

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FARM LABOR REPORT

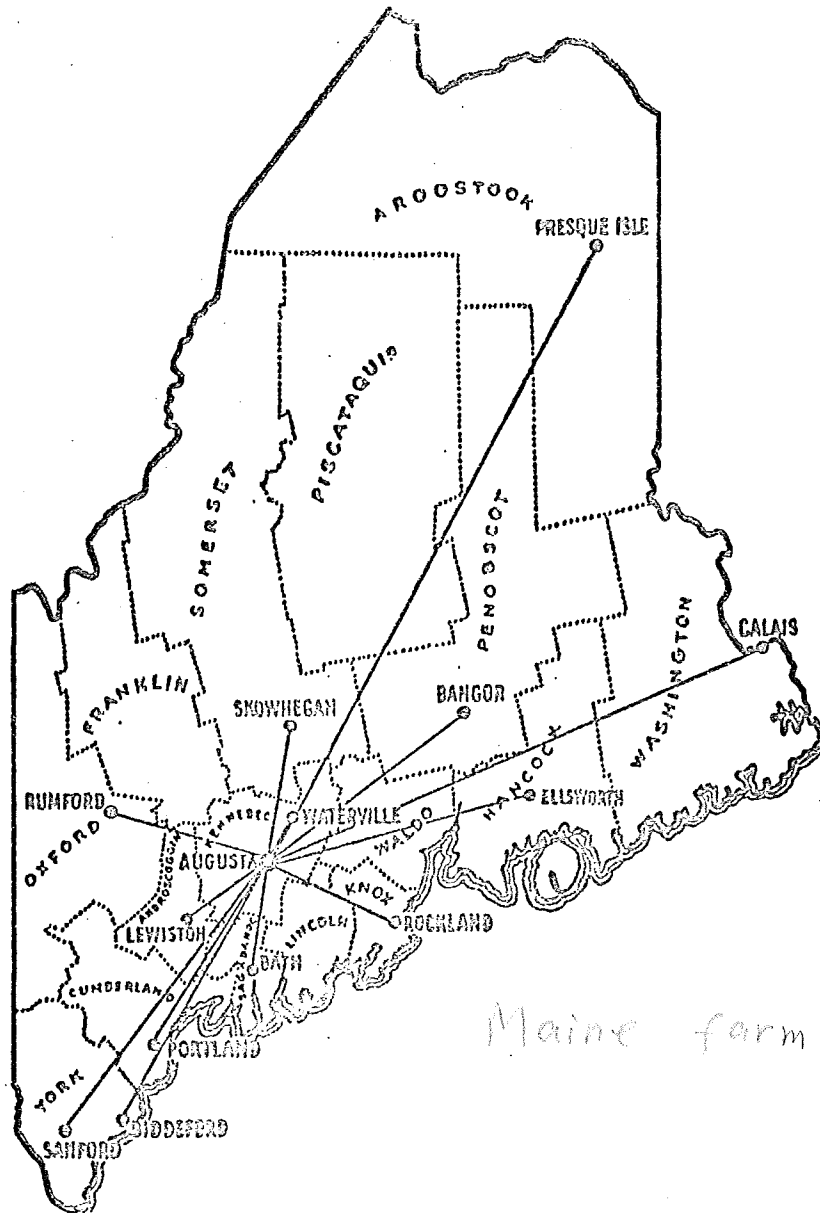
*Employment Security
Commission*



1969

MAINE

ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL
and
FOOD PROCESSING REPORT



