

Lancaster Farming

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.52 Per Year

S. '58 Crop Total Up 11%

S. crop production in 1958 reached an all-time high—11 per cent larger than previous record. High yields per acre were mainly possible as harvested acreage was the third lowest in more than 20 years.

Harvested acreage was the lowest in 40 years.

The all-crop production index for '59 crops reached 143 (1947-49 = 100) a surprising surge in a single year—the 106 reached by former best production years, 1957, 1956 and 1948.

The feed grain production index reached 134, food grains 117, oil seed crops 181 and sugar crops 124.

Weather generally seemed to be working for the farmer throughout the entire year from before seeding until after harvest. Soil moisture was more generally adequate for seed germination and plant growth than in previous years.

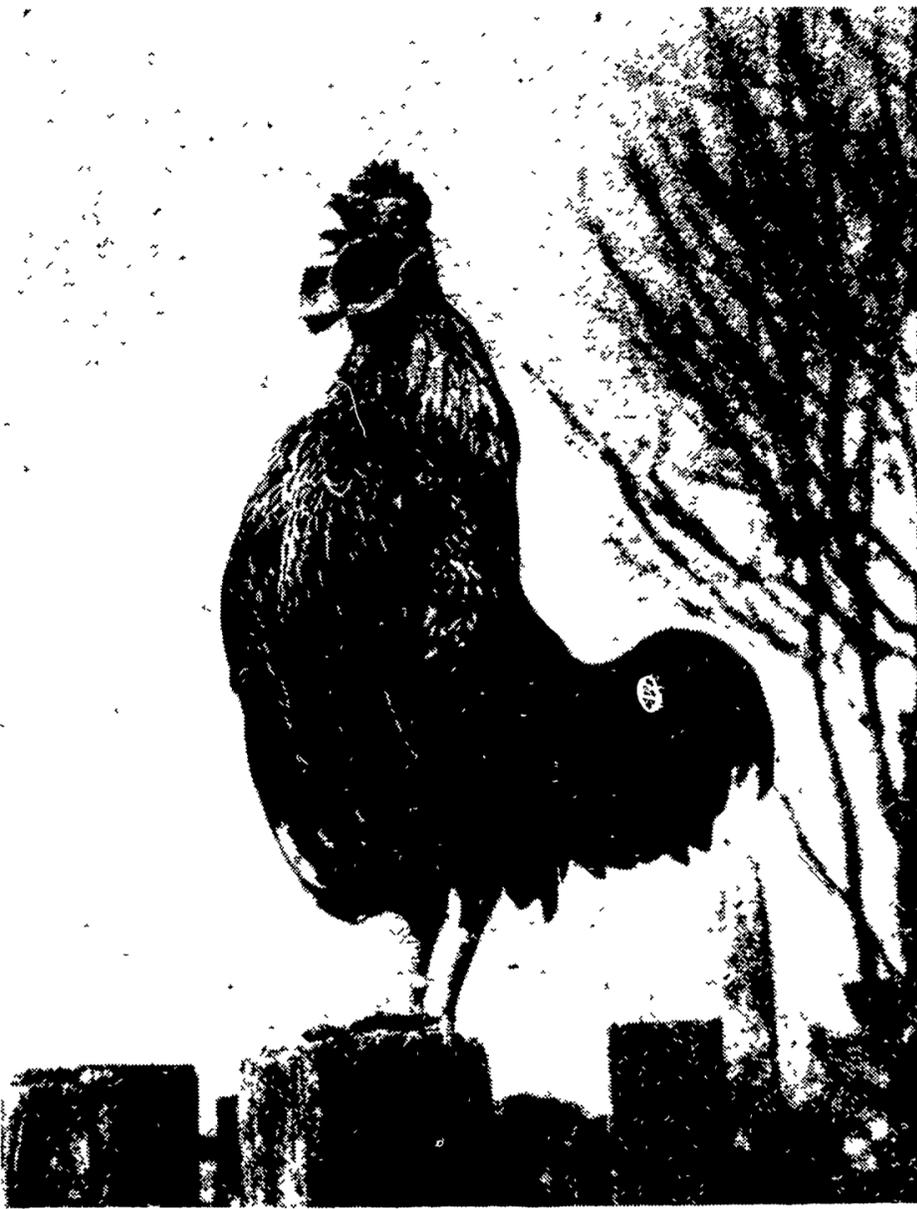
Irrigation water supplies were ample. Moderate temperatures favored full growth and maturity. Dry fall weather aided rapid and successful harvest.

New yield per acre records were set by corn, wheat, oats, beans, barley, rye, sorghum grain, and silage, rice, cotton, hay, peanuts, potatoes, sweet-potatoes and tobacco.

The all-crop index of yield per acre reached 143, over the 1957 record of 127.

The large increase in per acre yield over the 1957 previous record made 1958 the nation's biggest corn year with a 3.8 billion bushel crop, more than a tenth above last year's.

Ideal growing conditions (Turn to page 10)



IT'S JUST one short memory away from days when nearly every farm required a "banty" rooster in its livestock program. To signal the start of 1959 and herald its coming, we offer our barnyard bugler with this thought.—As the change in many farming operations has removed the "banty" from the Lancaster Farming scene, may it provide a better life in 1959 for our readers. May the passing of time, once marked by the early-morning cock-crow, bring greater returns to each of you.

