

PRISONER OF WAR
GENERAL STATEMENT OF PROCEDURE

The prisoner of war potato harvest project is a joint undertaking of the Army, Aroostook County Farm Bureau Labor Association and the Farm Labor Program, Maine Extension Service.

The availability of prisoners for harvest work is a decision reached by the Army Headquarters First Service Command following the submission of proper requests and certifications by the Director of Extension Service supported by War Manpower Commission.

The Aroostook Farm Bureau Labor Association is a legally organized body of growers having a board of directors. It is this Association that contracts with the Army for all prisoners used in Aroostook agriculture. In all transactions relating to prisoners employed in agriculture, the employer deals with the Association and it in turn deals with the Army. All actions of the Association or its agents are subject to the direction of the Association Directors.

The Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, is the governmental agency responsible for assisting farmers in securing the workers required to produce the food essential to the war effort. As one means of attaining this objective it assists the association by providing personnel which, with the authorization of the Directors act as agents of the Association.

Responsibility of Association

1. The Board of Directors of the Association will: (1) Contract for POW's with the Army. (2) Adopt a policy of allocating POW's relative to the minimum and maximum number of POW's which any one grower can have and the number which are to serve designated areas.

- II. Approve a plan of operation for 1945, within Army limitations, including agreements, forms, and procedures covering the use of prisoners of war.
- III. Designate the agents who are to sign contracts, receive deposit funds, and to disburse funds.
- IV. Have general supervision and control of the business and the affairs of the Association.

Placement

Following the allocation policy adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association, the County Farm Labor Supervisor, with the advice and consent of the County Agent, will determine the number of prisoners of war allotted each farm labor office and notify the local farm labor representatives. The local farm labor representatives will select and notify growers who are to receive prisoners of war from among those who have placed orders. Farmers so notified will then contract for prisoners of war labor through their nearest farm labor office. Local labor representatives will be designated by the Association as Association agents to sign contracts and receive deposits and reimbursement fees in its name. Local representatives will forward all signed contracts and funds to nearest prisoner of war office.

Transportation of Prisoners

Growers will be responsible for hauling prisoners of war between the camps and the farms, on vehicles meeting Army and Association safety regulations. Two traffic men at Houlton and one at Presque Isle, responsible to the Assistant County Farm Labor Supervisor, will supervise the loading and unloading of prisoners of war. They will be at the camps each day when prisoners of war go out and again when they return, checking on the condition of vehicles, loading arrangements, and in general helping both the Army and the hauler in the smooth operation of this phase of the program.

Records and Finances

The Association will provide a record form, on which the grower will record daily the work accomplished. The original and one copy of this form will be retained by the guard each day and one copy will be kept by the employer. This copy constitutes the grower's itemized bill and from them he will figure what he owes the Association and pay at the same time each week that he pays other labor.

The Army will keep one copy of these daily reports and turn the original over to the Association office nearest the camp.

The Assistant County Farm Labor Supervisor in each office, under the supervision of the County POW Supervisor, will be responsible for (1) keeping accounts with each grower served by his office, (2) collecting from growers, (3) depositing such collections in the name of the Association in a bank designated by it, (4) sending such reports daily to the County POW Supervisor as he may require.

The County prisoner of war supervisor will, except for the placements of prisoners of war have general charge of the usual and business operations of the Association including accounting and the collecting and handling of funds in each office. He will pay the Army and such other Association expense as the Board of Directors authorize him to do. He will maintain his records and accounts in such a manner that the true and correct conditions of the business may be ascertained therefrom at any time.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITY POW PROJECT

Local Farm Labor Representatives

1. Contract with growers for POW's, using forms provided.
2. Receive membership fees and deposits for prisoners.
3. Forward signed contracts and funds to nearest County Farm Labor office.

Local Farm Labor Representatives (continued)

4. Obtain information from growers as requested by county office.

Farm Labor Assistants

1. Will have immediate charge of placements of POW's and business operations of the Association in this area, including traffic, accounting, collections, and receiving and depositing funds.
2. He will attempt to keep the number of POW'S allotted to his area as fully employed as conditions permit.

Traffic Assistants - Under direction of Farm Labor Assistants.

1. Supervise loading and unloading of POW's at camps.
2. Check condition of equipment.
3. Perform such other duties regarding the movement of POW'S as they may be directed to do.

County POW Supervisor

1. Will have general charge of business operations of the Association including disbursing of Association funds.
2. Serve as general contact agent between the Association and the Army.
3. Summarize records and prepare reports.

Assistant State Farm Labor Supervisor

1. Coordinates this project with other Farm Labor Program activities.
2. Allocates POW'S by localities.
3. Supervises hiring of personnel.

County Extension Agents

They will assist and advise the Farm Labor Assistants in their area in the conduct of this program, recognizing their obligation to coordinate this program with that of other areas so that fullest utilization will be made of all labor resources.

AROOSTOOK COUNTY FARM LABOR PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATIVE DIAGRAM