Maine farm labor report

MAINE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

233228

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1969

STATE OF MAINE

ANNUAL REPORT
ON
FARM EMPLOYMENT

MAINE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

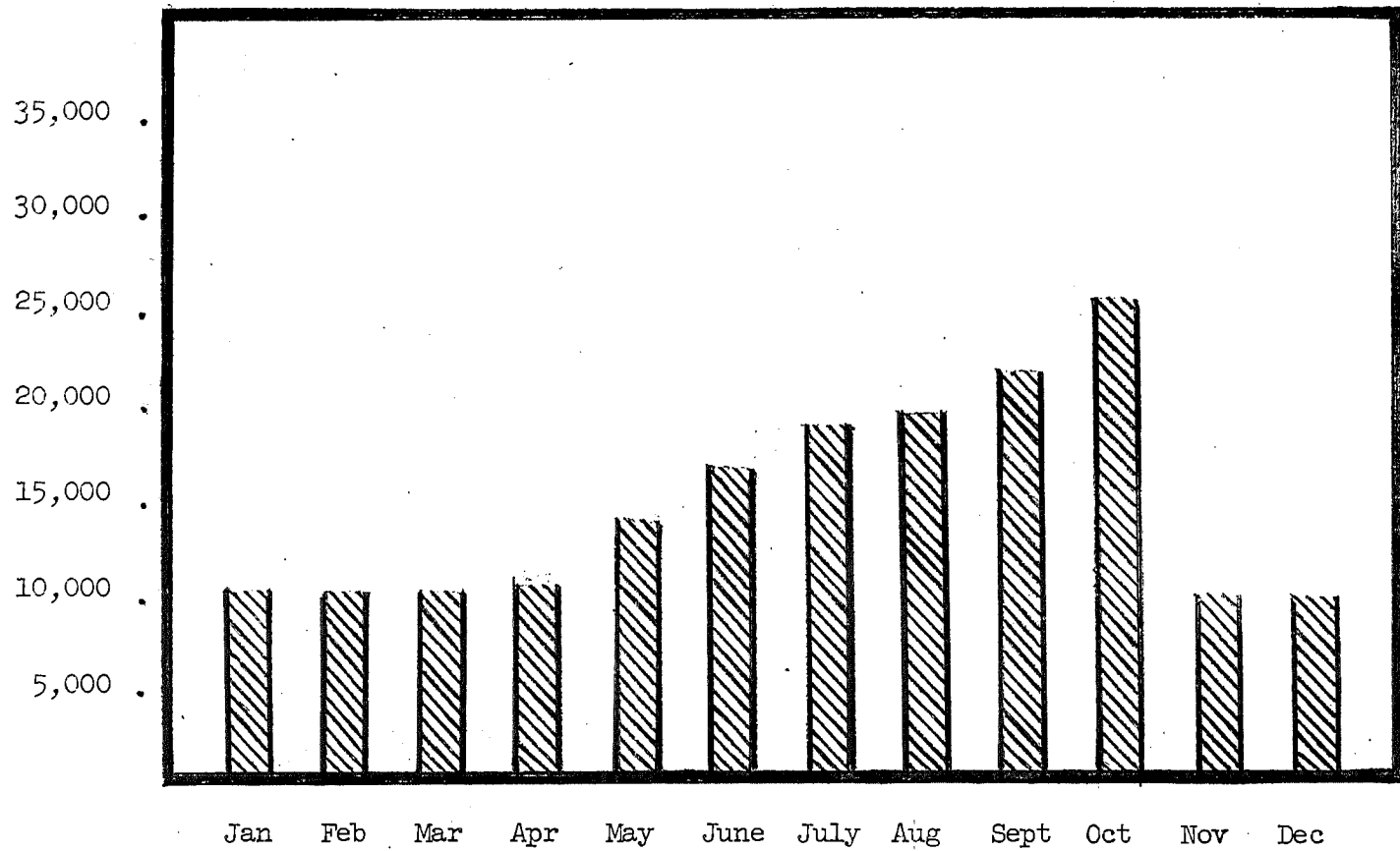
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MAINE'S AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1969 BY MONTH



ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL
AND
FOOD PROCESSING REPORT

1969
MAINE

PART I: ANNUAL SUMMARY

Planning

- A. The Agricultural program is operated under the general administrative supervision of the Employment Service Director. Direct administration, planning, training, supervision, coordination, analysis, promotion and evaluation of statewide operations are the responsibilities of an Employment Specialist.

Local office managers have direct responsibilities for the operation of the Farm Placement Program in their areas, the supervision of interviewers and farm placement representatives with farm program assignments.

Each local office and the administrative office unit documented pre-season plans for operating the program early in 1969. These plans projected actions to be taken to meet anticipated area and State requirements and problems. This included plans to secure information from growers and canners regarding the amount and location of crops and acreages, whether or not machine or hand harvesting would be involved and the extent of each method. The information received was basic to establishing labor needs for various crops within each local office area of operations.

