

8 Independent Broiler Growers Tell About HORNCO Feed

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Most Farmers Seed Wheat Not Certified

Only a small number of Pennsylvania farmers plant certified wheat seed, a 1961 survey indicates. The study, made in Central Pennsylvania, showed a large number of prohibited and noxious weeds in the drill boxes of farmers planting home-grown and neighbor-grown wheat.

Home-grown or neighbor-grown wheat accounted for 86 per cent of the wheat seed sown, reports Harold T. Campbell, graduate assistant with the project at Penn State.

"Home-grown grain, if properly cleaned, treated, and tested for germination, is acceptable for seeding — but very few farmers run germination tests on wheat seed," Campbell reports.

Only 21 of the 149 lots of seed wheat, about 14 per cent, were purchased from commercial seed dealers. Ten of the 21 lots of dealer seed were certified and 11 lots were non-certified. Of 142 farmers interviewed in Central Pennsylvania, 121 harvested wheat.

Recommended varieties made up 94 per cent of the seed wheat. The most popular variety was Pennoll, with nearly half the acreage. Seneca and Thorne, closely related varieties were next with one-third of the acreage.

Half of the farmers reported using small amounts of certified seed wheat from time to time to provide future seed. Only four lots of seed were planted without being cleaned.

Feed Grain Stock Down

Just how well the current "diversion" programs for feed grains and wheat are accomplishing one of their main objectives is indicated by the Department of Agriculture's July 24 report of Stocks of Grain in All Positions, recently received at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service County Office.

The report showed that July 1 stocks of feed grains and wheat were significantly below the previous year. For feed grains, this marks the first decline for July 1 since 1952.

According to Fred G. Selmon, Chairman of the Lancaster County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, this report on grain stocks is in marked contrast to last year's which showed wheat and feed grain stocks hitting new highs. For wheat, 1961 was the third consecutive year the previous record had been broken.

This year, however, the July 1 grain stocks report clearly reflects the results of the diversion programs — particularly for feed grains, which got under way in the spring of 1961. It apparently marks a turning point in the drift toward chaos in the feed grain and livestock sectors of the economy through the ever-increasing buildup of feed grain and wheat stocks.

As reported by the Department on July 24, corn accounted for the major decline in feed grain stocks, with a 12 percent drop below the July record holdings of a year ago. Barley showed the sharpest percentage decline for the feed grains,