

Pa. Tobacco Growers Plan 5 Per Cent Decrease

Commonwealth tobacco growers intend to set 21,000 acres of their Type-41, Pennsylvania Seedleaf for harvest in 1968, 5 percent less acreage than a year ago, according to the Penna. Crop Reporting Service.

Acreage harvested at this level is the smallest acreage since the record low of 17,800 acres harvested in 1934. It compares with 22,000 acres harvested in 1967 and 27,200 acres for the 1962-66 average. In the past 10 years Pennsylvania's tobacco acreage has ranged from a low of 22,000 to a high of 31,000 acres.

Based on the 1962-66 average yield of 1,825 pounds, a crop of about 38.3 million pounds of Pennsylvania Seed Leaf would be produced. Production in 1967 is estimated at 42.4 million pounds.

The March 1 intentions may or may not materialize depending on weather conditions at planting time, the availability of plants and even growers' reactions to this report. The purpose of this report is to assist growers generally in making such changes in their acreage plans as may appear desirable.

U.S. AVERAGE

Growers intend to set 906,400 acres of all types of tobacco for harvest in 1968, about 8 percent below the acreage harvested last year and the smallest since 1890. Flue-cured accounts for most of the drop from 1967, although small declines are indicated for other major classes except Southern Maryland with no change. All types of tobacco except Southern Maryland, Pennsylvania Seedleaf, Shade-grown, and Perique are under

quotas this year with basic allotments unchanged from 1967. Based on an average yield per acre, with allowance for trend, production of all types of tobacco from this year's intended acreage would be 1,850 million pounds, compared with 2,007 million last year.

Flue-cured plantings are expected to total 555,020 acres in 1968 — 11 percent below last year and the lowest since records for the class were started in 1919. Adjustments due to net over-marketing of the 1967 effective poundage quotas under the acreage-poundage program account, in part, for the sharp decrease in this year's acreage. If yields per acre are average, with allowance for trend, bright-leaf production from the 1968 prospective acreage would be 1,082 million pounds, compared with about 1,268 million produced last season. Fire-cured producers indicate plans for 23,100 acres — an all-time low since records began in 1919. Last year 23,600 acres were harvested. If an average yield, adjusted for trend, is realized, production from this year's intended acreage would total 39.8 million pounds.

POTATOES

Pennsylvania potato growers intend to decrease their potato acreage by 8 percent for 1968. This places indicated planted acreage for 1968 at 36,000 acres.

If these intentions are carried out, total acreage would be 3,000 acres less than planted last year and the smallest planted acreage of record. The 1962-66 average acreage planted was 38,600 acres. During the past 10

years acreage has ranged from 38,000 to 42,000 acres.

Based on the 1962-66 average yield of 185 cwt., production would be about 6.7 million cwt. This production would be 6 percent below the 5-year average production. Yield of the 1967 crop at 240 cwt. was a record high.

The March 1 intentions may or may not materialize depending on weather and soil conditions during planting time, labor and seed supply, current price and stocks situation and even growers' reaction to this report. The purpose of this report is to assist growers generally in making such changes in their acreage plans as may be desirable.

NATIONAL ACREAGE

Prospective plantings of late summer and fall potatoes for 1968 are estimated at 1,182,900 acres, 5 percent less than 1967 plantings. In all regions, intended plantings are below last year's planted acreage.

The intended plantings in the North Atlantic States are placed at 301,800 acres for 1968, compared with 315,800 acres planted last year — a 4-percent decline. Reduced plantings are expected for each state in the group. Prospective plantings for the East North Central States, totaling 125,300 acres, compare with 130,700 acres planted in 1967. The West North Central States, with prospective plantings of 239,800 acres, compared with 252,400 last year, show declines except in South Dakota, unchanged from 1967. In the West, expected plantings are 508,500 acres this year compared with 533,400 acres planted in

1967. A reduction of 5 percent is indicated in Idaho, 3 percent in Colorado and Washington, 12 percent in Oregon, and 5 percent in California.

If growers realize an average yield, allowing for trend, from expected late summer and fall plantings, production for 1968 would total 242 million cwt., 7 percent less than the record large 1967 crop from these two seasonal groups.