Recruitment of youth, started about April 1, active file call-ins, complete surveys of all local office applicant files including youth registrations used during the previous season, utilization of the press, radio, television, crop posters, and visits to youth gathering spots such as swimming pools and playgrounds in accordance with the needs as they developed prior to and during the crop harvest season. Where potential importation of agricultural workers was indicated, plans were made to develop information on the potential domestic labor supply and the required labor force at the earliest dates possible.

The basis for this planning was initially established from the experience and records of the previous years. The information available indicated that it would be necessary to have meetings with market garden growers regarding Puerto Rican usage; orchardists who might require Canadian importation for the apple harvest; and the importation of Canadians for the Aroostook County potato crop.

B. Meetings

1. National Farm Labor Conference - Daytona Beach, Florida - Jan. 6,7,8
2. Woods Meeting - Revised Procedures - Holiday Inn, Augusta - March 4
3. York County Apple Growers Co-op - Sanford, July 10
4. Canadian Department of Manpower and Immigration - U. S. Department of Labor - Potato Harvest Worker Movement to Aroostook County - Fredrickton, N.B. - July 31 - August 1

MAINE CASH FARM INCOME

Ten-year average 1959-1968, inclusive:

	TOTAL Dollars	CROPS Dollars	LIVESTOCK (INCL. POULTRY) Dollars
Ten-year average	213,022,500	84,459,100	128,563,400
1959	177,000,000	58,500,000	118,500,000
1960	214,000,000	92,800,000	121,200,000
1961	184,000,000	65,000,000	119,000,000
1962	190,400,000	65,400,000	125,000,000
1963	195,700,000	66,500,000	129,200,000
1964	229,750,000	100,600,000	129,150,000
1965	280,400,000	150,300,000	130,100,000
1966	242,834,000	100,912,000	141,922,000
1967	206,334,000	74,122,000	132,212,000
1968	209,807,000	70,457,000	139,350,000

	1967 Dollars	1968 Dollars	1968 % of 1967
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS			
MEAT ANIMALS			
Cattle and calves	6,172,000	6,241,000	101
Other Meat animals <u>1/</u>	692,000	727,000	105
TOTAL.....	6,864,000	6,968,000	102
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....Total	35,786,000	37,529,000	105
POULTRY AND EGGS			
Broilers	48,187,000	47,810,000	99
Eggs	37,960,000	43,788,000	115
Chickens, Farm	2,546,000	2,508,000	98
Turkeys	185,000	229,000	124
TOTAL.....	88,878,000	94,335,000	106
MISC. LIVESTOCK & POULTRY....Total <u>2/</u>	684,000	518,000	76
TOTAL LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	132,212,000	139,350,000	105
CROPS			
FEED CROPS.....Total	2,223,000	2,176,000	98
VEGETABLES			
Potatoes	50,075,000	45,240,000	90
Other Vegetables	5,358,000	5,517,000	103
TOTAL.....	55,433,000	50,757,000	90
FRUITS			
Apples	3,602,000	3,855,000	107
Strawberries	385,000	311,000	81
Other Berries <u>3/</u>	3,010,000	1,965,000	65
TOTAL.....	6,997,000	6,131,000	88
ALL OTHER CROPS			
Forest	4,976,000	5,233,000	105
Greenhouse and nursery	2,966,000	3,237,000	109
Maple products	59,000	46,000	78
Sugar Beets	1,416,000	2,820,000	199
Misc. crops	52,000	57,000	110
TOTAL.....	9,469,000	11,393,000	120
TOTAL CROPS.....	74,122,000	70,457,000	95
TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES	206,334,000	209,807,000	102

1/ Hogs, Sheep, Lambs 2/ Wool, Honey, Other Livestock and Poultry
3/ Principally Blueberries

5. Meeting with Industry regarding cutting rate for tree-length operations
Administrative Office - October 20
6. Meeting with American Pulpwood Association - Administrative Office -
December 16

Employment Trends

A. Seasonal Hired Workers

Maine's various crops require an aggregate harvest work force of approximately 30,000. The majority of these workers are employed in the Aroostook County potato harvest; the balance are used in the apple harvest, market gardens and berries.

Included are 17 Puerto Ricans (non-contract) for market gardens, 1,530 Canadians for the potato harvest and 400 Canadians for apple picking.

