

1966 Crop Production Is Second Highest On Record, USDA Reports

Crop production in the United States in 1966 tied 1963 as the second highest of record, despite some damage from sub-freezing temperatures, lack of moisture at times, and unusually high early summer temperatures. Several major fall maturing crops registered record or near record yields per acre as shower activity picked up early in August and temperatures turned cooler. Most northern States enjoyed long growing seasons as freezing temperatures held off until late crops matured West of the Mississippi, harvesting conditions were generally favorable except parts of Kansas and Nebraska, but in portions of the Eastern Corn Belt, the South Atlantic and eastern South Central States conditions were less favorable. The "all crop" production index of 112 for 1966 (1957-59=100) is 4 points (3 percent) below last year, but equals the second highest of record reached in 1963.

Crop Yields Per Acre Lower

Crop yields per acre in 1966 were generally good but fell short of last year's record high levels. Among the major crops setting new record yields were soybeans, rice, sorghum, and peanuts. The all hay yield equaled the 1965 record. Crops with lower yields per acre than in 1965 include corn, all wheat, oats, barley, cotton, tobacco, and potatoes. The composite index of "yield per acre" covering 28 major crops declined to 121 for 1966. This

is 2 points (2 percent) below the record high in 1965 but exceeds all earlier years.

Feed Grain Production Down Slightly

Production of the four feed grains in 1966 totaled 157.2 million tons, only slightly less than the 157.4 million tons produced in 1965 but 8 percent above average. Feed grain acreage harvested was 2 percent more than last year as increases in corn and barley more than offset declines for oats and sorghum. Yield per acre of sorghum was the highest on record and corn the second highest. Yields of oats and barley were well below a year earlier. The composite feed grain yield of 1.61 tons per acre was 2 percent less than last year but 19 percent above average.

Food Grain Output Up a Little

Combined food grain production (wheat, rye, and rice)

was 44.4 million tons in 1966. This was slightly above the 44.2 million produced last year and 9 percent above average. Harvested acreage was up slightly from a year earlier due to increases in wheat and rice. Production of winter wheat, the major food grain, was 4 percent above a year earlier, but a decline of 9 percent in Durum and 17 percent in other spring wheat pulled the all wheat total 0.4 percent below 1965. A 10 percent increase in acreage and a record high yield per acre pushed rice production 12 percent above last year. Acreage of rye harvested was 13 percent less than last year and, with a slightly lower yield per acre, total production was 16 percent below 1965.

Less Hay—More Silage in 1966

Production of all kinds of hay totaled 121 million tons in 1966—4 percent less than last year, but 2 percent above average. Production estimates include hay cut on diverted acreage where permitted under Government Programs. Total acreage cut for hay was 4 percent less than a year ear-

lier and 3 percent below average. At 1.85 tons per acre, the average yield equaled last year's record. Production was put up for all seasonal groups except late summer. Harvested acreage, up 5 percent from a year ago, was the largest since 1961.

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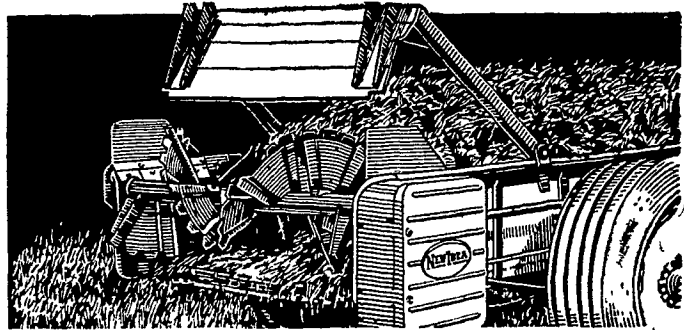
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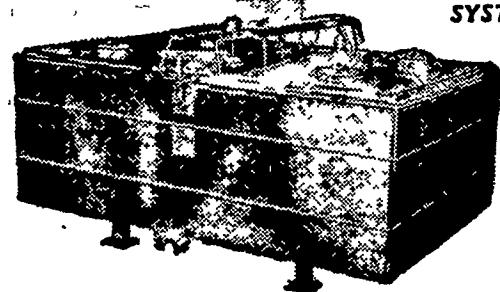
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