The indicated decline in intended acreage for late summer and fall potatoes continues a trend shown for most of the other seasonal groups. The acreage planted to winter potatoes totaled 22,200 acres, 10 percent below a year earlier. Plantings for the early spring crop totaled 34,100 acres, 8 percent less than in 1967. Planting intentions for the late spring group, at 88,100 acres, reported on January 1, are down 16 percent. However, planting intentions for the early summer crop, reported on February 1, indicated a 2 percent increase and expected plantings of 89,200 acres.

Plantings from all seasonal groups would total 1,416,500 acres for 1968, if expectations are reached. This would be 5 percent less than 1967 plantings. Production from the expected acreage for 1968 would be about 284 million cwt., compared with 306 million cwt., harvested in 1967 and 307 million in 1966. The projected production for 1968 is based on current estimates for the winter potatoes, plus average yields per acre, allowing for trend, for each of the other seasonal groups.

EGG-TYPE CHICK HATCH
Production of egg-type chicks

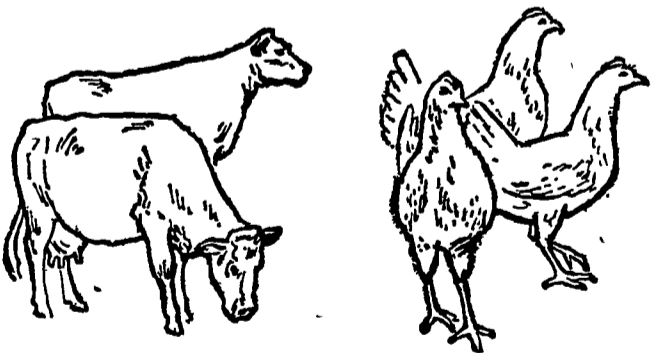
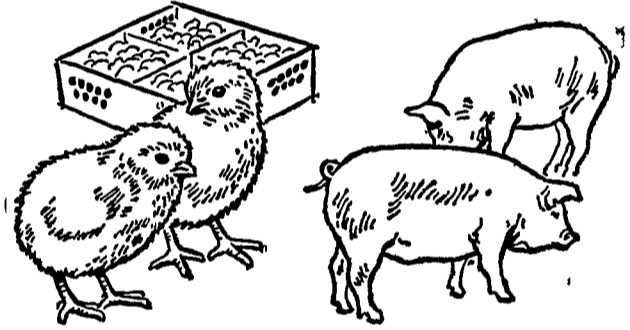
in Pennsylvania totaled 1,902,000 during February, 22 percent less than a year earlier. The total January-February 1968 egg-type hatch (3,265,000) is 25 percent less than the 1967 cumulative hatch. Broiler-type chick production totaled 4,886,000 during February 1968, 11 percent more than the February 1967 hatch. The 2 month cumulative total for this year is 19 percent more than the same time period in 1967.

U.S. PRODUCTION

Egg-type chicks hatched during February are estimated at 38 million, a decrease of 18 percent from a year earlier. All regions recorded decreases as follows: South Atlantic, 25 percent; North Atlantic, 23 percent; North Central, 19 percent; South Central, 13 percent; and West, 9 percent. During the first 2 months of 1968 there were 72 million egg-type chicks hatched, down 17 percent from the same 2 months in 1967. The number of egg-type eggs in incubator on March 1 was down 20 percent from a year earlier. The revised number of egg-type chicks hatched in 1967 totals 535 million, 6 percent less than in 1966.

"The announced tourist deficit takes no account of sizeable purchases by foreign countries of the U.S.-built aircraft and similar travel connected dollar spending. Air France, for example, has bought or ordered jets worth \$410,000,000 in recent years, with options amounting to another \$300,000,000. The company will spend \$37,000,000 of its dollar earnings this year for operating expenses in this country, another \$30,000,000 for aircraft components and spare parts, and is installing a \$30,000,000 U.S. computer system."
—Chicago Daily News

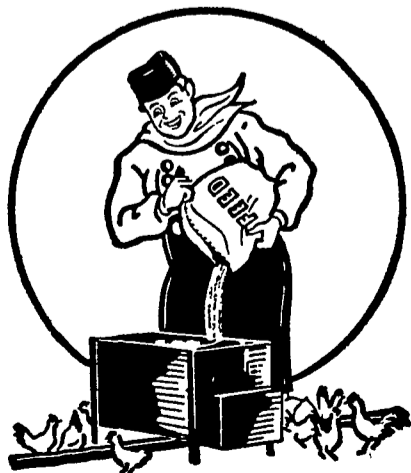
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