

● Hay Warning

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 "check local prices through reliable sources" before buying. At the same time, Bull branded the increase "ridiculous and unnecessary, in light of an above-average hay crop in the nation this year."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on October 1 estimated 1966 hay production in the nation at 118,109,000 tons. This compares to a five-year average (1960-64) of 117,783,000 tons, the Secretary pointed out.

By contrast, Pennsylvania's 1966 hay crop is estimated at 3,138,000 tons, the smallest since 1962 and 8.4 percent less than last year's production.

Both hay and corn, basic feeds of dairy and beef cattle, were ravaged by Pennsylvania's fifth consecutive year of drought. "Many farmers were forced to feed first cutting hay during the dry months and now have little, if any, on hand for winter feeding. This means they must buy hay, and it is important that they buy it as economically as possible if they are to

continue producing milk and meat," Bull cautioned.

At the same time, he pointed out that Pennsylvania farmers are harvesting their smallest corn crop in 36 years — and possibly the second smallest crop in a century.

Corn production in the state this year is expected to total 32,604,000 bushels of grain, according to latest estimates of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

If so, it will be the smallest corn crop in the state since 1930 when production totaled only 19,074,000 bushels of grain. That was the year of depression, dust storms in the West and drought in Pennsylvania — a drought almost as severe as the one that parched state cropland this past summer.

(Weather Bureau records show rainfall in 1930 was eight to nine inches below normal. In the first eight months of 1966, rainfall deficiencies in most of the state ranged from 5.72 to 8.89 inches.)

The state's 1966 corn crop, Secretary Bull pointed out, is

Order 4 Milk Price Gains 57c Over Year Ago

by Everett Newswanger
 Staff Reporter

The average price paid to farmers for milk produced in September under the Delaware Valley federal order averaged \$6.15 per hundredweight at 3.5 percent butterfat, according to the latest report from the Market Administrator. This is 13 cents above the August price approximately 35 percent less

than last year's production. It also is 36 percent short of the 1960-64 average, and scarcely more than half the size of the crop produced in 1958. That year, Pennsylvania farmers harvested a record 61,974,000 bushels of grain.

The previous high was set in 1919 when production totaled 61,916,000 bushels. That was the first year in which records were kept for corn harvested as grain and that produced for silage.

Between 1866 and 1918, the smallest corn crop was reported in 1893 when 34,750,000 bushels were harvested for both grain and silage.

this year and an increase of 57 cents from the market average for September 1965. Adjustments for milk containing the 3.5 standard will be at 9 cents per tenth of a percent.

The sharp September-to-September rise in the market price was the result of the combination of a 40-cent higher Class I milk price (\$6.40); a Class II return (\$4.30) that was 94 cents above a year ago, and a Class I utilization rise of over 4 percentage points to 86.61 percent.

The 86.61 percent of producer receipts utilized for fluid milk purposes during September represents the highest percentage since October 1964.

Order No. 4 plants received milk from 4,894 producers in September, who delivered an average of 984 pounds daily. A year earlier, 5,397 producers were reported by the order handlers and the daily average shipment was 928 pounds. Because the yearly gain in milk deliveries per producer did not compensate fully for the fewer number of dairy farmers, market milk receipts declined 3.6 percent from September 1965.

Total fluid milk sales were 6.8 percent more than the Class I marketings last September. Daily fluid milk sales of 4.62 million pounds in September compared with 4.24 million pounds per day the previous month.

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