

sumption being 25 pounds). Railroads transport about 8,300 carloads a year.

It was not until railroads came and railway refrigerator cars were introduced that livestock and meat-packing industries were developed on a large scale.

Today's livestock is moved by rail with special care:

- a. Fed and watered at proper times.
- b. Unloaded and rested at intervals in pens along tracks.
- c. Special stock cars with single or double decks are provided.

The average per capita consumption of chickens in the United States, according to latest available figures, is about 25 pounds. One carload of dressed and frozen poultry amounts to a year's supply for more than 1,500 persons, and railroads haul about 5,000 carloads a year. Railroads also haul more than 176 carloads of eggs a year, and each carload contains enough eggs to supply more than 800 persons for a year.

Agricultural products are moved daily by railroad from source or processing plant to freight yards and stations for delivery to stores and markets.

The average haul of all products of agriculture is 476 miles:

- a. Apples move an average of 2,200 miles.
- b. Poultry move an average of 1,500 miles.
- c. Potatoes move an average of 1,300 miles.

Railroads have seaport and river terminals. Trains carry fish and seafood inland. They transport farm products to seaports for export.

To feed America, railroads carry about 4 million carloads of the products of agriculture—or more than 129 million tons—each year. They also carry some 14 million tons of animals and animal products.

Additional free teaching aids are described in the brochure *Teaching Aids on Railroad Transportation* issued by

**School and College Service  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN  
RAILROADS**

Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C.

**FOR THE TEACHER**

**OUTLINE OF DISCUSSION  
POINTS**

for use with  
the slidefilm:

**RAILROADS AND THE  
FOOD WE EAT**

The material in this folder is designed to give the teacher background information and to furnish discussion points in connection with the classroom use of the slidefilm. In general, the sequence of discussion points follows the sequence of subjects in the film.

It is suggested that the teacher show the film once for the students, without comment or discussion, depending upon the titles to tell the story, and that a second, or instructional, showing follow immediately. The information in this leaflet should be useful to the teacher in conducting the discussion, or in teaching the transportation unit.

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN  
RAILROADS**

## RAILROADS AND THE FOOD WE EAT

Grain in the fields, fruit in the orchards, potatoes in the ground—these have little value to most of us until they are taken where they are needed.

The success of the American way of farming rests largely upon the ready, orderly, dependable service of the American railroads.

Railroads were essential in the development of America's great farmlands and livestock-producing areas. They:

- a. Built lines into new territory.
- b. Transported settlers.
- c. Transported farm equipment and supplies.
- d. Carried farm products to distant markets.
- e. Developed new markets along their lines.

### Railroads developed:

- a. Insulated cars for shipping perishable foods as early as 1857.
- b. New and improved types of refrigerator cars.
- c. Modern methods of re-icing and pre-cooling.
- d. Wide distribution of perishable products in great variety.

As railroads were built, many millions of acres of land were settled and put under cultivation. Grain elevators were built along rail routes; flour mills, food-processing factories, stockyards, and canneries were established at rail transportation centers. Agriculture grew with the railroads.

Today, through their Agricultural Departments, railroads help farmers in many ways:

- a. Developing natural resources.
- b. Conserving soil and timber products.
- c. Finding markets for farm products.
- d. Crop and plant research.
- e. Exhibit trains and cars.
- f. Promoting agricultural tours.
- g. Working with agricultural colleges, county agents, and various rural groups.

In addition, railroads work with industries dependent upon agriculture:

- a. Food-processing plants.
- b. Canning factories.
- c. Creameries and milk plants.
- d. Meat-packing plants.

### Railroads *bring to the farms:*

- a. Agricultural implements and farm machinery.
- b. Seed and fertilizer.
- c. Clothing and household goods.
- d. Building materials.

From the standpoint of the American people as a whole, what railroads *bring from the farms, dairies, and livestock areas* is more important. Following the sequence of the slidefilm, here are some discussion points:

Every year, railroads carry enough wheat to supply every man, woman, and child in the United States with bread, pies, cakes, and cereals for a year, with millions of bushels left over for export and for processing into feed for livestock.

Grain is moved by rail from country elevators to terminal elevators. First railroad hauls of grain—usually into storage—average 200 to 300 miles. Initial transportation is followed by longer hauls,

sometimes half across the United States, to mills and finally to points of consumption.

Railroads transport more than half a million carloads of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables each year—a large part under refrigeration. Transportation of many kinds of fruit often means a railroad haul all the way across the continent.

One carload of potatoes is a year's supply for 109 families of four. Every year railroads haul 150,000 carloads amounting to several million tons.

Railroad transportation is important to the dairy industry:

- a. The average per capita consumption of butter is about 8 pounds per year. One carload of butter (average 44,000 pounds) will supply about 5,500 persons with butter for a year. Railroads haul about 14,000 carloads a year.
- b. Rail transportation of milk began in 1838. Steel tank cars for milk came into use soon after 1900. Railroads run entire trainloads of milk into some large cities.
- c. Based on average per capita consumption, one average carload of cheese is enough for 5,400 persons for one year. Railroads haul about 13,000 carloads a year.

The bananas in a single carload make a year's supply for 135 families (the average American family of four eats about 160 pounds of bananas a year). Railroads transport approximately 65,000 carloads a year.

One carload of cabbages—about 13,000 heads—weighs approximately 29,410 pounds, and will supply 1,200 persons for one year (average yearly per capita con-