm Security Administration, which is handling disposition of Japanese farm land for the Army's evacuation program. The authority was delegated to Hewes by the Secretary of Agriculture, who received the extraordinary authority under special war powers from the Secretary of the Treasury.

The authority permits freezing of farm property and interests involved in transactions when Japanese farm owners or tenants are unable or unwilling to make reasonable arrangements to transfer their farm operations, and when as a result continued farm production is threatened.

Property frozen under the new regulations will be declared Special Blocked Property and will be subject to disposal or temporary operation by Farm Security agents. Any farms so operated will be disposed of as soon as fair arrangements can be made.

U. S. Department of Agriculture County War Boards will be notified of any proposed freezing orders and the Farm Security Administration will administer the freezing authority in consultation with the Boards.

WCCA agricultural officials disclosed today that more than 2700 Japanese

(over)

and Japanese-American farms, comprising 105,000 acres, had already been transferred to new operators in California, Washington, Oregon and Arizona. Nearly 4500 farmers have indicated their desire to take over Japanese operations in the four states.

At the same time it was announced that Filipinos are eligible for Farm Security loans being made to operators taking over Japanese land, as are Mexicans and non-enemy aliens who have taken out first naturalization papers.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Security Administration
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

WFA-DW
42042

B-106

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SAN FRANCISCO, April _____. The agricultural division of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration today announced that 70 percent of the farm land operated by West Coast Japanese and Japanese-Americans had been transferred to other operators, and at the same time disclosed that the first freezing order authorized last week under extraordinary war powers had been issued.

Officials of the WCCA division "froze" a Northern California farm when the landlord refused to cooperate with the WCCA in permitting the Japanese tenant to make satisfactory arrangements for disposing of his equity in the farm operations. WCCA officials may now "unfreeze" the farm, lease it for the landlord, or operate it temporarily until it can be properly leased.

WCCA figures released today showed that 4173 farms totaling 157,755 acres--out of a total of 6603 Japanese and Japanese-American farms covering an estimated 230,000 acres--were on April 17 being handled by new operators to whom \$1,000,000 in special loans had been made. Still to be transferred to other operators were 2430 farms.

Sixty-nine percent of the Japanese acreage had been transferred in California, and figures for the other West Coast states were: Arizona, 96.6 percent; Oregon, 80.7 percent; Washington, 58.7 percent.

In all, more than 5200 farmers have applied to operate the Japanese farms. They include large and small farmers, including some Mexicans and Filipinos, as well as corporations, land companies, processors and canners.

More than 200 special Farm Security Administration loans, averaging \$4800 each, had been made to the operators and 322 others were being considered. It is estimated at least twice this amount was loaned to the new operators by banks and other government credit agencies.

The latest report from the WCCA's agricultural division showed that, in California, more than 90 percent of the Japanese acreage had been transferred in the areas adjacent to El Centro, Burbank, Indio, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Pittsburg, Redlands, Salinas, San Diego, Santa Maria, Santa Monica and Torrance. In Washington, more than 90 percent of the acreage had been transferred in the Yakima and Bremerton areas, and in Oregon more than 95 percent had been transferred in the Astoria and Salem areas. Twenty-eight of 30 Japanese farms near Phoenix, Arizona, had been transferred to new operators.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

APR 22

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FARM SECURITY KEEPS EVACUATED FARMS IN PRODUCTION

APR 30

The Farm Security Administration has shouldered another major major defense assignment in supervising the transfer to new operators of more than 6000 farms operated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans living in the West Coast military zones. An earlier defense assignment given FSA was construction of temporary housing for defense workers.

The farm people affected by Army evacuation orders include about half the 93,000 persons of Japanese descent on the West Coast. These farmers produce about 35 per cent of the fruit and vegetable harvest of California, which produces from a third to two-thirds of the nation's supply of most vegetables. Approximately 200,000 acres and a land investment of \$70,000,000 are involved, in addition to millions of dollars worth of growing crops.

To see that this land was fairly disposed of and to keep it in production, Farm Security on March 17, under orders of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, placed special FSA field agents in the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration "service centers" throughout the Pacific Coast. Information about the farms and their availability to other farmers was disseminated widely. The field agents brought Japanese and prospective operators of their land together, helped see that reasonable arrangements were made, and later were empowered to act as temporary custodians of the property, operating it until fair arrangements could be made for disposal. The agents examined the qualifications of farmers who wished to acquire Japanese farming operations, assisted them to plan future production and to get credit, and made special loans when necessary.

More than 3000 farms totaling 100,000 acres of land have been thus transferred to new operators since March 17. Farm Security agents have made nearly \$1,000,000 in special loans to these operators.

April 17, 1942

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nearly 43,000 acres of farm land to be vacated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans in Pacific Coast defense zones are still available for new operators, the agricultural division of the Army's Wartime Civil Control Administration announced today. Crops on 21 percent of the total acreage subject to evacuation may be lost if substitute operators are not found.

Regional reports from the WCCA's agricultural division indicate that operators for Japanese and Japanese-American farms are especially needed in the Seattle area where only 23.4 percent of the registered acreage has been transferred, and in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valley areas where truck garden and strawberry holdings are available. In the Hayward district 12 percent of the total holdings registered have not yet been transferred to new operators.

Latest tabulations of the WCCA agricultural division show that 4,290 of the 6,460 farms registered for evacuation have been transferred to new operators. The transfers involve 174,932 acres, 79 percent of the estimated total. \$1,668,000 in special Farm Security Administration production loans had been approved by April 24.

