

# Corn Up, But Hay Down In 1970 State Forecast

Pennsylvania's 1970 corn acreage is expected to be three per cent greater than in 1969, increasing to 1,288,000 acres planted for all purposes. If these expectations are realized the largest acreage since 1955 will be planted to corn.

Soybean acreage is expected to increase four per cent to 28,000 acres. This continues the upward trend of recent years, and is the largest acreage since 1959 planted to soybeans according to the State Crop Reporting Service.

Plantings of winter wheat in Pennsylvania dropped 14 per cent to a record low 296,000 acres for 1970 harvest.

All other winter grain plantings also decreased from the previous year. Rye acreage seeded last fall dropped 20 per cent to 48,000 acres. The acreage seeded to barley is 194,000 acres, down three per cent from the year earlier.

Farmers are currently expecting to plant only 464,000 acres to oats this spring in Pennsylvania, five per cent less than last year and the lowest acreage of record. A decline in oat acreage has been recorded every year since 1954.

The 1970 acreage of all hay harvested in Pennsylvania is expected to be 1,969,000 acres, un-

changed from the 1969 acreage. This acreage will equal the record set last year for the smallest hay acreage harvested since records began in 1866. Increasing yields in the past few years have enabled farmers to store record high quantities of hay from declining acreages.

National planting intentions for 17 crops in the March 1 survey are for a total of 258 million acres — three per cent or 6.4 million acres more than planted last year.

Major increases in acreage are corn, 2.4 million, sorghums, 1.1 million, oats and soybeans, nearly a million each, and other spring wheat, 754,000 acres. Other spring-planted crops showing increases are barley, cotton, all hay, flaxseed, potatoes, dry peas and peanuts.

Sharpest declines in acreage are expected in durum wheat, a million acres, rice 321,000, and sugarbeets, 155,000 acres. Smaller acreages also are expected for sweetpotatoes, tobacco and dry beans.

Growers' intentions for 1970 acreages were reported during the sign-up period for the 1970 Feed Grain, Wheat, and Cotton Programs. Actual plantings may be altered by later decisions.

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