

(5) WASTAGE

It was recommended—

That all countries should immediately undertake special campaigns, adjusted to the particular situation in each country and making use of all available administrative and education resources, to reduce waste of food in all forms, including:—

(a) Waste on farms.

(b) Waste due to infestation of stored foods by rats, mice, insects, and mites, and mould fungi.

(c) Waste by consumers in homes, institutions, and public eating places.

It was suggested that vigorous efforts might reduce wastage in 1946-47 by 1,000,000 tons.

(6) LIVE-STOCK FEEDING

This item was discussed at great length, and a sub-committee composed of members from Australia, Canada, France, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States prepared a draft recommendation for consideration. The representatives of France and the Netherlands made strong pleas for re-establishment of their live-stock, and while this desire of these and other war-devastated countries was fully appreciated, the countries exporting grain felt that it would be most difficult to justify reductions in their live-stock so that additional grain could be made available to other countries which were building up their live-stock. The French representative recommended that FAO suggest live-stock numbers for each country, but this did not find agreement in the Committee. Pigs and poultry came in for the most criticisms, and it was pointed out that in both Australia and New Zealand the most numerous and important live-stock—sheep and cattle—were for the most part pasture-fed.

It was recommended—

(a) That each country should take such measures as in its particular circumstances are best fitted to secure that during the crop year 1946-47 (i) bread grain is not fed to live-stock except where, owing to the special circumstances of a particular country, no food would be gained by enforcing such a prohibition; (ii) the maximum use is made of pasture, hay, straw, and other bulky fodder and waste products; (iii) dairy cows producing milk wholly for general human consumption and draught animals receive priority in any necessary feeding of coarse grains; (iv) second priority should be given to the maintenance of a nucleus of high-quality breeding-stock of all kinds; (v) the feeding of grain to other stock, especially pigs and poultry, be reduced to the minimum; (vi) adequate publicity be employed to encourage the adoption by producers of the policies referred to above;

(b) That special attention be given to securing that the 1946 harvest is not dissipated, in the early months after it has been reaped, by live-stock feeding, contrary to the recommendations in (a) above. The Committee considered that the above objects could best be secured by price policy, by control (and, where practicable, rationing) of concentrate feed, by salvage and distribution of unavoidable waste suitable for stock feeding, and by information services and publicity methods;

(c) That price policy should aim at encouraging (i) the sale of crops and milk for direct human consumption as against live-stock products other than milk; (ii) the feeding of meat-producing animals to produce the maximum quantity of meat in relation to the amount of grain fed, without undue regard to quality; and (iii) the slaughter of stock which cannot be economically fed. The Committee considered that if concentrate feed rationing and