

# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

55, WHITEHALL,  
LONDON, S.W.1

17th August, 1943  
M.A.F. 1028

PRESS NOTICE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST OR USE ON CLUB TAPES  
BEFORE 00.30 HOURS B.S.T. ON WEDNESDAY 18TH AUGUST, 1943.

## HARVEST AT SANDRINGHAM

When The King and Queen were recently at Sandringham, they inspected the results of the war time food production effort on the King's Estate. They saw a great harvest being gathered. Potatoes are showing yields up to 12 tons to the acre - wheat 60-70 bushels to the acre. These heavy yields are the result of a comprehensive plan, carried out with the help and advice of the Norfolk War Agricultural Committee.

Altogether 1,433 acres are being farmed, of which 977 acres are arable. Of these 977 acres, 539 have been ploughed since the beginning of the war, representing more than half of the pre-war pasture land. In spite of this, a new dairy herd has been started and milk production shows a fine increase. All suitable grass in Sandringham Park has been ploughed. Six acres of lawn right in front of the House is producing rye (a particularly suitable crop for this light sandy soil), beetroot and parsnips fill the beds of the ornamental flower garden. Beside the church is growing a fine crop of oats, and the golf course in the park is now growing both oats and rye. The flax crop has produced over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons of high quality flax to the acre.

Undoubtedly the most impressive new achievement is the ditching, draining and ploughing of 476 acres of the Sandringham Marshes. This land was rich, permanent pasture; this year it is all in production and the harvest includes potatoes, peas, beans, mustard, wheat, oats and maple peas.

The farms are now highly mechanised and the corn crops are being gathered by a combine harvester and mechanised baler, the latter driven by a Land Army girl. Altogether, there are 14 Land Army girls on the estate.

The neighbouring farmers and tenants have been greatly interested in this pioneer work and much impressed. The war time production policy has brought many changes to Sandringham farming, but the results provide an impressive justification for the drastic experiments.

The work has been carried out with the keen personal interest and support of the King and Queen. The King receives detailed monthly progress reports. There is no doubt that the success of this Royal lead in food production will give encouragement and inspiration to farmers throughout the country.