1. Market Garden

Land in the Cape Elizabeth - South Portland areas, formerly used to produce a variety of market garden crops, continues to be diverted to housing developments. As a direct result, the Portland day-haul program is now practically non-existent. What few markets remain are able to recruit younger workers residing in nearby housing developments.

2. Berries

The blueberry crop normally is harvested during the months of July and August. The major area includes portions of Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, Washington, and York Counties, which together comprise nearly 3,000,000 acres, of which in excess of 20,000 acres consists of blueberry fields. Depending upon the area and utilization of irrigation, the 1969 yield was 25% to 35% below normal as a result of winter kill coupled with poor pollination. The availability of adults and older children as rakers continued to diminish; consequently, recruitment has become increasingly difficult during the past few years. This situation is due in part to increased activities in other vacation-oriented industries, such as summer camps, motels and related businesses in which employment is of a considerably longer duration. To further complicate matters, other programs - local, state and national - have further reduced the supply. Five years ago the bulk of rakers were 16 or older, while today most rakers are between 13 and 16 years of age. Over 1,600 different individuals for day-haul were recruited for the blueberry harvest alone.

3. Apples (Importing Growers)

Again this year, weather played a decisive role in the conduct of the apple harvest. The history of the weather has a predominance of years with early September frost resulting in mid-September peak. The weather continued favorable throughout July and August, and pre-season estimates suggested a crop from ten to fifteen percent in excess of 1968. However, with the start of the actual picking, estimates were scaled downward. For September, weather was very similar to that of the two preceding years with warm, wet weather which stimulated growth and inhibited coloring of apples to market acceptable standards. As a result, full utilization of full and part-time

pickers was most difficult, and an operation of continued spot picking was the usual pattern. Although figures are not currently available, there is every indication that state-wide crop loss may have been considerable.

4. Aroostook County Potatoes

Composition of the Aroostook County Labor Force for the potato harvest is as follows:

Local adults (male and female)	4,500	(includes an estimated 600 visa
School youth (male and female)	14,500	Canadians)
Indians (Canadian and American)	700	19,700 available local labor
Canadians-bonded (male and female)	<u>1,530</u>	
	21,230	Total required labor force

In Aroostook County, in addition to approximately 130,000 acres of potatoes, large amounts of peas and sugar beets are also grown. The planting, growing and harvesting of all crops was seriously retarded by excessive amounts of moisture. It is estimated that the planting of crops was ten to fifteen days late with a corresponding delay in the various harvests. The potato harvest was plagued by alternating wet, cold and freezing weather, with up to seven inches of snow in some areas to further complicate matters. This type of harvest weather made it virtually impossible for growers to fully utilize picking crews that were available at the outset of digging, as well as the mechanical harvester. Approximately 65 percent of the potato crop is now being harvested by mechanical harvesters.

Women, children, Indians and Canadians accounted for the majority of stoop labor; machine operating, barrel handling and potato house labor is mainly accomplished by local adult males.

B. Food Processing

At the present time there are five processing plants located within Aroostook County. These plants employ an estimated 2,400 individuals and process about 13,000,000 cwt. of potatoes. Proposed expansion plans for some of these plants have been held in abeyance because of the costliness of borrowing money for this purpose.

Impact of Mechanization

Seasonal Farm Workers

Because of the continuing increased use of a mechanical potato harvester, manpower needs for the harvest have steadily declined over the past several years. Of particular significance in connection with this reduction of manpower requirements for the harvest has been the development of a two-row air-separation machine, which requires no more than two or three people to operate.

A new mechanical principle applied to the harvesting of wild low-bush blueberries was reported in the Winter 1968-69 issue of Research in the Life Sciences. This principle was subsequently used in the fabrication of a prototype blueberry harvester produced by the Chisholm-Ryder Corporation of Niagara Falls, New York. The prototype has now been tested in Maine blueberry fields by members of the Agricultural Engineering Department of the University of Maine cooperating with Chisholm-Ryder engineers. Field trials have proven the machine to be highly efficient.

Recruitment of Farm Workers

Special Recruitment

Radio jobcasts, television time, news stories, radio spot announcements, file search, screening previous season placements, clearance orders, concentrated efforts to recruit industrial temporary mass lay-off workers and recruitment at youth gathering places such as playgrounds and swimming pools in addition to pre-season youth recruitment at schools were methods used to promote more domestic seasonal workers.