Seventy-nine percent of the total Japanese and Japanese-American acreage in California has been transferred. Transfers in Arizona amounted to 96.6 percent of the total, Oregon 93.7 percent, and Washington 77.3 percent.

More than 5500 farmers, throughout the Pacific Coast area, have applied at WCCA "service centers" for possible operation of vacated farm lands. Field agents in all offices have insisted that applicants be fully qualified to maintain production on holdings which they wish to operate.

Three hundred and seventy-six Farm Security Administration production loans have been approved, and 324 other applications are under consideration. These loans are available when a qualified applicant has been unable to obtain credit from banks and other sources.

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42942

FOR RELEASE IN CALIFORNIA ONLY:

San Francisco, April _____. Special loans to the amount of \$1,215,315, have been approved for new farm operations on evacuated California land, it was announced today by the Agricultural Division of the Wartime Civil Control Administration.

This sum represents 248 loans by the Farm Security Administration, which granted them after regular credit sources proved unavailable. Proof of farming experience, security of tenure, and protection against foreclosure or judgment were required in each instance.

The loans varied from \$250 to \$45,000. About 80 percent were for \$5,000 or less.

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May 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Far from showing bitterness over the relinquishment of their farms in vital defense areas, many Japanese who sold or leased their property in advance of Army evacuation orders have remained on the land to help the new operators cultivate and harvest their crops. Their skill and experience have been of considerable importance to the new operators.

This cooperation has been noted particularly in the areas around Yakima, Washington, and Salem, Oregon, according to the Agricultural Division of the Wartime Civil Control Administration. Near Salem, many Japanese who will be evacuated have already planted new crops which will be brought to harvest by other operators.

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May 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Transfer of evacuated Japanese farms on the West Coast has progressed to the point where only the Sacramento area in California and the Auburn and Kent areas in Washington remain to be absorbed by new operators.

Of the 233,566 acres represented by Japanese farms in California, Washington, Oregon, and Arizona, 211,846 are involved through sale or lease to new operators. The remaining 21,720 acres, 9.3 percent of the four-State total, are distributed as follows: California, 17,764 acres; Washington, 3,782; and Oregon, 174. Arizona farms have transferred 100 percent.

In the entire West Coast evacuation area, 5,774 farms among the 6,540 subject to relinquishment have been sold or leased by the Japanese. This leaves only 11.7 percent of the total, according to the Agricultural Division of the Wartime Civil Control Administration.

Around Sacramento, 342 of the 735 Japanese farms are still available for new operators. This proportion contrasts with that for California as a whole, where 4,819 of 5,293 farms, or 91 percent of the State total, have been transferred.

In Washington, 562 of 850 Japanese farms, or 66.1 percent, have been taken over by new operators. Tacoma farms are 81.3 percent transferred, Seattle farms 73.1 percent, and those around Auburn and Kent, 46 percent. The highest proportion of transfers in Washington, 96.5 percent, has been achieved at Yakima.

Five hundred and sixty-six special Farm Security loans, amounting to \$2,328,289, have been granted for new farm operations. This includes \$581,920 for the purchase of machinery.

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MAY 15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Services of the agricultural division of the Wartime Civil Control Administration were extended to a vast and strategically important area this week with the opening of a special field office in Anchorage, Alaska.

An estimated total of 270 Japanese and Japanese-Americans will be evacuated from the Territory of Alaska as a military precaution similar to that taken in other Pacific Coast defense zones. The Anchorage WCCA "service center" is preparing to arrange for the transfer of farm lands and other properties to new operators.

Announcement will be made regarding types and sizes of Japanese and Japanese-American farms in Alaska for which new operators must be found.

Filipinos, who outnumber Japanese in the Territory, may aid in providing necessary farm management and labor.

Charles M. Ross is special field agent in Anchorage for the agricultural division of the WCCA. Like other field agents in regions subject to evacuation by Japanese and Japanese-Americans, Ross is prepared to arrange special Farm Security Administration production loans for qualified operators not eligible for usual public or private farm credit.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MAY 16

In an effort to complete transfer of Japanese and Japanese-American farm holdings to substitute operators, Wayne L. Phelps, special field agent in Sacramento for the agricultural division of the Wartime Civil Control Administration, today listed a number of farms for which operators are urgently needed.

The farms listed in the Florin area, south of Sacramento, are immediately available to qualified operators who can make satisfactory arrangements with the present holders:

(1) A 40-acre ranch, 35 acres in Tokay grapes, $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in strawberries, the remainder in open land. There are 2 pumps with electric motors, and a 9-room house.

(2) A 20-acre ranch. This has 15 acres in Tokay grapes, 1 acre in strawberries. Full equipment, including tractor, plow, and pump. A barn and bunkhouse are on the place.

(3) Eighty acres near Elk Grove. It has 25 acres in Tokay grapes, 3 acres of squash, 10 acres in lettuce seed, 20 to 25 acres to be planted in tomatoes, and 15 acres in strawberries. Three small houses are on the holdings, and a good residence.

(4) A 30-acre ranch. It has 13 acres of Tokay grapes and 4 acres of young Malage grapes, 1 acre of strawberries, and 100 quince trees. A 6-room house goes in the deal, and full farming equipment.

(5) Thirty-six acres of leveled ground, with a good pump for irrigation. It has 16 acres of young grapes, 4 acres of strawberries, 20 acres of level, open ground.

