

Brief for W. H. H. ...

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National Food Plan with Particular Reference to the Inter-Relationship of Federal, State, Local and Family Plans for the Year 1943

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed a national food plan with responsibilities for food as a basic element of the national food plan. In cooperation with other Federal agencies, the national food plan is being developed in cooperation with the food industry generally, and the public.

In this statement particular reference is made to the national food plan for the period since plans for the year 1943 are being developed.

Food Action in Immediate Future - To Help Meet the Needs of the Nation

The individual family should be prepared to meet the needs of the family in the event of a family fallout shelter for the period of 72 hours. The best prepared families will be those which have been used, and some families will be able to meet the needs of the families and individual who are not prepared for the needs of the families as soon as it is safe to return to the homes. It is emphasized that the rationing and mass food program should be completed as soon as possible.

It is emphasized that the USDA will be closely working with the food processors and distributors to help them to meet the needs of the nation when necessary to complete the national food plan.

Whenever it appears the food supply is being depleted, the wholesale stocks designated for the national food plan should be used upon requirements, they should be used for the needs of the national food plan.

Even if communications with the national office of the USDA, the local office of USDA will be able to help the local office to insure the best utilization of the national food plan. Also, the local office and farm level should be working with the national office of the USDA to insure the best utilization of the national food plan.

If communications are not being developed from the local office of the USDA, the local office should be working with the national office of the USDA to insure the best utilization of the national food plan.

USDA will make every effort to insure the best utilization of the national food plan. In carrying out the national food plan, the USDA will be working with the local office of the USDA to insure the best utilization of the national food plan.

or divert from a community which needs to maintain a minimum level of activity. A possible exception would be production of food for the military. A primary function of the Government is to ensure that all people in all areas are fed and that the economy is maintained.

Even in the immediate post-attack period it is not enough to concentrate on the proper distribution of food supplies which is distributed in the attack. It is also important that essential food production and processing be continued at the highest level and that the necessary supplies be maintained.

There will be need to see that the production of food and other essential conserve products is maintained for future use and that the production in those areas where production is interrupted is not interrupted by contamination.

In all this activity full cooperation and coordination will be maintained between Federal, State and local government. The Federal Government, USDA, the Office of Defense Production Administration and other Federal agencies which have programs of responsibility for the production of goods and services which are essential to the national program.

USDA will look to State and local government for assistance in obtaining such essential supporting facilities as transportation, fuel, and other manpower in the immediate post-attack period when such resources are not obtained through Federal resources.

The plan just outlined is described more fully in the "National Plan of Preparedness" which is Annex 31 to the "National Plan of Civil Defense and National Mobilization". This plan is being developed in cooperation with the following preparedness subcommittees:

Preparedness Measures:

A broad educational program has been set forward at the Federal, State and local levels designed to help the people understand the relative responsibilities of the Federal, State and local government for food as they will apply to the post-attack period.

State and local government will be responsible for the maintenance of inventory and for the control of food distribution in the immediate post-attack period, so as to insure the availability of the maximum available food supplies. State and local governments will be responsible for the maintaining of home and other food distribution programs and for the feeding which will be necessary in the immediate post-attack period.

Plans of USDA take into account the responsibilities of the State and local government and the Department has as a part of its program to coordinate the

USDA will proceed to start a survey field program. The program will be designed to determine how much of the available surplus can be utilized at State, county and community levels. Additional authority will be delegated to appropriate officials of State and local health departments during emergency periods.

Ability to assess the effects of all emergency programs is being developed. A study is being conducted on the availability of all major food processing and distribution facilities. It should also be noted that the health department will be responsible for a program for members of the public who will be affected during emergency periods.

The food program is a defense program which is designed to protect the defense against biological and chemical warfare, to protect the food and crops, and defend against the economic costs.

Total Food Supplies With or Without War

Studies made by the USDA show that the available supply of food will be adequate immediately following a war. However, the main problem will be the distribution of food and as sure equitable distribution of food to all people.

This is a principal reason why a health program is advocated.

It is recognized, however, that a food shortage will occur if the supply that public agencies have built up with the surplus of food is not used. A buildup of food stocks not put to use will be a major problem for the States may be needed. It is also recognized that the health program will be needed for some areas which have food and distribution problems, particularly vulnerable.

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Summary and Reference to Legislative Provisions

In summary, it is clear that the health program is a major one for the

USDA, State and local government, farmers, food processors, contributors and the public all have a role to play in the immediate post-attack period.

It will be necessary for all to cooperate only if the food and people is to be accomplished successfully. This cooperation will be possible only if adequate plans are in the works and if these plans are fully understood by all concerned in the event an emergency occurs.

Readiness to carry out the emergency food program is assured by what by the fact that the country is now well stocked with a wide variety of many commodities and by the fact that the USDA has a large and experienced staff of personnel already administering programs which are designed to meet an emergency with little adaptation.

Although major emphasis has been placed on food problems in the immediate post-attack period, the problem does not stop there. The processing and distribution of food in the longer range period will necessitate the continued cooperative and best efforts of the Federal, State and local governments; the food processors and farmers; and the public. Plans are being developed to meet these needs.