

Wheat's Origin Unknown

The United States produces more types of wheat in volume than any other nation in the world. But how wheat came to this country is in doubt.

Traces of wheat have been uncovered in the diggings of many early civilizations. It was grown in southwestern Asia, supposedly man's first home. But the origin of wheat still remains a mystery.

The common ancestor of all wheats is believed to be wild einkorn, still seen growing in the Balkan States.

Wheat probably arrived in America with the conquistadors. Later, it became an important crop in the early Virginia colonies along the Atlantic Coast.

Not only important in the United States, wheat is grown in nearly every country and covers more than 20 percent of the world's cropland.

There have been major improvements in the wheat plant, too. For years, progress was slow. The best grain from one year's harvest was selected as the next year's seed.

In the 20th century, however, plant scientists have been breeding new and improved wheat varieties.

Only three species of wheat are now important commercially — common wheat, club, and

Potato Growers Awards To Be Made In Harrisburg

Dr. Ernest L. Nixon, uncle of President elect Richard M. Nixon and retired Pennsylvania State University professor, will present awards to the state's potato growing champions at the 50th award ceremony of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with the 53rd annual Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Dr. Nixon, known throughout the state as "Mr. Potato" because of his interest in the vegetable, has missed making the presentations only once in the

49 previous years the awards have been made. Illness prevented him from participating in 1966.

To be cited as the champion potato grower will be Ray Bacon, Felton, York County. His yield was 761.8 bushels of Kennebecs. Second place honors will go to Seth Ballog, Union City, Crawford County, with a yield of 650.5 bushels of Katahdins. In third place is Richard Kaufman, Boswell, Somerset County, with a yield of 616 bushels of Katahdins.

To receive an award for the highest yield on five or more acres will be W. Kenneth Bowman, Fawn Grove, York County, with a yield of 788.9 bushels of Kennebecs.

In addition to Bowman, growers who qualified for the five highest 1968 yield awards include Bacon, Ballog, Kaufman, and Wallace Pollack, of Marion Center, Indiana County, who had a yield of 674.9 bushels of Katahdins.

The junior champion (4-H and FFA) to be cited will be Ed Workinger, Bioguesville, York County, with a yield of 740 bushels of Kennebecs. Junior cham-

durum. They account for 90 percent of all wheat grown.

Besides species, wheat may be further classified by the texture of the ripened kernel, color of the kernel, and the wheat plant's growing habits.

Tokyo transit officials hire pushers to jam commuters into cars, but Americans refuse to relinquish their amateur status.

Civilization seems to have substituted traffic jams for forest preserves.

ion in the highest yield award, no minimum acreage, will be Leon Strayer, Bioguesville, with a yield of 712.8 bushels of Kennebecs.

Presentations will be made at the Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers Association annual banquet, Thursday night Jan. 16, at the Holiday Inn Town.

The association, sponsor of the annual contest, awards a gold keystone-shaped medal to adults growing 400 or more bushels an acre on five acres or more and a merit certificate to juniors achieving similar yields.

The contest began in 1918 and a total of 1,491 Pennsylvania potato growers have been awarded medals since then. They are awarded only to those who have never received one in the past.

Previous medal and certificate winners may submit entries for consideration in senior and junior contests for the five highest yields in the state based on the same acreage requirements as the 400 Bushel Club.

Junior 400-Bushel Potato Club winners in addition to Workinger are Harry Bienneman, Red Lion, York County, Kennebec 670.6 bushels; Wayne Eveler, Felton, York County, Kennebec 646 bushels; Joey Mitchell, Berlin, Somerset County, Russet, 505.1 bushels.

Junior highest yield awards in addition to Strayer include Ed Workinger, the junior champion, Carey Brown, Felton, York

County, Kennebec, 706.1 bushels; Barry Bienneman, Red Lion, York County, Kennebec, 670.6 bushels; Steve Warner, Bioguesville, York County, Kennebec, 650.5 bushels.