Emphasis was placed on recruitment of seasonal harvest hands for the apple and potato crops. The domestic available supply is decreasing and the demand for apple pickers is increasing.

Shortages have prevailed for some time in the supply of domestic seasonal apple and potato harvest hands and are expected to continue next season.

The demand and supply of regular hired farm workers are low and in balance.

1. Housing

In order to insure compliance with Federal Housing Regulations, the following inspections were made in the field during the 1969 season: Aroostook County (Potatoes) - 70, Apples - 31, Woods - 136.

In general, housing continues to show a marked improvement, particularly that of woods operators.

2. Wage Surveys

The following wage surveys were completed in the field during 1969 with follow-up in the field by the Maine Employment Security Commission and the U. S. Department of Labor on all phases of the Secretary's Regulations:

Agricultural Wage Surveys - 1969

Apple Pickers-

Crop Wage Area 1-21-01	Kennebec Valley - Strip picking----	Sept. 28
Crop Wage Area 1-21-05	Western Maine - Strip picking----	Oct. 10
	Spot picking-----	Oct. 10

Potato Harvest - Crop Wage Area - Aroostook County - 21-01-VH-8

Barrel handlers)	
Truck drivers)	
Tractor & Equipment Operators)	
Pickers (per barrel))	----All Sept. 29 - Oct. 3
Potato House workers)	
Harvest Machine workers)	

3. Evaluation of Results

Overall operations of the farm program are considered reasonably successful, due primarily to the fact that the major objective to fill firm justified orders for seasonal agricultural labor was attained. In no case were crop losses a result of a shortage of labor, weather conditions being the primary cause of losses.

The planned program for overall operations was carried out successfully. This included recruitment of available domestic labor, contact with growers and canners to establish needs, recruitment of qualified crew leaders, supervision of youth working conditions, and the documentation of prevailing wage rates through wage surveys. Importation of Canadian apple and potato pickers, again, was necessary to supplement a shortage of domestic harvest hands. Hourly earnings were considerably in excess of the established adverse effect rate, which for the State of Maine was set at \$1.72 an hour.

Rural Development and Community Program Activities

During the first half of 1969, a Manpower Resource Study was undertaken and completed in coastal Hancock County. This, also, included a survey of blueberry acreage of the area.

During the months of June and July, outreach activity was performed in Piscataquis and Hancock Counties. Simultaneously, a labor need survey was conducted in Aroostook County to determine labor requirements for the potato harvest. Other manpower resource studies were completed in the Van-Buren and Oxford County areas.

Finally, three available labor surveys were completed in South Paris, Pittsfield and Rockland.

Hancock County	Total Registrants	2088
	Male	1030
	Female	1058
Piscataquis County	Employer Visits	88
	Job Orders	46
	Placements	8
	O.J.T. Prospects	4 - 38 people
Available Labor Surveys	Rockland	350 Registered
	So. Paris	48 "
	Pittsfield	213 "
Testing	Waldoboro	78
	Belfast	59
Oxford County to-date		597 Registered

Intra-state and Inter-state Migratory Seasonal Labor

Again this year three Lewiston area orchardists used a total of thirty-nine (39) migratory workers, twelve (12) fewer than last year. A fourth grower would also have employed migrant pickers had recruitment efforts been successful. Those orchardists who employed migrant workers during 1969 harvest have indicated an interest in using them again next year.

The Importance of the Logging Industry

The utilization of the State's abundant forest lands through logging is the base upon which over 40 percent of our State's manufacturing economy is built. This 40 percent represents the product value of three major manufacturing industries directly concerned with logs; namely, Paper and Allied Products,

Lumber and Wood Products, and Furniture and Fixtures. In addition, there are those manufacturing industries which are both directly and indirectly dependent upon these industries either as suppliers or consumers, such as chemicals, printing, machinery, transportation equipment, etc. Moreover, there are also tertiary industries which are either directly or indirectly dependent upon the basic three, such as transportation, public utilities, banking, wholesale trade - not to mention the service and retail groups which are dependent upon the income generated from logging and log-derived products.

