

LL
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EAST GERMANY

NO CAULIFLOWER IN THE GDR.

SOURCE BERLIN: Senior official of the East German Ministry of Agriculture.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Another contributing factor to the almost certain food crisis this fall in the GDR.

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There will be no cauliflower in the German Democratic Republic this summer. According to reports sent by district officials via county officials to the Ministry of Agriculture, a vermin not yet identified this year prevented cauliflower plants in the GDR from forming heads.

Facing financial ruin, cauliflower farmers this month turned to district and county officials requesting them to ask the ministry to drop this year's cauliflower delivery quotas altogether. Reports thereupon sent by district officials to county officials indicated that cauliflower farmers estimate this year's harvest to hit approximately seven per cent of the assigned quotas. Farmers also requested to be told what the plans prescribe to be raised in substitute of cauliflower lost because of the vermin.

The ministry has passed no final decision on the matter as yet because word from agricultural experts of the Communist Central Committee has not arrived as yet.

Other reports of districts and counties received by the Ministry of Agriculture on 20 May indicate the unwillingness of farmers to accept quotas for plants to be raised on soil of inferior quality. There are altogether 48,000 hectares of such soil in the GDR. Partly supported by district officials, farmers, of course, claim, that inferior soil will not yield as many products as good soil would.

Only some districts have accepted the 1954 quotas pertaining to plants to be raised on inferior soil. District officials have taken care, however, to point out that these quotas should be changed in 1955.

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Owing to additional imports of potatoes, H-O organizations in large cities recently have received edible potatoes for sale to customers. The amounts available are by no means sufficient. The shortage was thus bridged, however, for the time being; although the actual quantity of potatoes planted this spring fell short of the plan by 170,000 tons.

Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture show that meat deliveries to Soviet personnel in East Germany in the first quarter of 1954 totalled a little more than 10,000 tons.

End.