Further information is available at the special WCCA office in Florin. Special FSA production loans are available to qualified operators who are not eligible for other credit.

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, A.M., MAY 23

MAY 23

SAN FRANCISCO, May _____. Schoolboys, a veterans' home, Chinese, Mexicans, Filipinos, former migratory workers and "week-end farmers" have joined small farmers and large-scale operators to become producers in the West Coast's strategic agricultural industry during the past two months--a unique result of the evacuation of 6000 Japanese and Japanese-American farmers from 227,000 acres of rich vegetable land in coastal military zones.

Reports from the agricultural division of the Army's Wartime Civil Control Administration, in charge of seeing that production is kept up on the vacated farm land, indicate a surprising variety of substitute operators replied to the Army's request for qualified operators to produce "Food For Freedom" on the former Japanese-operated land, of which more than 98 percent has been transferred to new operators.

Most of the farms were taken over by individual farmers who expanded their present acreage and by corporations created to manage groups of holdings on a scientific basis. But there were also instances of new farmers who went "back to the land" in states where the farming frontier disappeared a generation ago.

At Fallbrook, California, a group of Future Farmers of America--students at the local high school--took over 55 acres as a paying production laboratory. They will cultivate and harvest a full crop of strawberries, tomatoes and cucumbers.

Two young girls, fresh from floricultural studies at San Francisco Junior College, put their learning to practice in a greenhouse and nursery formerly owned by a Japanese-American. The girls, Adele Vidal and Merleen McCray, convinced WCCA agents that they could succeed in a first business venture, and the Farm Security Administration backed them with a special production loan.

Hospitalized soldiers at Sawtelle, in Southern California, will receive

(MORE)

May 23, 1942

the benefits of a \$10,000 nursery which was turned over to the U. S. Veterans' Administration by Kuichiro Nishi and his family. Nishi had leased land from the Administration for 16 years, building a thriving nursery and retail business. When the family was ordered to move, they refused all offers and turned over the entire holding to the veterans as a gift.

Up and down the West Coast Chinese, Mexicans and Filipinos took over various holdings, frequently receiving special Farm Security Administration loans. In many cases they were the only persons available to supplant the Japanese.

The Japanese cooperated in friendly fashion with their successors, regardless of race. From the assembly center at Santa Anita George Nakamura, who had leased 20 acres of celery to Sing Wong, a Chinese, wrote to a WCCA agent: "Please tell Wong to irrigate the celery at least once every five days if it fails to rain and to harvest the crop as soon as possible to prevent the celery from seeding." No rain came, so Wong irrigated as directed.

On the rich Delta land of the Sacramento Valley a group of Chinese and Japanese, in patriotic cooperation, worked together on a 220-acre farm which the Chinese had taken over. The Chinese hired the former Japanese operators at prevailing wages to help in the harvest, and the Japanese responded by willingly instructing their new Chinese employers in the difficult science of truck farming.

"Week-end farmers" appeared in Southern California, where several small farms were taken over by white-collar families who work in the cities during the week, spending Sundays and holidays looking over their new property. Carl Silverhorn, Leon C. Driver and George R. Paul operate one such enterprise near Burbank, their wives directing the work of several full-time farm hands during the week and the partners supervising the farm on week-ends.

A few migratory workers went back to the land after lean years of wandering and seasonal work. Near Bakersfield Doil Ash, whose Oklahoma "dust bowl" living blew away in 1935, leased a 26-acre farm from Hido Miwa. If any questions arise, Miwa said, Ash can always write to him.

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FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JUNE 1:

JUN 1

In California's famed Delta--known as the richest farm land in the world outside the Valley of the Nile--a group of Chinese and Japanese-Americans have been working together in a unique demonstration of practical democracy.

The Japanese, most of them American citizens, are now being evacuated by the U. S. Army as a military precaution, to remain in inland centers until the war is won. The Chinese have taken over this acreage and are continuing the highly important vegetable production. Pending evacuation, the Japanese have been both working for the Chinese and teaching the difficult art of truck farming to their substitutes--and employers.

Yahei Kato is one of the farmers whose place on the agricultural production line will be taken by the Chinese. He told observers how he and other Japanese-Americans feel about their forced migration into the inland. Kato has lived on his farm for 23 years, fought in the first world war, and is a member of the American Legion. He gained his citizenship in 1937; his four children are citizens by birth.

"We are sorry to go," Kato said, "but America is our country now and we don't complain. Right now we're helping the new people on this place to get started."

Kato pointed across the way to a field being planted in tomatoes. A Japanese employee was good-naturedly teaching a young Chinese to drive one of the tractors. In adjoining cabbage fields, Chinese and Japanese were harvesting side by side, as in the lettuce fields, and in other crops.

The 220-acre tract, five miles south of Sacramento, originally was made up of eight separate farms. The farms have been consolidated into Lotus-Lands, Incorporated. Louie Hin Sat, Daniel Lee, and Chester Sic Tong are part-

(MORE)

[June 1, 1942]

ners in the new enterprise.

Wayne L. Phelps, special Farm Security Administration field agent in Sacramento, arranged the transfer deal as a part of his job of continuing production on all lands vacated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans. The Chinese partners obtained a \$25,000 special Farm Security Administration production loan in order to finance the project.