PART II: OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEAR

A. State Forecast

In general, agricultural activity is expected to be about the same during 1970. Weather conditions, again, will play a significant part. Extreme difficulties are anticipated in recruiting sufficient domestic full-time apple pickers, and a shortage of approximately 1,500 potato pickers is expected. In all probability, the demand for apple pickers will be greater and the supply less. This will be a major problem in 1970, particularly in the Augusta, Lewiston, Portland and Sanford areas.

B. Area Forecast

The demand and supply should be about the same for potato pickers in the Aroostook County area. As noted above under State Forecast, apple pickers will be in greater demand. The demand for blueberry rakers should remain about the same in the York County area, as well as in Washington County.

C. Peak Harvest Periods, Estimated, Crop Reporting Areas

Aroostook County	East Coast	Central Maine	Kennebec Valley	Western Maine
1-21-01	1-21-02	1-21-03	1-21-04	1-21-05
Presque Isle	Calais	Rockland Bangor	Augusta Bath Skowhegan	Lewiston Portland Rumford Sanford

Potato Planting
and Care 5/1/-9/15

Market Gardens	6/1-9/1	5/1-11/1
Strawberry Harvest	7/1-8/1	7/1-8/1

Blueberry Raking	8/1-9/1	8/1-9/1	8/1-9/1	7/15-8/15
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Apple Harvest	9/15-10/30	9/15-11/15
Potato Harvest	9/15-10/15	

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEASONAL HIRED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS REPORTED ON FORM ES-223, 1969

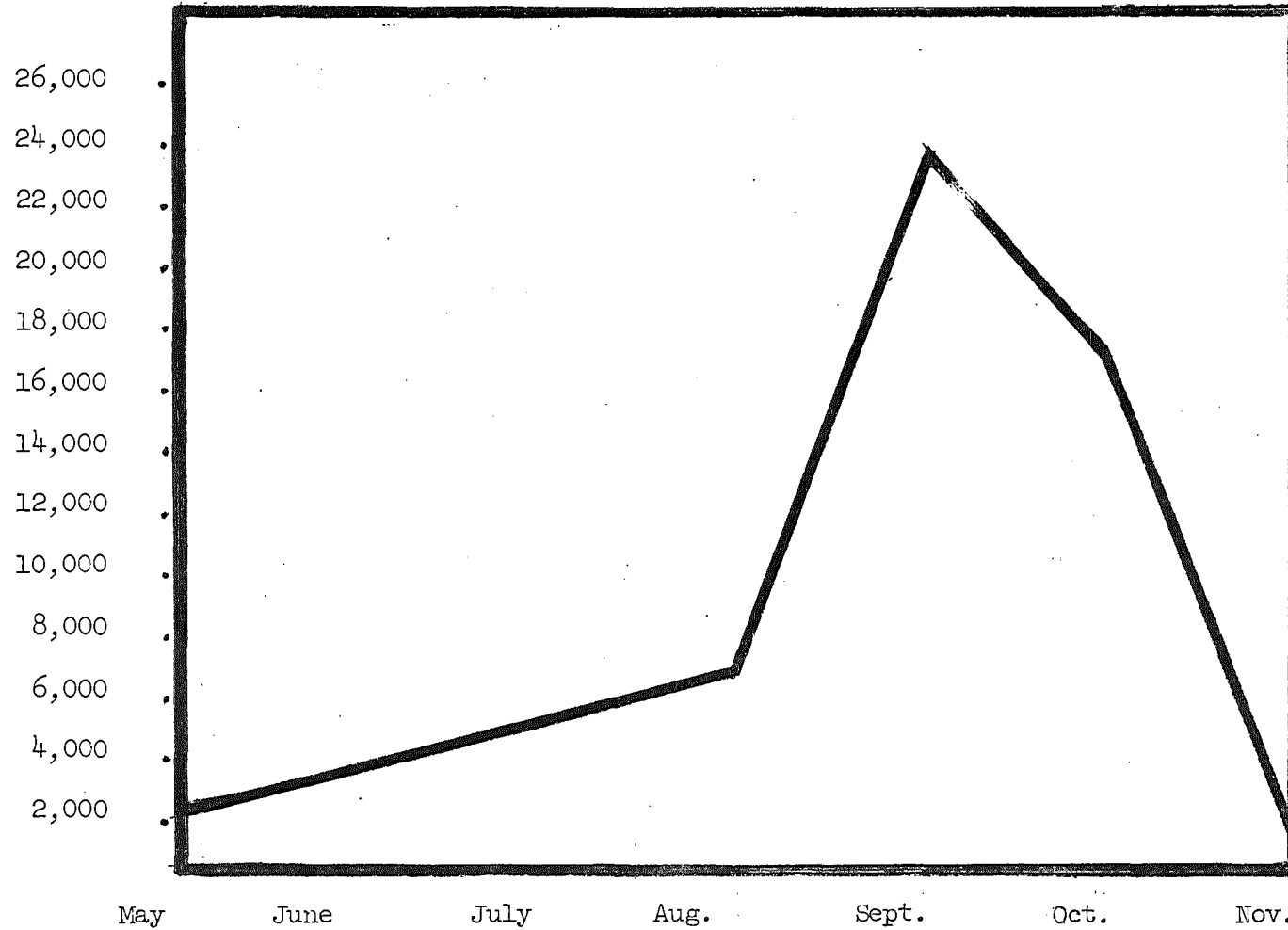
Note: Figures are shown here for (1) mid-month periods generally rather than mid- and end-of-month periods as previously; (2) only for areas which at a mid-month period had a minimum of 500 seasonal hired workers or foreign workers; or (3) as specifically required (Ref: ES Manual, Part III, Ch. 4804, B, 2).

