

Crop & Livestock Roundup

OCT. EGG PRODUCTION flock produced 280 million
3 % ABOVE SEPT. eggs during October. October
 The Keystone State's laying production was up 3 per cent

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from a month earlier. This change is the smallest September to October increase in recent years. The usual advance is about 6 per cent. In recent years this change has gradually become smaller. Production during October 1963 was 2 per cent less than this October.

Hens and pullets of laying age numbered 149 million during October, about 1 per cent more than both the previous month and a year ago.

Rate of lay for October at 17.45 eggs compares with 17.10 for September. The October rate of lay was also slightly higher than in October 1963.

Prices received by farmers for eggs averaged 39 cents a dozen in October, a cent above the mid-month September price but a cent below the October 1963 mid-month price. The egg-feed price ratio indicates egg producers are in a more favorable position than the previous month or a year ago.

Production of egg-type chicks in Pennsylvania from January to September inclusive totaled 24.7 million, 9 per cent less than the comparable period last year. The January through September total for the United States was 2 per cent above a year earlier.

The slight increase in egg-type hatchings suggests an increased egg supply for next year, and possibly a slightly lower price.

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 21, 1964—11

PA. FALL PLANTINGS OFF TO A POOR START

Most of the Commonwealth had some rain in early October but succeeding weeks were dry and soil moisture continued to be deficient in all areas except the northwest according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Fall seeded grains did not germinate until rain supplied the necessary moisture. Some seed was in the soil a month before it sprouted. Most fall plantings are up but lack of moisture is hampering growth. The cool dry weather favored harvesting of corn, potatoes, apples, and fall vegetables.

LOW CORN PRODUCTION THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

Prospects for this year's corn crop are below normal but better than the two preceding dry years. Production of corn for grain is forecast at 51.9 million bushels, 20 per cent greater than last year but 6 per cent below the 1958-62 average production of 56.3 million bushels. Production during 1958 through 1961 ranged from 57 to 62 million bushels. Early planted corn matured and produced good yields while late planted corn was hurt by both the dry growing season and September freezes.

Corn prices are finishing harvest above last year and are expected to stay higher than 1963-64 throughout the season, with a strong rise going into summer.

PA SEEDLEAF PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Production of Pennsylvania Seedleaf tobacco is forecast at 48.1 million pounds. The current estimate is 4 per cent below 1963 production and 9 per cent below the 1958-62 average.

The later planted tobacco is not curing as fast as usual and stands a risk of shed freezing. The month of October offered too little warmth in combination with sufficient moisture to give late tobacco the best cure. For proper cure, the seedleaf needs warm sunny days with some moisture. Leaves on the late crop are short but heavy.

Early tobacco cured down quite well. It has a nice chestnut brown color and is of good quality. Some growers were ready to start stripping the early crop shortly after November 1. A small percentage of the acreage was frozen and not harvested but damage by insects and disease was very light this year.

PA POTATO PRODUCTION PROSPECTS DOWN 5 %

The combined late summer and fall potato production in the Keystone State is forecast at 70 million hundredweight, down 5 per cent from October 1 expectations. This places production 5 per cent below last year and 9 per cent below the 1958-62 average. The combined yield is estimated at 180 hundredweight per acre.

The fall crop is estimated at 64 million hundredweight based on an average yield of 180 hundredweight per acre. Variable weather across the State during October had significant effects on the progress of digging in the major fall producing areas, but by November 1, harvest in all areas was virtually completed. Growers in the east had little trouble with foul weather preventing digging and the crop was finished by October 20. Although yields in eastern counties are only fair, quality is very good and the potatoes are a lot drier than those in the west. Many growers in western counties had excellent yields.

Digging of potatoes in the west was delayed by rain early in October. When the weather turned favorable growers hastened harvesting operations in anticipation of more foul weather. The quality of the western potatoes is better than originally reported. Because of the excess moisture in the west this year, growers fear some breakdown of potatoes in storage. The hollow heart found earlier in Erie County was not as serious as first expected and prices in that area are now in their normal relationship with the remainder of the State.

US Fall Production Below 1963

Fall potato production is estimated at 176.7 million hundredweight, 1 per cent less than forecast on October 1 and 10 per cent less than 1963 production. This is the smallest fall potato crop since 1960.

Total potato production for all seasonal groups is estimated at 2440 million hundredweight compared with 2717 million in 1963. The 1964 crop is the smallest since 1957.

It is expected that potato prices will move up sharply this winter.

(Continued on Page 14)

THANKSGIVING

Wishing you and yours a most joyful Thanksgiving, brimming with the bounty and blessings of the season.

D. E. HORN & CO., INC.
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