

WOMEN FARM WORKERS ARE INCREASING

23 Per Cent of Colorado Agricultural Help Is Feminine.

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Twenty-three per cent of the total farm workers in Colorado are women, F. K. Reed, statistician of the Colorado Co-operative Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, said Tuesday.

"This shows women are doing their part and helping with every type of farm job, except possibly the heavier field work," he said.

A survey of Colorado farmers conducted by Reed indicates the total number of persons working on farms during the spring season was slightly less than a year ago. This decrease is a result of a 5 to 10 per cent decline in the number of hired workers—men who have entered military service or obtained industrial jobs.

FARMERS PAYING HIGH WAGES.

At present Colorado farmers are paying the highest wages on record, but, even so, are finding it increasingly difficult to meet wage competition of other industries.

In comparison with a year ago, the farm labor situation is probably not so tight, altho many farmers have expressed considerable apprehension with regard to having enough experienced workers for harvest operations and for properly tending livestock herds, the survey shows.

Farm operators are working an average of 13.2 hours a day, or about three-fourths of an hour longer than in July, 1940. Hired workers are also required to work longer days than usual.

FARMERS STRIVING FOR MORE OUTPUT.

This indicates that farmers are making every effort to increase production, even tho many experienced workers are engaged in other fields, Reed said.

Monthly wages with board on June 1, averaged \$69.50 and without board \$92.50, as compared with \$50.50 and \$69.25 on June 1, 1942. Wages averaged \$3.30 a day with board; \$4.30 without board, compared with \$2.20 and \$2.90 one year earlier.

Harvesting Colorado's large wheat crop already has started. A shortage of experienced tractor and combine operators is indicated. A large number of haying hands and teamsters will be needed in mountain park areas as soon as haying becomes general, Reed stated.