

## Report Shows Less Wheat In Prospect

The wheat crop now in prospect for Pennsylvania should be the smallest in many years, a special report from the crop reporting service this week said.

The planted acreage is the smallest of record for the state and is so small as to offset much of the effect of higher yields in recent years.

The crop came through the winter poorly due to lack of snow cover and there may be above normal abandonment but it is too early to tell yet the report continued.

Production in the state was estimated at 13,485,000 bushels, the smallest crop since 1943. The crop is 14 per cent smaller than the 1961 crop and 22 per cent under the 10 year average.

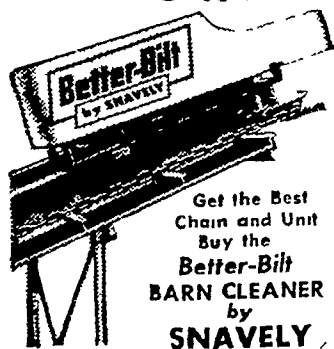
A limited amount of plowing and planting of fields with better drained soils was reported late in March throughout the Keystone state. Unusually cold weather through most of the month was followed by a warm spell which started crops out of their dormancy and brought the start of field activities. But then temperatures fell again and things returned to a standstill.

FARM WAGE RATES in Pennsylvania were generally up slightly from a year ago. This continues a long-time trend.

THE NUMBER OF EGGS produced on Pennsylvania farms during March totaled 28.5 million, up seasonably from February, but 6 percent below March 1961 and was the lowest March production since 1942. Normally egg production during March is higher than any other month of the year.

Although production per layer was slightly below a year ago, the principal reason for the 20-year low was the continual downward trend in layers. The average number of layers at 15.3 million was 6 percent below the March 1961 number of 16.2 million and was the lowest since 1941. The last month to show an increase over a year earlier.

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was April 1959.

The average rate of lay for March was 18.69 eggs per layer or 1 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 1958. However, the rate was still above the 10-year (1951-60) average and above any March prior to 1957.

Egg prices declined 2 cents during the month, ending mid-March and on March 15 averaged 38 cents per dozen, 3 cents below a year earlier.

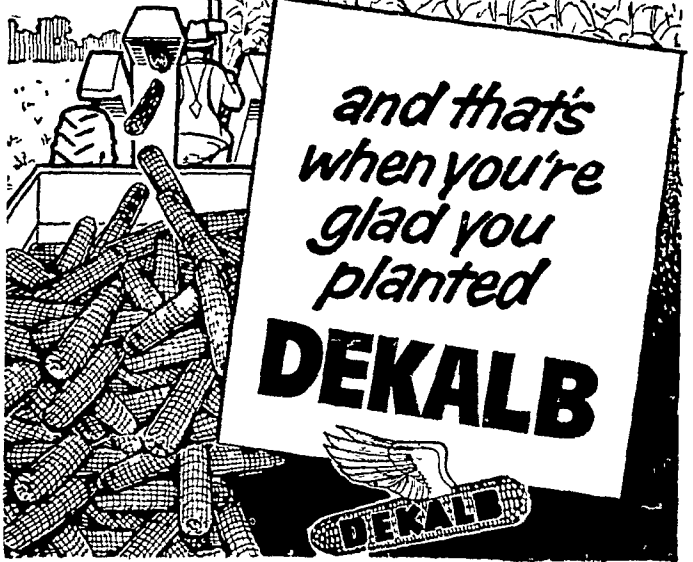
MILK COWS in Pennsylvania produced an estimated 634 million pounds of milk during March 1962. This was 22 per cent more milk than was produced during February 1962 and 3 per cent more than

the March 1961 figure.

The major factor involved in the increased production during March 1962 was an increase in production per cow of 22.5 per cent over the previous month's estimate. This was also an increase of 5 per cent over the same month a year earlier. At the same time there was a decrease of 4 tenths of one per cent in milk cow numbers during March 1962 and 2 per cent decrease from the past year. The total number of milk cows on Pennsylvania farms during March 1962 was 875,000.



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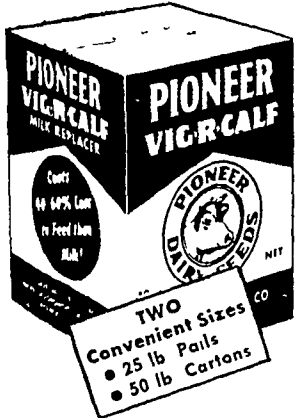
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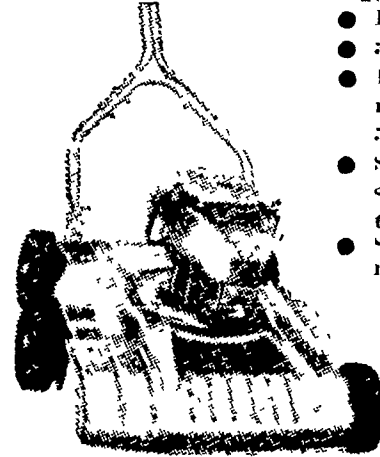
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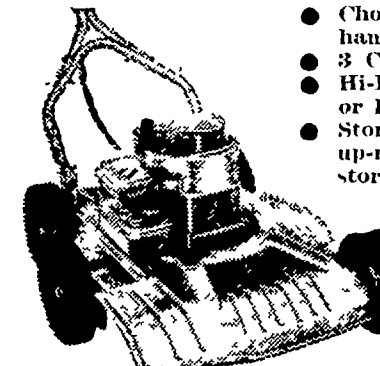
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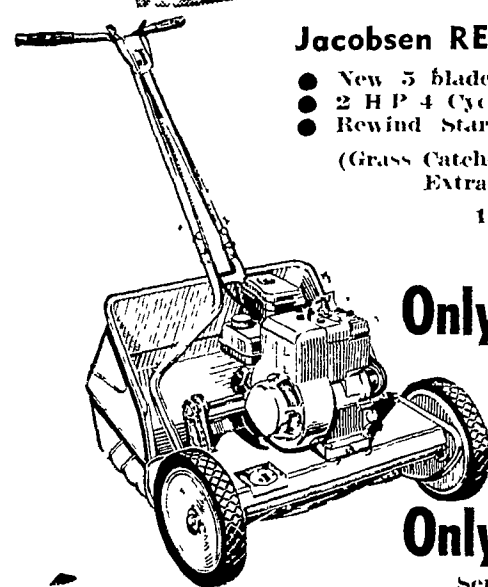
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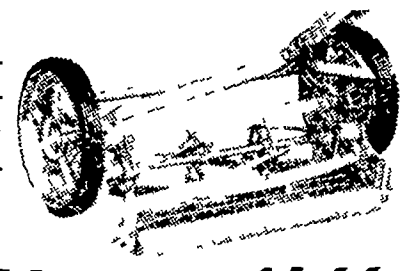
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