Boundary lines of the eight original farms have been abolished for centralized production. Land now occupied by Japanese dwellings will be put into growing crops. Rotation of crops will provide year-round production.

More than \$2,000 came in from lettuce and cabbage shipments during the first week of new management.

Experts in agricultural economics have called this project a "natural". Chinese laborers will come up from San Francisco and will share in the profits according to present plans of the three partners. Japanese now working on the place earn prevailing wages. The large-scale production will simplify marketing.

Tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage and other vegetables will be produced on this farm, a substantial contribution to America's "Food For Freedom" program.

Despite language and racial barriers, there is complete cooperation between the Chinese and Japanese. They are quick to praise each other's work. Kato was quietly sincere when he called Louie, one of the new partners, a "good boss."

Kato asks most visitors to sign his new "memory book". It contains, page after page, the best wishes of neighboring farmers and American friends. Kato explained that he wants to keep in touch with his friends while he is away.

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B-1.06

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61142

JUNE 11: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Approximately 15,000 acres of Japanese-operated farm land in Eastern California is available to qualified substitute operators, the Farm Security Administration announced today.

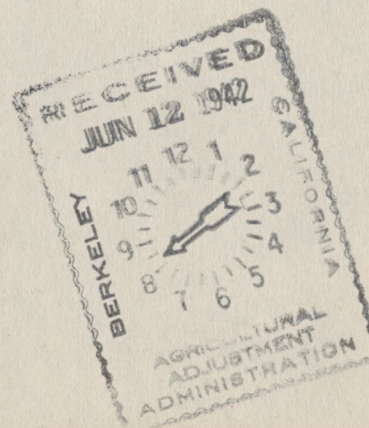
The acreage is comprised of about 425 farms operated by Japanese who are to be evacuated from the half of California lying in Military Area No. 2. Special FSA agents are stationed at Lincoln, Chico, Marysville, Reedley and Visalia to assist the Japanese in transferring their property and to find substitute operators.

During the past week, 200 Japanese farmers have registered their property with FSA agents stationed at Wartime Civil Control Administration "service centers" at the five cities. More than 2000 acres of farm land have already been transferred, FSA officials said.

Special production loans can be made by the FSA to competent substitute operators who cannot obtain credit elsewhere, and private lending sources and other government agencies will also cooperate in expediting loans to substitute operators.

Japanese farmers are urged to register their farms. Farm Security agents will be at the following WCCA "service centers": Marysville, 321 "C" Street; Chico, 509 Main Street; Visalia, 500 N. Garden; Reedley, City Hall; Lincoln, Civic Auditorium. Farmers interested in taking over additional properties are also urged to register with FSA agents.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

April 6, 1942

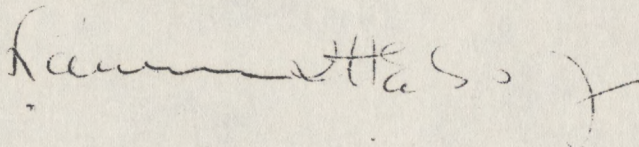
In reply refer to
WFA-DW

TO ALL WFA DISTRICT OFFICERS AND FIELD AGENTS:

These radio programs on the maintenance of food production in vital defense areas of the West Coast have been written for use in connection with your regular field activities. The purpose is to give the public information on the Food for Freedom Program and to arouse interest among farmers who would be qualified to take over the evacuated farms. They may be changed to accord with local conditions and in any way that will contribute to emphasis and clarity on the developing situation, as long as the essential facts are not altered. Kindly note that provision has been made for local and county names, State names, the names of people and pertinent local data, which must be supplied by the field agent. The programs should be submitted to your local radio station, for five or fifteen-minute broadcasts, respectively. Tell the local manager that you have a news program connected with our work in the Army evacuation program. He will be interested. You or an assistant may take the FSA part.

Southern California field agents may obtain help in rewriting the script, and other information assistance, from Robert Brownell, or the WFA Information Section, c/o Harry Oakley, WFA District Officer, 707 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles; phone, TR 6716, Extension 16.

Sincerely yours



Laurence I. Hewes, Jr.
Regional Director

California
Arizona
Oregon
Washington

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

B-106
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MOBILIZATION OF FARMERS ON EVACUATED LAND

ANNOUNCER: Friends, one of the big stories that history will write into our children's school books, is the migration of Japanese and Japanese-American farmers from our West Coast. That migration, as you know, opens up something like a new frontier for Americans who live on farms. It's not like the old wilderness and desert we've heard about. This frontier is tilled and planted to fruits, vegetables, even flowers. It does have one thing in common with the old days, however, and by that I mean a fighting line. Today, we know that the fields and gardens here at home are in this war all the way. We are going to hear about this fighting line today from _____, special field agent for the Farm Security Administration in _____ county. _____, when did you people tackle this Japanese farm job.

FSA AGENT: Less than a month ago. On March 13, to be exact, the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army called up FSA headquarters in San Francisco. Here's the problem, they said. We have thousands of people living in vital military zones, about 93,000 of Japanese descent. In this national crisis, they have got to be moved out--fast--Army defense operations and their own protection demand it. The farmers among these people produce perhaps 40 percent of California's yearly crops of vegetables and a good deal of produce in Washington, Oregon, and Arizona, too. Some of them are nurserymen and greenhouse operators. The government cannot afford to lose all this food for the soldiers and defense workers. So it's up to you in Farm Security to find American farmers who will move into these farms and keep them producing.