Area and Local Office	Reporting Dates							
	May 31	June 15	July 15	Aug. 15	September		October	
					15	30	15	31
1-21-01 Aroostook County Presque Isle (figures identical)	2,425	2,410	2,885	2,890	3,020	21,044 <u>1/</u>	15,009	1,399
1-21-02 East Coast Calais Ellsworth				800 300 500				
1-21-03 Central Maine Bangor Rockland			990 240 750	1,119 295 824		300 300 -	300 300 -	
1-21-04 Kennebec Valley Augusta Skowhegan						280 <u>2/</u> 239 41	248 <u>2/</u> 214 34	138 <u>2/</u> 104 34
1-21-05 Western Maine Portland Lewiston Sanford Rumford					343 204 75 64 -	710 136 297 240 37	592 131 227 170 64	

1/ Potato harvesting only.

2/ Apple harvesting only.

MAINE'S STUDENT AND SEASONAL HIRED FARM-WORKERS



AREAS: Aroostook County, East Coast, Central Maine, Kennebec Valley and Western Maine

SELECTED DATA ON FARM PLACEMENT OPERATIONS

ITEM	NUMBER
SECTION A. DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY	
1. Towns with day-haul points	1
2. Number of day-haul points	12
3. Sum of days day-haul points operated during year	198
4. Total number of workers transported during year	2,000 Est.
SECTION B. SELECTED SERVICES TO SCHOOL-AGE WORKERS (under 22 years)	
5. Supervised camps <u>operated</u> for school-age farm workers	NA
a. Placements in camps	NA
6. Placements of school-age workers in supervised live-in farm homes	NA
SECTION C. SERVICES TO INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS	
7. Rendered by on-reservation local offices or at itinerant points	NA
a. Farm placements	NA
b. Applicant-holding acceptances	NA
8. Other farm placements of reservation Indians	NA
SECTION D. OTHER SELECTED DATA	
9. Number of local offices which hold farm clinics	NA
10. Sum of days on which farm clinics were held	NA
11. Total number of local offices participating in formal community service programs	NA
12. Peak number of volunteer farm placement representatives	NA

See attachment

SIGNATURE

Arthur W. Payne

TITLE

Manager

Section A - Table 1

In this area there are 26 towns having 94 established day-haul points (unsupervised) by this office, from which an estimated 1,000 to 1,100 workers are transported on an average day during the blueberry harvest.

In Rockland there are 12 day-haul points supervised from which workers are transported. Only one employer picks up at a day-haul point although an employer might have more than one pick-up point. The workers are not referred from the pick-up points but are recruited and allocated (referred) to meet the requirements of each employer prior to the actual start of harvest. All workers are notified through various media where they will be picked up and when.