State Vegetable Crop Production Up 55% In 1958

Production of 12 Pennsylvania vegetable crops for fresh market and 10 crops for processing totaled 443,450 tons in 1958 and was 55 per cent above the 286,900 tons produced in 1957. Most of the increase was due to the sharp rise in tomato production for processing which was more than double 1957's crop.

Production of other crops for processing increased more moderately and green peas and lima beans showed small declines. Total production for process crops amounted to 305,000 tons, or 85 per cent more than the 1957 production of 165,200 tons.

Fresh market production totaled 138,450 tons, up 14 per cent from the 121,700 ton production of last year. These aggregate tonnages include strawberries.

Total harvested acreage, amounting to 76,060, was seven per cent less than the 81,900 acres harvested a year ago. Acreage for fresh market at 31,990 was up three per cent but acreage for processing at 44,070 compared with 50,940, off 13 per cent from 1957. This is the smallest acreage for processing since 1948.

The processing tomato acreage was only slightly larger than last year's 19,500 compared with 18,500, an all time per acre record yield accounting for the sharpness of the production increase.

The value of all state crops for the 22 crops on which estimates are made, totaled \$20,181,000 in 1958—1.3 million more than in 1957. Total value for fresh market was \$8,676,000, down 23 per cent from the \$11,505,000 of the 1957 season. Vegetable crops for processing were valued at 11,505,000 an increase of 52 per cent from the \$5,559,000 of 1957.

Chick Placing Off, Still Above Last Year

Placement of broiler chicks in Pennsylvania the week; Total placements were the lowest in nine weeks, at 714,000 chicks. Outshipments were 198,000. Inshipments were 63,000.

The indicated number of Penna broilers for market about 10 weeks from now is 817,000, compared with 681,000 at the same time in 1958.

Eggs set for broiler chicks production totaled 1,204,000, lowest in seven weeks, and 16 per cent below the previous week. Total hatchings during the period Dec 27 to Jan 17 will be about one per cent below the comparable period last year.

22 State Report
Placements in the 22 important broiler producing states, declined five per cent from the previous week, after eight consecutive weekly increases. Total placements were 28,529,000.

However, placements for the week were 13 per cent above the corresponding week of 1957. Indicated (Turn to page 2)

Penna. 1958 Crop Value Increase Over '57 Totals \$43 Million

The value of principal crops and fruits produced in Pennsylvania in 1958 at 317 million dollars is 16 per cent above last year's value of 274 million for the same crops. Nearly all major crops, excepting potatoes and apples, showed production value increases.

Corn production is valued at 103 million and led the increase with 26 million over last 1957. All hay production was valued at 101 million to be the second most important crop in Pennsylvania.

Farm value of the tobacco crop increased 65 per cent from the 1957 value, greatest percentage increase in any of the major crops.

Corn production at 82,202,000 bushels, the largest on record, is 30 per cent above the 1947-56 average. Yield per acre at 65.5 bushels for all corn is 17 per cent above the previous record set in 1956. Corn had a slow start from continued cool, wet weather, but during June grew quite rapidly and was starting to mature nicely.

Corn silage yield at 11.5 ton per cent is 10 per cent above the previous record set 27 years ago.

Wheat production at 16,920,000 bushels is up 18.7 per cent from the lowest on-record 1957 crop. This season's wheat yield at 30 bushel per acre is two bushel above the previous record set four years ago.

Oats yield at 43.5 bushel is one bushel above the previous highs in 1951 and 1955. Rye at 26 bushel per acre was three bushel above the previous 1957 record.

Record barley production at 9,600,000 was four per cent above the 1954 record high. Buckwheat production at 46,000 bushel is 11 per cent above last year but 60 per cent below the 1947-56 average.

Fall potato yield at 175 cwt. per acre is nine per cent above the previous record of 1954. Total potato production at 9,530,000 cwt. is 27 per cent above last year but 10 per cent below the 1949-56 average.

The state tobacco yield at 1,700 lbs. per acre equals the

previous high of 1956. The tobacco crop grew nicely and matured well during the summer months. Weather for curing was favorable and an excellent quality crop was produced.

Winter supplies of hay are generally ample throughout the state. Production at 3,828,000 tons is 21 per cent above last year's low of 3,167,000 tons and 13 per cent a-

bove the 1947-56 average. The state peach crop at 3,100,000 bu. exceeded last year by 35 per cent and equals the record of 1954. The Keystone state commercial apple crop at 6,400,000 bus. is three per cent below last year but five per cent above the 1947-56 average. Grape production of 25,000 tons is 28 per cent above the 1957 slight crop.

U. S. Fresh Vegetable Output Up 4% Over '57

United States' production of the 28 principal fresh market vegetables and melons in 1958 was four per cent more than in 1957. The 1958 production of 212.3 million hundred-weight compares with 204.8 million cwt. in 1957 and was three per cent above average.

Several important crops came through with substantially larger supplies in 1958 than a year earlier. These included broccoli, cabbage, sweet corn, cantaloupes, and watermelons.

Production of celery, onions and tomatoes was considerably below the 1957 output while slightly smaller crops of asparagus, snap beans, cauliflower, cucumbers,

and green peppers were produced.

Value of principal vegetable and melon crops totaled \$745,555,000 for the nation in 1958. This is 12 per cent under the record high value of these crops in 1957 but about equal average.

Production of the 10 principal vegetables for processing in 1958 is about 10 per cent above last year.