ANNOUNCER: Pretty big assignment, that. And I suppose you field agents were among the first to realize it.

FSA AGENT: Between March 13, which fell on a Friday, and following Tuesday, _____, Farm Security detailed 50 agents to the towns and cities of the evacuation zone. There they took space in the service centers of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration, in U. S. Employment Service offices. Meanwhile, Farm Security had drawn up plans for listing all the farms involved, for arranging and supervising their transfer from Japanese to Americans, and for helping the new operators with credit arrangements and technical advice. Soon the radio and newspapers were carrying stories about this job and appealing to American farmers up and down the Coast to put over this part of our national Food for Freedom program.

ANNOUNCER: When you say that Japanese and Japanese-Americans normally produce about 40 percent of the California fruit and vegetable harvest, _____, just what do you mean as far as the whole country's needs are concerned?

FSA AGENT: Well, let's begin by saying that the 93,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans own or operate about 6,000 farms. These farms occupy about 200,000 acres. All this land is worth about \$70,000,000, aside from the crops in the ground. Forty percent of California's fruit and vegetable produce means a sizeable tonnage. But instead of giving you a lot of figures, I'd rather point out that this tonnage of field and garden truck ranges from one-third to two thirds of the Nation's supply, depending on the crop, of course.

ANNOUNCER: How does this locality fit into the picture?

FSA AGENT: In _____ county, we have _____ Japanese and _____ Japanese-American farms, and in addition _____ other farms affected by the Army evacuation order, because they employed Japanese labor or had partnership tieups. The farms altogether cover about _____ acres, and are conservatively valued at \$_____. This section grows _____, _____, _____, and _____, for the most part, and the farmers who were notified to evacuate were up among the best. From all these things, _____, you can appreciate the gap created by their removal, not only in crop production, but in community trade and income.

ANNOUNCER: You bet I can. But say, you field agents ought to have a little cheer for us, with all this talk of losses. How far have you gone toward putting qualified American farmers on these _____ county farms you mentioned?

FSA AGENT: Our records show _____ new operators in _____ county (or _____ area), farming _____ acres, with _____ farms and _____ acres still to be taken up. That leaves _____ percent of the farms still available. The opportunity is especially good for men who can grow _____ and _____. And by the way, since a number of folks may be hearing about this chance to raise Victory crops for the first time, I'd like to read a news bulletin that's very much to the point. It was issued by the Department of Agriculture's War Board in California, where the need for new farm operators is most acute. But the instructions apply anywhere, and they are right in the bull's eye.

ANNOUNCER: By all means, let's hear this bulletin.

FSA AGENT: It reads, and I quote: "Wanted--good farmers to take over going operations to keep war production on the move. Fine opportunity for profit and vital contribution to the war effort. Heavy investment not

necessarily required. Full credit available to experienced farmers. Anyone interested should inquire of FSA representative located at the nearest office of the United States Employment Service. The FSA is offering financial assistance in cases where credit is not obtainable elsewhere. Farmers who have difficulty establishing contact with the proper authorities are advised to consult with their local Department of Agriculture War Board." And there you have it, _____.

ANNOUNCER: These new operators--when they first apply to you for available land, do you see that they get a fair deal on their contracts, and help them establish credit?

FSA AGENT: Absolutely. Every contract deal will be closely reviewed by the Farm Security field agent, if either party requests it. He will assist in making credit arrangements and planning future operations on the farms. If any questions arise on contracts between the farmers and Japanese, the county War Board is ready to help. Everything possible is being done to get farmers on the land and keep them producing Food for Freedom.

ANNOUNCER: You know, _____, the people in _____ county, and for that matter, this whole section, have a way of responding to an emergency. I predict they'll still have that reputation when we add up the score on emergency farming.

FSA AGENT: The Food for Freedom program is counting on that, too.

ANNOUNCER: Our reporter today was _____, special field agent for the Farm Security Administration. If you are interested in farming on evacuated Japanese or Japanese-American land, can make necessary financial arrangements to acquire the land, and are an experienced farmer, see Mr. _____ at the Wartime Civilian Control Administration "service center" at the U. S. Employment Service office _____ Street, _____ (City).

California
Arizona
Oregon
Washington

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

WFA-FHL
4742

MOBILIZATION OF FARMERS ON EVACUATED LAND

ANNOUNCER: Friends, one of the big news stories today that history will write into our children's school books is the great double migration of farmers along the West Coast. Japanese and Japanese-American farmers evacuating their lands. American farmers taking over those lands in response to their country's need for emergency food. The effect for thousands of families is just as though a new frontier had been created, a new kind of frontier life thrust upon them. The man who will tell us about this development is here in the studio. Mr. _____, special field agent of the Farm Security Administration, for _____ county.

FSA AGENT: Thank you, _____. I'm glad to hear that word frontier, because frontier generally means a fight in progress. This fight is raising Food for Freedom. It makes every field harrow and garden spade a weapon, every bushel of produce a sling of ammunition. And every last man or woman who brings this produce to the markets and canneries is a soldier on active duty. Settling farmers on the evacuated lands is just the mobilization phase of the job ahead of us, and believe me, we can't mobilize too much or too fast on this job.

ANNOUNCER: Well, _____, when did you first get these Army orders you speak of?

