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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

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COUNTRY German Democratic Republic

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, livestock, crops

DATE DIST. 21 Apr 1952

50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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FULFILLMENT OF GDR 1950 AGRICULTURAL PLANA. Horses

The plan for the German Democratic Republic, including Berlin, was fulfilled 99.6 percent, indicating a trend toward converting from animal power to mechanized power in agriculture. This was achieved by the MAS (Machine Rental Stations). The plan for horses up to 3 years old was surpassed by 26.7 percent, thus decreasing the average age of the horses. This may be considered a result of the compulsory breeding act of 1947 and 1948. Such measures will no longer be necessary. More emphasis must be placed on good selection.

B. Cattle

The GDR plan was fulfilled only 98.9 percent. The failure to fulfill the plan by approximately 41,000 head was mainly due to Mecklenburg, which was still short about 47,000 head of cattle at the end of the plan period. This was the result of insufficient work by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which failed to convince the new farmers to raise cattle, particularly in the eastern Kreise (districts). Cooperation between the RBG (Peasants' Trade Co-operatives) of the VdGB (Peasants' Mutual Aid Association) and the Kreise leaves much to be desired.

The plan for cows was fulfilled 100.8 percent. This was a result of the prohibition against slaughtering female breeding and dairy cattle. However, the herds are relatively young. The problem of operating costs cannot as yet be treated equally in all Laender under the 1951 agricultural plan, since many farmers have not yet had full demands placed on them in respect to cattle raising. Mecklenburg, Sachsen-Anhalt, and Thuringen have not fulfilled the plan; Mecklenburg for the above-mentioned reasons, while in Thuringen fodder difficulties caused nonfulfillment, in Sachsen-Anhalt [remainder of sentence missing].

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C. Pigs

The GDR plan was barely 100 percent fulfilled. Sachsen-Anhalt and Thuringen did not meet their plans. Errors in planning and fodder difficulties were to blame. The plan for sows was fulfilled 89.1 percent. There were organizational difficulties in all Laender, particularly in the management of pig breeding. The BEM of the VdgB failed completely to impress the farmers in advance with the importance of plan fulfillment for the coming year. The government, therefore, found it necessary to take measures to offset this loss in the 1951 pork production.

D. Sheep

The plan was only 87.4 percent fulfilled as a result of the failure of the entire sheep-raising project. The lack of an expert economist is being felt more and more. In addition, it seems that with the varying conditions on the GDR farms it will be impossible to put production of wool on a hectare quota basis in 1951. Sachsen is the only Land that surpassed the plan. The prohibition in Sachsen against slaughtering sheep was very successful. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry must decide whether or not slaughtering should also be prohibited in the other Laender.

The plan for ewes was fulfilled 96.1 percent. Brandenburg, Mecklenburg, and Sachsen surpassed the plan. Sachsen-Anhalt encountered difficulties in meeting the plan because the number of sheep per hectare has already reached the maximum. Thuringen could not fulfill the plan because of fodder difficulties resulting from the loss of forest pastures.

E. Crops

1. The plan for the 1950 harvest provided for planting an area of 5,010,000 hectares plus 78,000 hectares of new land, making a total of 5,088,000 hectares. The soil utilization survey of 3 June 1950 showed 5,033,400 hectares of farmland. The plan for adding new farmland was not fulfilled because the responsibility for plowing up grassland was delegated by the Laender to the Kreise and by the Kreise to the towns, which had no knowledge of meadow conditions. Therefore, in the spring of 1951 a grassland survey was conducted, after which the selection of grassland for plowing was more successful. Of the 5,030,400 hectares of farmland, 26,500 hectares were not planted; a series of necessary measures were put into effect by the decree for the fulfillment of the 1951 spring planting to prevent a repetition of this poor performance.

The plan for winter wheat, forage root crops, and field forage plants was surpassed. More winter wheat was planted because it can be sown late in the winter and brings a higher yield than summer wheat. The greater cultivation of forage root crops and field forage crops was due to the emphasis on livestock breeding, i.e., the area in which forage was raised as a main crop was enlarged rather than the area in which it was raised as a secondary crop between other crops.

2. As a result of the improvement of MAS work methods which made possible intensive soil cultivation, better fertilization (commercial fertilizer, as well as stable manure from the increased number of livestock), and further improvement of the seed supply, the planned 1950 hectare yield and total yield were not only reached, but also surpassed, with the exception of oleaginous crops.

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<u>1950 Hectare Yield*</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fulfillment (%)</u>
Grain and legumes	20.4	20.9	102.5
Oleaginous and fiber plants	14.2	10.7	75.4
Potatoes	180.6	181.2	100.3
Sugar beets	272.0	273.1	100.4

*/Although no weight unit is indicated, the figures probably represent double-centners, one double-centner being equal to 100 kilograms/

The percentage fulfillment of oleaginous crops may be greater than that indicated. However, the yield will be somewhat below the planned goal as a result of the high percentage of winter-killed crops. The summer crops planted to replace them had a considerably lower yield.

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