The pick-up points in Rockland are at various locations in order to avoid confusion and pirating of workers. These pick-up points are not contacted every day since this would be a physical impossibility because all the growers are picking up their workers at the same time. However, every effort is made to contact these points during the week to see that the young workers are properly cared for. All growers are contacted during the day to ascertain if their needs are being met. In the case of replacements or additional help all referrals are made from the office to the grower at his pick-up points and not from any pick-up point itself. Over the years the modus operandi has proven to be the most successful.

COMPOSITION OF INTERSTATE FARM MIGRANT GROUPS

SECTION A. MIGRANT GROUP CONTACTS			SECTION B. REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS		SECTION C. GROUPS WORKING IN REPORTING STATE	
I TYPE	II BY REPORTING STATE	III WITH REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS	I TYPE	II NUMBER	I TYPE	II NUMBER
1. Total			2. Total persons		4. Families	
a. Crew leaders			3. Total workers		5. Unattached males	
b. Family heads						
c. Other						
SECTION D. COMMENTS						

* N. A.

SIGNATURE

Arthur M. Day

TITLE

Manager

INTERSTATE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

ITEM	ORDERS		OPENINGS	
	EXTENDED (Sec. A) RECEIVED (Sec. B)	FILLED	EXTENDED (Sec. A) RECEIVED (Sec. B)	FILLED
I	II	III	IV	V
SECTION A. REPORTING STATE AS ORDER-HOLDING STATE				
1. Reporting State, TOTAL →	NA			
2. Applicant-holding States involved:				
SECTION B. REPORTING STATE AS APPLICANT-HOLDING STATE				
3. Reporting State, TOTAL →	NA			
4. Order-holding States involved:				

SECTION C. COMMENTS (Use reverse if needed)

SIGNATURE <i>Walter R. Dwyer</i>	TITLE Manager
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DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY

T O W N I	DAY-HAUL POINTS		
	NUMBER II	DAYS OPERATED DURING YEAR III	WORKERS TRANSPORTED DURING YEAR IV
ROCKLAND	12	8/5 - 8/23	2,000 Est.

SIGNATURE

W. H. ...

TITLE

Manager

AGRICULTURAL REFERRALS BY LOCAL OFFICES, 1969

LOCAL OFFICES	TOTALS	JAN	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
AUGUSTA	65	0	0	0	0	7	33	9	10	4	2	0	0
BANGOR	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	9	0	6	0
BATH	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
BIDDEFORD	9	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
CALAIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELLSWORTH	32	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	14	14	0	0	0
LEWISTON	111	0	0	0	1	3	4	21	0	2	0	80*	0
PORTLAND	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	36	29	0	0	0
PRESQUE ISLE	134	0	0	1	0	1	0	14	1	15	102	0	0
ROCKLAND	805	1	0	0	0	0	202	567	32	0	1	2	0
RUMFORD	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	3	0	0
SANFORD	31	0	0	1	0	4	0	9	12	2	2	1	0
SKOWHEGAN	44	4	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	25	0	0	0
WATERVILLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS 1969	1,404	5	1	2	3	18	240	656	114	166	110	89	0
TOTALS 1968	3,463	21	14	11	60	25	650	1,255	1,104	111	203	5	4

* Mid-September to Mid-October activity not previously reported.

AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS BY LOCAL OFFICES, 1969

LOCAL OFFICE	TOTALS	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
AUGUSTA	38	0	0	0	0	3	16	5	8	4	2	0	0
BANGOR	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	0
BATH	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
BIDDEFORD	9	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
CALAIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELLSWORTH	8	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	0	0
LEWISTON	35	0	0	0	1	2	4	4	0	1	0	23*	0
PORTLAND	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	36	29	0	0	0
PRESQUE ISLE	435	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	331	3	99	0	0
ROCKLAND	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	0	0	1	0	0
RUMFORD	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	0	0
SANFORD	21	0	0	1	0	2	0	7	6	2	2	1	0
SKOWHEGAN	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	5	0	0	0
WATERVILLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS 1969	755	0	1	2	3	9	21	116	394	64	118	27	0
TOTALS 1968	3,512	4	6	2	46	22	47	1,224	1,896	70	192	3	0

*Mid-September to Mid-October activity not previously reported.