

Department of Ag. Reports Planting Intentions Survey

Pennsylvania farmers intend to plant 50,000 acres of corn, hay and tobacco this year. Their March 1 planting intentions show drops in oats, barley, potatoes and soybeans. Department of Agriculture officials say if farmers' planting intentions they will plant 5,262,000 acres of crops as compared with 5,275,000 acres actually planted the same crops last year. Soybean acreage intended to be planted to feed grains is off 4 per cent, according to State Crop Reporting Service. The 1,274,000 acres of corn farmers intend to plant is one per cent more than they planted last year, but the increase is more than offset by a decline of two per cent in the intended acreage for oats. There were 772,000 acres of oats planted last year; 1959 intentions are to plant 742,000 acres. Barley is also off 4 per cent from 246,000 acres in 1958 to 236,000 acres in 1959. If they carry out these plans, farmers in the Key-Stone State intend to plant 48,000 compared with 50,000 acres in 1958.

Pennsylvania seedleaf cigar tobacco growers intend to plant 31,000 acres to leaf this year. Last year they planted only 30,000 acres.

Soybean acreage (for grain and hay) may be down by five per cent from a year ago with 44,000 acres being listed by farmers as intended for the crop.

Hay acreage intended for harvest this year stands at 2,313,000 acres. This is one per cent larger than last year's 2,290,000 acres and would be the largest acreage harvested since 1950 when Pennsylvania farmers made hay from 2,468,000 acres.

The Crop Reporting Service notes these are purely intentions—as of March 1 and may not materialize depending on the extent of winter kill in winter grains.

Weather and soil conditions at planting time, labor supply, financial conditions and even the farmers' reaction to planting intention reports may cause changes.

If all farmers' intentions throughout the United States are carried out, the nation is headed for another record breaking crop year. Corn acreage may exceed last year by more than nine million acres for the largest planted acreage since 1949.

Total feed grain acreage may be nearly five per cent above 1958 while food grain acreage seems likely to be about three per cent more than last year.

Total acreage of crops planted or grown in 1959 now looks to be about 339 million acres, 5.1 and 8.4 million acres, respectively, above the low levels of 1957 and 1958, but otherwise the smallest national crop planting totals in comparable records available back to 1917, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Officers, Directors, Dates Named for W. Lampeter Fair

A complete slate of officers and 16 directors for the West Lampeter Community Fair Board were named last week in the annual election.

Officers are: Mark Meyer, president; John Stoner, vice-president; Wayne B. Rentschler, secretary-treasurer; J. Lloyd Rohrer, asst. secretary-treasurer;

Mrs. Robert Weaver, recording secretary; Mrs. Clyde Steiner and David Huber, Jr., corresponding secretaries; George W. Myers and Harold Rohrer, asst. treasurers;

Roy Herr, general manager; Leroy Welk and B. Snavely Garber, assistant managers, and Henry Brenneman, chaplain.

Elected to three-year terms as directors were: B. Snavely Garber, George B. Hershey Jr., Richard Hess, David Huber, Paul G. Longenecker, Mark Myer, Geo. Myers, Melvin G. Peifer, Paul Rowe, Mrs. Warren Walton, Mrs. Robert Weaver, Leroy Welk, Harlan Keener, Jay Risser and Mrs. Harry Mentzer.

Robert Winters was elected to a one-year directorship. Board officers have scheduled an April 3rd officers meeting.

Dates for the 1959 fair were set for Sept. 23 - 25.

County 4-H Leader's Council Organization Meeting is Tues.

A Lancaster County 4-H Leader's Council will be organized at a special meeting for all club leaders, Tuesday evening (March 31), at 8 p. m. in the 12th floor auditorium of the Great Building on Penn Square in Lancaster.

The meeting and projected council will include all home economics and agriculture 4-H club leaders.

A special letter to all county leaders, signed by County Agent Max M. Smith, Home Economist Norma J. Zehner and assistant and associate agents Harry S. Sloat, Victor Plastow and Winthrop Merrian was mailed this week.

The Council is projected to provide leaders with an opportunity to exchange ideas, assist in developing and administering the 4-H program and provide recognition for 4-H leaders thus encouraging more people to take an active part in the program.

Mylo S. Downey, from the National 4-H club office in Washington D.C., will be the guest speaker. Downey was Maryland 4-H leader before moving to the national post.

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