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May 23, 1933

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 16, 1933

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RADIO WEATHER FORECASTS FOR FARMERS

One of the countries in which the official weather men are making great efforts to aid the farmers is France. Of the two weather forecasts issued daily by radiotelephone from the Eiffel Tower, the second, broadcast in the early evening, contains predictions for each of the 12 districts into which France is divided for forecasting purposes, and these announcements include information concerning expected frosts, rain, hail and other weather events of interest to agriculture.

A more intensive service is performed by some of the local broadcasting stations, which amplify the predictions for particular districts. These broadcasts point out the application of the weather predictions to various rural undertakings, such as plowing, spreading of fertilizer, harvesting operations, etc. They also announce the coming of weather conditions favorable for protective measures against plant diseases and insect pests, give advice about frost protection, point out the value of certain fertilizers as a means of protection from excessive moisture or drought, and, in some cases, furnish advice concerning such matters as the selection of crops and the timing of agricultural operations in accordance with the local climate.

The French meteorological service hopes before long to provide farmers and the public generally with daily weather maps transmitted by facsimile radio. A map of this kind has been broadcast experimentally for some time from the Eiffel Tower.

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