

Use Certified Oat Seed, Professor Urges

High quality, certified oat seed with homegrown seed, according to Dr. Guy W. McKee, professor of agronomy at Pennsylvania State University, a specific farm can mean 20 or more bushels per acre than possible

Twenty-four extra bushels was the yield difference between statewide trials of certified oats and all oats grown in Pennsylvania during a 15-year period, Dr. McKee says. The average yield of all varieties in the demonstration trials was 65.5 bushels per acre over the 15 years.

In contrast, the average statewide yield of all oats was only 41.5 bushels per acre. There were several years of below normal rainfall in the 15-year period.

As secretary of the Experiment Station Seed Committee in the College of Agriculture, Dr. McKee works closely with seed improvement programs. He says high seed quality is indicated by germination ability and freedom from weed seeds.

Certified seed, or seed of equal quality bearing the brand tags of reliable seedsmen, is the best assurance of quality. The extra cost is repaid many times over in increased yield, he said.

Penn State recommends six varieties of spring oats for Pennsylvania farms. They are Garry, Pennfield, Orbit, Russell, Clintford, and Jaycee. For farmers wanting an early maturing variety with stiff straw, Clintford replaces Clinton 59 and the several Clintland selections. Russell oats, while high yielding, tends to have more stalk breakage than the other recommended varieties.

In the 15-year period of analysis, the average yields per acre were: Russell, 75.8; Pennfield, 73.7; Orbit, 73.1; Garry, 69.2; and Clinton-Clintland types, 61.4. Pennfield, Orbit, and Russell, released in recent years, were included only during the latter years of the test. Jaycee, newly recommended, was not in the trials but produces high yields. Elmer C. Pifer, former extension agronomist now retired, conducted the 15-year trials.

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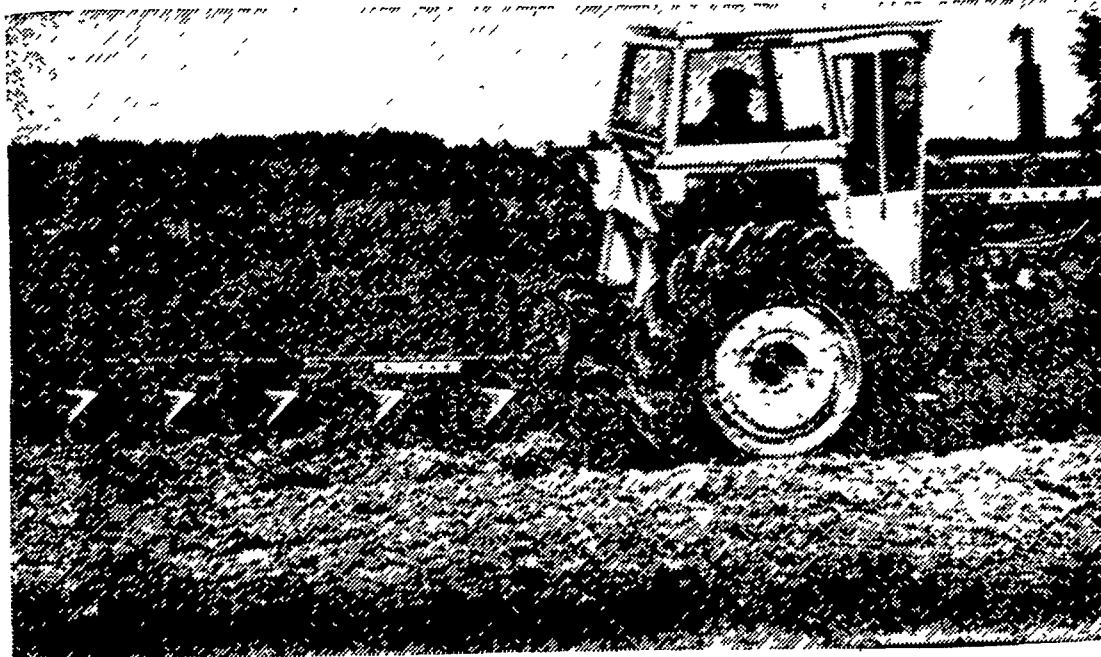
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