FSA AGENT: On March 13, to be exact, the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army called FSA headquarters in San Francisco. Here's what must be done, said the Army. Up and down the West Coast are 150,000 people subject to evacuation. Of this number, 93,000 are Japanese and Japanese-Americans. Those of Japanese descent must be moved out--fast. It's for the sake of our own military defense operations and also for their protection. Among them are 6,000 farmers, on about 200,000 acres of land. They produce 40 percent or more of

the vegetables grown in California. And that in some crops,--asparagus, cauliflower, celery, beans, spinach,--means from one-third to two-thirds of the national supply. Now it's up to you people, in Farm Security, to find qualified American farmers who can replace the Japanese and Japanese-Americans and keep this land productive.

ANNOUNCER: Finding new operators. Did that mean that Farm Security also had to take over the farms?

FSA AGENT: No, not at all. Some people have the impression that these farms passed into government hands when the Army's evacuation order was issued. That is a mistake. Farm Security did not take possession. It simply stepped in as referee to assure a square deal in farm transfers, and to maintain the supply of Victory crops. New operators still get their farms from the original owners.

ANNOUNCER: If I know anything about these Army emergency orders, I'd be willing to bet somebody or other worked non-stop on this one.

FSA AGENT: Well, between the time we heard from the Army--that was on a Friday--and the following Tuesday, our field agents got busy. They took space in the offices of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration, in U. S. Employment Service centers, throughout the evacuation zone. They sent out word to Japanese and Japanese-Americans, on the one hand, and American farmers on the other, that a quick transfer of farms was in the books. In the meantime, FSA headquarters had begun to make the actual transfer arrangements. Several details of this kind had to be worked out. Supervision of contracts, so that everybody would get a square deal in the buying and leasing of farms. Establishment of credit for the new operators. Planning operations for the maximum of vital foodstuffs. Just four days after the field agents got down to work, an organization was beginning to hum, and scores of inquiries were pouring in on us from people who wanted to take over the farms.

ANNOUNCER: I expect you have some figures, _____, on the number of farm transfers.

FSA AGENT: Since March 17, our agents have reported better than 2,000 transfer deals, which calls for new operators on 50,000 acres. That's roughly one-third of the farms, but a little smaller proportion of acreage. You get a clue from that as to the size of the farms generally taken over. They have been small, ranging from tracts of one acre of rich vegetable ground to a hundred acres of orchard. Some farmers have taken more extensive places, but the average appears to be about 40 acres.

ANNOUNCER: Looks like a good start. But say, _____, how do the State and County stack up in your records?

FSA AGENT: Well, in the State as a whole, we began with _____ farms, producing _____ and _____, chiefly, with some _____ and _____. The farms included those owned by Japanese and Japanese-Americans, a few that operated with Japanese labor, and others on a Japanese partnership basis. Today, _____ farms, of _____ acres, have been transferred to new operators. Here in _____ (State) county, we registered _____ farms, involving about _____ acres planted to _____, _____, _____, and _____. Of this number, _____ are now in new hands, leaving _____ more that could produce abundantly in the hands of the right people. I hope some of those people are listening in, _____. These are mighty choice farms.

ANNOUNCER: Anybody who knows our section will have to agree with that. Now a minute ago, you stressed the fact that most of the new operators were interested in the small farms. Are we to understand by that, and it seems very important to me, that all the small farms have been taken?

FSA AGENT: No indeed. The exact opposite is true. We have plenty of small farms, several thousand of them. Farms of two or twenty or forty or eighty acres. Almost any type of crop you see on the West Coast can be raised on them. Almost every kind of soil and weather a man could

ask for from Canada to Mexico. And by the way, _____, this is the chance of a lifetime for experienced greenhouse and nursery men. You'd be surprised, as I was, to learn the extent of the flower growing industry in California.

ANNOUNCER: Come to think of it, probably very few people have thought much about flower growing in these times. And yet we know that scores of communities live by it, just as thousands and thousands of city folk depend on flowers to brighten up their workaday lives. But maybe you'd better explain what can be done with the vacant greenhouses and field nurseries.

FSA AGENT: In some California counties, like San Mateo, the flower industry is the mainspring of trade. Just imagine \$2,500,000 worth of cut flowers, potted plants, shrubs, bulbs, and seedlings from Redwood City every year, and multiply this figure by 10 to get the annual value for the whole State. Hundreds of greenhouses and nurseries are available for qualified operators, and qualified is the word, as you know. No other branch of agriculture calls for so much special skill and experience. There's a big chance, too, for men who know how to convert glass frame outfits to vegetable and fruit production.

ANNOUNCER: Just in case some people have not heard before about this Food for Freedom Program, I wonder if we shouldn't give them instructions on getting farms, nurseries, and greenhouses. And these would be useful to other folks who were interested from the beginning, but were not able to help us then. Would you care to say a few words for these people, _____?

FSA AGENT: I'll be glad to. Suppose I give you a recent story put out by the Department of Agriculture's War Board in California. It sums up the instructions perfectly for people in any of the States.

ANNOUNCER: Go right ahead.

FSA AGENT: The War Board story says: "Wanted--good farmers to take over going operations to keep war production on the move. Fine opportunity for profit

and vital contribution to war effort. Heavy investment not necessarily required. Full credit available to experienced farmers. Anyone interested should inquire of FSA representative located at the nearest office of the United States Employment Service. The FSA is offering financial assistance in cases where credit is not obtainable elsewhere. Farmers who have difficulty establishing contact with the proper authorities are advised to consult with their local Department of Agriculture War Board." And there you have it,_____.

