

May 26, 1918.

# "No Wheat Until the Next Harvest"

*Mr. Hoover has just issued the following ringing message to the country:*

"The confidence of the United States Food Administration that the people of the country would respond enthusiastically and whole-heartedly upon presentation of the facts to any necessary requests for reduction in consumption of food has been fully justified. We have demonstrated our ability not only to think together but to act together. This response of the people is the reason for the present appeal.

"Our work is not yet complete. In spite of the encouraging results of our efforts, in spite of the fact that our exports of foodstuffs are constantly increasing and are approaching the minimum requirements abroad, the need for renewed devotion and effort is present. While all of the requirements of the Food Administration should be constantly observed, there are certain matters which I desire to stress at this time.

"In the case of meat and meat products, the necessities for shipment abroad are very great. Whereas the allied consumption has been reduced to the average of about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. per person per week, we are today enjoying about  $3\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. per person per week. This division is unequitable and the understanding of these facts will justify our request that the consumption of all meats, including poultry, as nearly as possible, be reduced to 2 lbs. per week per person over four years of age.

"In the case of sugar we are embarrassed by the necessity of using ships for carrying our soldiers and feeding the allies, and in consequence we must use sugar with great economy. We must emphasize the importance of canning and preserving on a large scale among our people this summer and our available sugar must be conserved for this purpose.

"But the situation with regard to wheat is the most serious in the food supply of the allied world. If we are to satisfy the minimum wheat requirements of our armies and the allies and the suffering millions in the allied countries, our consumption of wheat in the United States, until the next harvest, must be reduced to approximately one-third of normal. It is inconceivable that we should fail in this crisis. For each of us who can personally contribute to the relief of human suffering, it is a privilege—not a sacrifice. All elements of the American population cannot bear this burden equally. Because of the constant daily employment of women and the lack of home-baking facilities, many households in large urban centers require a food ration already prepared, such as the bakers' standard 'Victory Bread' loaf. Furthermore, we must constantly safeguard the special requirements of children and invalids.

"To meet the situation abroad and to prevent serious suffering at home, it is imperative that all those whose circumstances permit shall abstain from wheat and wheat products in any form, until the next harvest. It is realized and deeply appreciated that many organizations and some communities have already agreed to follow this plan.



"It is hoped that you will communicate this to your organization and your community, urging those whose circumstances will permit to join with us and take this stand.

**Herbert Hoover."**

While Texans may well feel proud that the Lone Star State has led all the rest in its resolutions to do without any wheat, we may accept the above message to the rest of the country as a compliment. It will furnish you with an answer to some of those unthinking, or as yet unconvinced, citizens who ask why we should go without wheat flour when some other parts of the country are not compelled to do so. It should never be necessary to COMPEL any American or any American community to give its all to humanity in this struggle for freedom. The reason is clear.

Very truly yours,

**E. A. Peden,**  
Federal Food Administrator for Texas