

CHATS WITH THE WEATHER MAN.

RELEASE Friday, May 30, 1930.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Come right in, Mr. Ob. Server! — Sit right down. Tell us more about the work of the U. S. Weather Bureau. Our folks have been expecting you. They count on you being here to chat with them once every two weeks; so start right in. — Where have you been, since last time? —

Well, I've been talking with Mr. J. B. Kincer. He has been telling me about how Uncle Sam keeps us posted on the effect of the weather on the crops. Mr. Kincer is in charge of the Division of Agricultural Meteorology of the U. S. Weather Bureau. That is the Division which collects the crop weather reports from all over and gets us the last minute word as to what the weather has been.

That's a mighty important service too. Of course, everybody knows what kind of weather he has just had in his neighborhood. But how about the other fellows growing the same kind of crops? What kind of weather did they have?

If we didn't have some way of getting a reliable and accurate picture of what the weather affecting crops has been, rumors would be rife. False reports might be started by unscrupulous speculators. Market prices for farm stuff might be forced down without real cause. Mr. Kincer says that one of the main purposes of crop weather services is to stabilize the market by forestalling any rumors which may get abroad.

True, the regular monthly Crop Reports issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture serve that end. But these daily and weekly reports of crop weather fill in between those regular crop-condition reports and forestall false rumors which might otherwise disturb the market in between time. You know a whole lot can happen to your crops during a long critical growing month.

Mr. Kincer tells me the Weather Bureau has two of these services for keeping farmers and others informed about weather conditions as they affect farming. One is a daily wire service. The other is the once a week Crop and Weather report covering the weather for the past week over the entire country.

The daily service is maintained during the growing season in the Grain and Cotton regions. The Corn and Wheat section is divided into thirteen districts and the Cotton Belt is also divided into thirteen districts. Each morning in addition to the regular Weather Bureau reports, each of the district centers gets special telegrams giving the details as to rainfall, and temperature, and the like from a special corps of observers scattered through each district.

Those observers are local men, who have been equipped with standard weather instruments. There are about 500 of them in the Grain and Cotton

Regions, who cooperate with the Weather Bureau in this way. They have to make an observation each day and file a telegram. They are paid twenty-five cents for each observation.

Those observations merely supply the detailed figures as to actual weather conditions. The effect of the weather on the chief crops in all parts of the country is noted in the summaries given in the other service called the Weekly Weather and Crop Service. The machinery for getting out that highly-important weekly service is even more interesting. Mr. Kincer says the chief feature of it is its up-to-dateness. It is the last minute word on what the weather has been during the past week, as reported by a large number of Weather-Crop correspondents in each State.

A Weather-Crop correspondent on a farm in the Middle West or on the Pacific Coast will note whether the weather has been favorable or unfavorable, in his section, too wet or too dry, during the past week. He will mark the post-card he has been given for that purpose and drop it in the mail Monday afternoon. The information on that post-card will be combined with that on thousands of other post-cards from thousands of other weather-crop-correspondents. The whole will be summarized, and printed, and given out in printed form at the headquarters of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Washington, D. C. at ten o'clock sharp Wednesday morning.

Of course, such speed wouldn't be possible if the cards were mailed direct to Washington. These crop weather reports are summarized and the summaries relayed to the central office from various State centers by telegraph. The State centers also publish the summary of the weeks weather and its effect on crops in that State made up in somewhat greater detail from these same post-card reports.

There are different cards for different parts of the country, because the crops in different parts are different. What the weather of the week did for or against the wheat or corn or oats or cabbage or what not is checked on the cards. If the farmer correspondent cooperating in this work is too far away from the State center for his card mailed Monday afternoon to reach the central Weather Bureau station of the State over night, he is instructed to mail to the nearest weather bureau station, from where a summary is sent to the State center by wire. All the reports showing conditions up to Monday afternoon must be in the State early Tuesday morning.

Each State or section center they must make a summary for the entire State and forward it to the central office at Washington by wire. It must be in Washington not later than Tuesday noon. Some section centers have up to 1500 Weather-Crop correspondents to supply a complete picture of weather in the State.

The weather-crop correspondents make their reports free of charge. They get nothing for their trouble. The whole service is on a cooperative basis, Mr. Kincer says.

But while these reports give a complete picture of the weather as it has affected crops in this country that is not the whole story. To complete the picture, the Weather Bureau exchanges information with meteorological

services of Argentina, Canada, England, India, and Australia during the growing season in those countries which produce crops in competition with ours. Those government weather services swap crop-weather with our Weather Bureau, and their reports are included in the Weekly Crop and Weather Reports issued each Wednesday at Washington. This gives an up to the minute birds eye view, as it were, of weather and crop conditions for most of the principal agricultural countries of the world.

So you see it takes quite an elaborate system of information to keep down wild weather talk which might up-set markets and hurt prices.

ANNOUNCEMENT: You have just listened to the regular chat with the weather man presented by Station_____. These chats are presented by this Station in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Tune in on another of these talks two weeks from today.

###

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ERRATA NOTICE

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or Library.Reference@noaa.gov

HOV Services
Imaging Contractor
12200 Kiln Court
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010