

Agricultural
Moscow or Boise.

Division,

WPA FARM LABOR POLICY CLARIFIED BY CONTACT MAN PLACING WPA WORKERS

Every county and locality in the state where WPA projects operate, will have a contact man to assist in placing WPA workers in agricultural or other private employment.

"We invite any farmer or rancher, or the representative of any private industry or employment agency, to visit our projects with our field representatives, if they have jobs to offer at the prevailing wage," Dean W. Miller, state WPA head, remarked in connection with the agency's farm labor policy. Men selected would be immediately referred to the private employer, he declared.

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The WPA division of training and reemployment will use its own and other department personnel already in the field, to carry out the farm labor policy. The first-mentioned division, acting in liaison with the United States Employment Service, will also make referrals direct to private employers in isolated sections where no regular employment office is established.

"We are concerned only with the placement of WPA workers to private jobs, and we wish to emphasize that we will do everything possible to see that all such available manpower is released to agricultural jobs," the state administrator further declared. "Any project worker so referred must accept the job offered or be removed from our rolls."

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During the peak of the agricultural season in 1941, WPA rolls dropped to 3000 in Idaho, with this number including some 1200 women and the balance largely from the non-agricultural districts of north Idaho, it was disclosed.

Heavy demands for agricultural workers are expected to greatly reduce WPA project rolls which have been set at 6200 for March, but will not affect much of a reduction until after April 15th, Mr. Mille stated. The March, 1942, quota is about 4,000 under that

15th, Mr. Mille stated. The March, 1942, quota is about 4,000 under that of a year ago, or approximately a 40 per cent decrease.

"Last year we released hundreds of WPA men to defense industries after seeing that they were trained in the vocational schools. Other thousands went to farm jobs, etc. The fact that our rolls dropped from 10,800 in March 1941, to only 3,000 during last harvest, is in itself proof of the effectiveness of our farm labor policy. It also proves in our estimation," Miller concluded, "the usefulness of the WPA in providing a reservoir of manpower from which private labor can draw as it wills, without having the embarrassing necessity of affording sustenance to that same manpower during seasonal inactivity."