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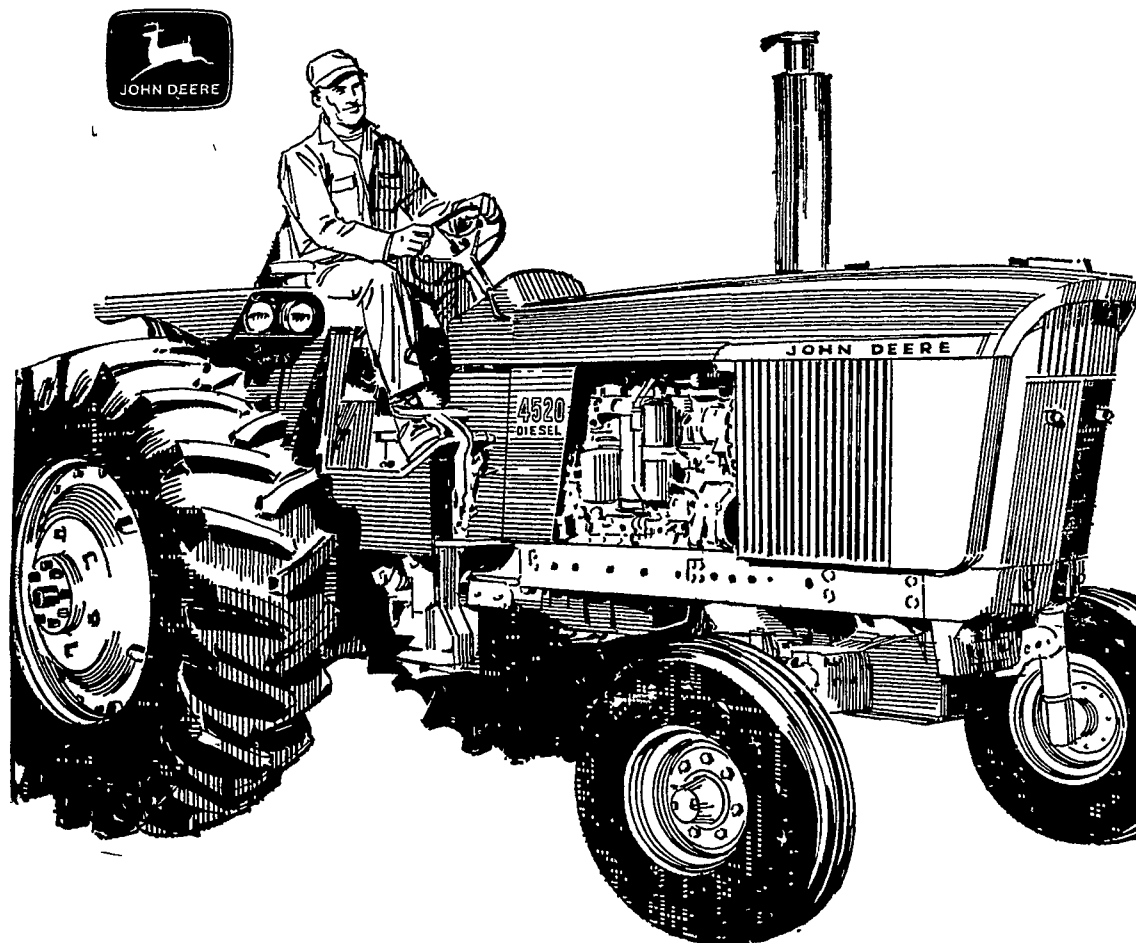
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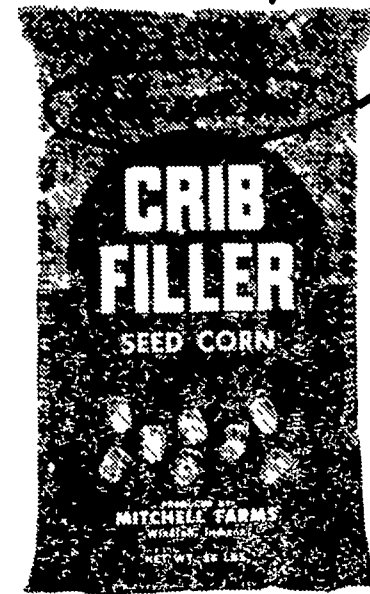
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