ANNOUNCER: Anything from a War Board is straight from the horse's mouth. Does the individual farmer ordinarily have much business with these higher-ups, _____?

FSA AGENT: In certain cases, the War Board may have a great deal to say. That is, if a farmer who has contracted with a Japanese owner to buy or lease his farm discovers some unexpected questions coming up, in connection with the contract. He can take these questions straight to the War Board, where the most competent counsel is ready to help him. If any questions develop into issues, the War Board stands ready to arbitrate. In general, however, the State War Board is a coordinating agency. It unites the efforts of all the Department agencies in the State which participate in the Food for Freedom Program.

ANNOUNCER: There must be a lot of people listening who wonder about the credit angle. Just how much credit has entered into the new farming operations?

FSA AGENT: Well, in the first two weeks about 200 new operators applied directly to Farm Security for special loans, and 250 were referred to other credit agencies. The special loans we have made so far average about \$3,000.

ANNOUNCER: Suppose I felt qualified to farm some of these places and I had some definite questions to ask you. Would you care to run through a few typical questions that trouble the average man in my position?

FSA AGENT: By all means. Let's have them.

ANNOUNCER: First, Mr. Agent, should I go directly to the Japanese or others evacuating their land, to make arrangements for operating it, or should I come first to you, at the service center in the nearest U. S. Employment Service office?

FSA AGENT: Report first to the Farm Security agent. But if you are already dealing with a Japanese, you should also see the Farm Security agent, because he has information about the land for sale or lease, and contacts with the owners. He can save you time by pointing out the kind of land you particularly want, and putting you in touch with the man who wants to dispose of it.

ANNOUNCER: Will the Farm Security agent help me make financial arrangements in taking over a farm?

FSA AGENT: He will help you make a fair arrangement with land owners, lien holders, produce buyers, contractors, and others.

ANNOUNCER: Will he help me in planning new farm operations?

FSA AGENT: Certainly. You can count on the advice of farm experts, since they want the land to be used in the most efficient way. They will stress the need to continue with crops already planted, and to plant others in line with the war purposes, which now includes almost all crops.

ANNOUNCER: How will my Farm Security agent help me to get credit?

FSA Agent: He will help you make the statements necessary to show your credit rating. He will assist you in matters of security for loans. He will refer you to banks, private sources, the Farm Credit Administration, or the regular Farm Security rural rehabilitation offices. All government agencies have orders to give immediate priority to such loan applications. He will request the banks to aid you as quickly as possible.

ANNOUNCER: If I am still unable to get a loan, will the Farm Security agent at the service center give me one?

FSA AGENT: Yes, if you have security of tenure through ownership or lease, or some combination of these. If you are protected against foreclosure or judgment against the land or chattels. If you have proven ability to raise the crops already planted, as well as other war crops.

ANNOUNCER: For what purpose can I obtain these special loans?

FSA AGENT: For meeting any expense in connection with land use, including seed and fertilizer, livestock, farm machinery, equipment and tools, supplies and services.

ANNOUNCER: A while back, we talked about the number of people of Japanese descent who are affected by the Army evacuation order. I believe you said there were about 93,000, that they farmed about 200,000 acres, along with other nationals who will be evacuated later. You also estimated that they contributed every year about 40 percent of California's vegetable harvest. All this leads me to wonder if these farmers are not going to be missed pretty seriously by Uncle Sam's vegetable buyers.

FSA AGENT: When you consider that people who must be evacuated for the duration grew so much of California's vegetables on such a small proportion of the State's farming lands, you get a measure of the ability they demonstrated. Sure, they are going to be missed. But, _____, it's just one more tough emergency job the American people have got to lick in this war.

ANNOUNCER: I haven't a doubt in the world that American farmers have both the will and the skill for it, _____. They pitched in when our Continental army needed provisions in 1776, and ever since. I think the country can count on them today.

FSA AGENT: Food for Freedom is counting on them 100 percent.

ANNOUNCER: Friends, our speaker today was _____, special field agent for the Farm Security Administration. Mr. _____ is located at the Wartime Civilian Control Administration "service center" at the U. S. Employ-

ment Service office, _____ Street, _____, and if you are
interested in acquiring a Japanese farm, report to him today.

California
Arizona
Oregon
Washington

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

DW

WESTERN AGRICULTURE

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Friday, March 27, 1942

KEEPING UP PRODUCTION ON JAPANESE FARMS

GAPEN: Friends, for a front-line report on something new and big in West Coast agriculture, we welcome Larry Hewes, regional director of the Department of Agriculture's Farm Security Administration. The Farm Security boys are working night and day for the Army at the important job of seeing that production is kept up on the farms of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans, who must evacuate West Coast military zones very soon, and I don't blame Larry for looking a bit tired this morning. Larry, how's this rush job of yours coming?

HEWES: Rush job isn't half of it, Ken. Two weeks ago--on Friday the Thirteenth, by the way--the Army ordered us to see that Japanese and Japanese-American farming operations were transferred to new operators, with square deals all the way around. And they told us to see that the crops on the lands are harvested.

GAPEN: I understand you had just 84 hours to get into operation all along the West Coast.

HEWES: Yes, and by having our regular Farm Security agents drive across a couple of states, in many instances, we managed to do the job. There was a bit of confusion at first, but for the past ten days we've had field agents in most of the 64 "service centers" which the Wartime Civilian Control Administration has established in U. S. Employment Service offices on the Coast, and they are bringing Japanese and other farmers together, referring

the transfer of land, and getting the new operators credit to keep it in production.

