

Lancaster Farming Reviews :

Based on April 1 conditions, a winter wheat crop of 966 million bushels is indicated for 1959. This would be nine million bushels above the Dec. 1 forecast, 18 per cent less than the 1958 record crop but 19 per cent above average.

The indicated yield per seeded acre for the upcoming winter wheat crop is 21.4 bushels, well above the 16-bushel average, and second only to the extremely high 26 1/8 bushel average of 1958.

The possibility of increased alfalfa production in the Central Great Plains area is included in the announcement of a new variety, called Cody, that resists spotted Alfalfa Aphid. The new variety is presently recommended for Kansas, having been developed by the USDA and Kansas Experiment Station, and is expected to offer adaptation to the entire region.

A large portion of the Southern and Central Plains regions, extensive alfalfa production has been curtailed, or wiped out, during the past five years by the onslaught of the Spotted Alfalfa Aphid which migrated from Italy.

If farmers follow through on their March 1 intentions to plant in 1959, they will increase the total acreage planted to feed grains by about six million acres, according to the current USDA Feed Situation report.

Thus the total supply of feed grains for the 1959-60 season is expected to at least equal, if not exceed, the record supply in 1958-59. Total 1959 production of feed grains with 1954-58 average yields on the prospective plantings, would be about 152 million tons, only a little below the record crop of last year.

The reduction would be more than offset by a prospective increase of around 15-16 million tons in the carryover, giving a total feed grain supply of around 227 million tons, or 10 million tons above the 1958-59 record supply.

The USDA announced last week that Massachusetts has been declared modified-certified, brucellosis free, effective March 31. It is the first state to achieve this status in 1959 and the 16th state in the nation, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, to be certified. In addition, 816 counties in 30 other states also have been certified.

Conn., Del., Maine, Mich., New Hampshire, New Mexico, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania are the other states with modified-certified brucellosis free status.

For a state to qualify, not more than one per cent of all cattle and not more than five per cent of all herds may be infected with the disease.

The national program has been underway since 1934, when more than 11 per cent of U.S. cattle were infected.

A new spray called Sevin, is to be given a field-test demonstration against Gypsy Moth in New York beginning about May 10. The chemical, a carbamate, has given indications of effectiveness against the forest pests in research to find a control material which offers a minimum hazard to fish and wildlife.

Cabinet representatives from five major wheat-exporting countries — Argentina, Australia, Canada, France and the U.S. — will confer in Washington on May 5 and 6 on the Food for Peace proposal outlined by President Eisenhower in his January 29 address to Congress. The Director General of the World Food and Agriculture Or-

ganization will also take part in the meeting.

During February, the amount of poultry certified under Federal Inspection totaled 2,575,940,000 lbs., according to the USDA Crop Reporting Board. This compares with 72,574,000 lbs. certified in February, 1958, the sharp increase being due to the Jan. 1 effective date for compulsory federal inspection of all poultry in interstate commerce.

However, the extension of the inspection program to include more plants is currently stalled due to lack of appropriations for this purpose.

During the week of March 22 - 28, nearly 65 million persons were working on farms, up three per cent from the year-ago week. Hired farm workers reached an estimated total of nearly 1.4 million, largest March total since 1955, and 10 per cent higher than 1958. Cash farm wage rate on April 1 are also reported to reflect a strong demand for qualified farm

workers.

Composite farm wage rates on April 1 advanced to a national index of 620, highest level of record.

Early control of hay insect pests, including alfalfa weevil, spittle bugs, and lesser clover leaf weevil, by application of two quarts an acre of Heptachlor emulsion 2-E, is urged by Associate Co. Agent Harry Sloat, by spray application before April 20.

When applied to alfalfa, three to six inches high, and clover, two to four inches high, the spray has given satisfactory control of the above insects and the higher concentrate dosage has provided better control of the clover root borer and clover root curculio than the regular one quart per acre spray on the first crop.

With new spring alfalfa seedings, apply one quart per acre of Heptachlor, between May 10-15, Sloat advises.

A Lancaster County Extension Service study of cash returns from 77 farms, to compare profits from livestock against those without livestock has revealed that during 1957, farmers producing both crops and livestock received nearly six times as much for their labor as those producing just crops.

The figures show that the crop-livestock farmers had a 1957 labor income of \$2,553 compared with \$478 for non-livestock farmers. The report is a partial proof of Lancaster County's historically high livestock production.

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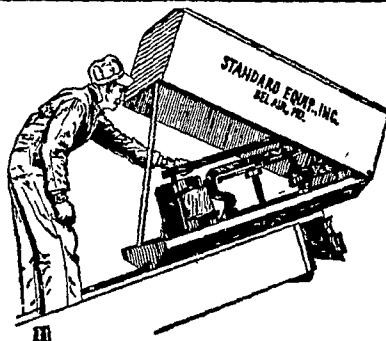
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