GAPEN: I can just see the thousand and one questions your agents must be sending in in their letters.

HEWES: Letters? Ken--we've had to do all our work so far by telephone and telegraph. There isn't time to write. Here's a wire from Phoenix: "THIRTY-SEVEN CAPABLE GROWERS HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO BUY OUT VOLUNTARY EVACUEES ON EQUITABLE BASIS STOP GUARANTEE TO CONTINUE PRODUCTION ON EIGHTY PERCENT JAPANESE ACREAGE."

GAPEN: Your problem in that case is to get the Japanese to dispose of their land.

HEWES: Right. But here's one from Portland. "TODAY RECEIVED EIGHTY-THREE REQUESTS FROM JAPANESE TO RELINQUISH FARMS." In this case we need to find new operators. In most areas, Ken, we need more Japanese and Japanese-Americans to list their land with us, and we also need farmers willing to take over operations on the land. This is a rush job--and when the Army says rush it means rush. I want to relay this Army message to every farmer listening; if you know of Japanese farmers still on the land, or if you or your friends are interested in operating this vacated land, report at once to the Farm Security agent at the U. S. Employment Service office.

GAPEN: I notice the Army wants the Japanese to get their equity out of their farming operations by disposing of their operations now, and I think that's a good point, Larry. If they don't, they may lose a lot of money.

HEWES: Correct. By tomorrow our agents will have all this Japanese and Japanese-American land listed, and we want all farmers interested to look it over. All we ask is that they be able to grow the kind of crops needed for war purposes. Of course, we're going to see that everybody gets a square deal.

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GAPEN: That's where your negotiators and Federal appraisers come in--helping get the deals under way and setting fair values on the land.

HEWES: Yes. And if farmers are making deals on the outside, we want them to clear through us. The Army wants a full report on how this transfer process is working out.

GAPEN: How about helping the new operators get credit, Larry?

HEWES: Ken, we're ready to move on the double quick to get them the money they need to operate. We're asking all banks and commercial lending agencies to give immediate priority to loan applications from farmers taking over this evacuated land. And the same goes for the Farm Credit Administration.

GAPEN: Then if a farmer needs a real estate loan, the Federal Land Bank is ready to give him quick consideration. And the Production Credit Association will give him fast action on an application for a crop or livestock loan. Is that right?

HEWES: It is. And if no one else can help him, we will try to get the farmer a regular Farm Security rural rehabilitation or Food For Victory loan.

GAPEN: Suppose none of these agencies can help him?

HEWES: Then we have the authority and funds to make direct special loans, provided, of course, the farmer has secure tenure through ownership or lease, and protection against judgment on chattels.

GAPEN: Who is eligible for these special loans, Larry?

HEWES: Ken, the big job is to keep these vital crops in production. Often a day's delay will mean a crop loss. So we'll loan money to almost anyone who can farm the land properly.

GAPEN: That means to owners, tenants, farm laborers, partnerships and corporations?

HEWES: It does. Moreover, if we find that no individual is able to take over certain farming operations, we'll loan money to any organized group that can do the job. And we can make loans to secure the services necessary to operate this farm land on a cooperative basis.

GAPEN: I suppose the loans can be made for almost any necessary purpose?

HEWES: Yes, for any expense or charge in connection with land use. That includes seed and fertilizer, livestock, farm machinery, equipment, and supplies and services.

GAPEN: And the loans are for one year?

HEWES: Yes, except that renewals may be necessary where capital goods are being purchased.

GAPEN: Can you aid in the disposition of greenhouses?

HEWES: Yes, we can.

GAPEN: That's all clear enough, Larry. Now to cut back a minute. Just whom does Farm Security represent in doing this work?

HEWES: We're doing this work at direct Army orders from General DeWitt, and under the Wartime Civilian Control Administration -- the organization set up by the Army to handle the evacuation problem. But we're also representing the United States Department of Agriculture, and we're cooperating with the Department of Agriculture War Boards in California, Arizona, Washington and Oregon.

GAPEN: And I know that Bill Cecil, director of the California State Department of Agriculture, is cooperating with you, so I guess that makes it a job for everybody.

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HEWES: Yes, Ken, this isn't a Farm Security job. It's an American job. We're in a war, all of us, and this is a vital assignment. Japanese lands cover 240,000 acres on the West Coast, and the farms alone are worth \$70,000,000. In California they produce a great proportion of such crops as tomatoes, celery, peas, spinach, snap beans -- all crops we must have to help win the war. So I want to repeat -- every farmer interested in any way in transferring these lands to new operation should check with our Farm Security agent at the U. S. Employment Service offices at once.

GAPEN: I'm with you a hundred percent, Larry. I think it's the patriotic duty of every American farmer who can possibly do so to step in and help keep these farm lands in production -- even if he can't be sure of making profits this year. I think it's the least an American farmer can do. And I want to join Larry in urging speed, speed, and more speed. If you're a Japanese or Japanese-American farm owner or tenant, check with your Farm Security agent at the U. S. Employment office today. If you are interested in operating this land that will be vacated, then be sure you check with the Farm Security agent. This isn't just our request -- it's an Army request. Let's keep this Food For Victory growing and be sure that it's grown and harvested, along with the other food that we're counting on to win the war and write the peace.

Our reporter today was Larry Hewes, regional director of the Farm Security Administration.