

## Pa. Tobacco Forecast Down 9 pct.; U.S. Total Up 1 pct.

Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco production is forecast at 24,750,000 pounds, based on conditions as of September 1. This represents a decrease of 6 percent from last month's forecast and is 9 percent below last year's production.

Yield is expected to be 1,500 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from last month's forecast and the estimated 1,600 pounds harvested last year.

Extremely dry weather caused slender stalk development and small leaves. Also, many fields are drying prematurely. Some early tobacco was in fair condition, but late tobacco suffered significantly from the lack of rainfall during August.

Production of all types of tobacco in the U.S. is forecast at 1,726 million pounds as of September 1, up 6 million pounds from a month earlier because of an increase in burley and cigar wrapper. Indicated output this year is 1 percent above the 1,707 million produced in 1971. Yield per acre for all tobacco is expected to average 2,039 pounds, compared with 2,034 pounds in 1971.

Flue-cured production as of September 1 is estimated at 1,013 million pounds, a decrease of 8 million pounds from a month

earlier and 65 million pounds below 1971. The decline in production from a year earlier can be attributed to less acreage for harvest and prospective yields of 1,953 pounds, compared with 2,050 pounds in 1971. Harvest of the crop in the Georgia-Florida belt was practically complete on September 1 and sales on the type 14 markets were nearing completion. Harvest of types 13 and 12 was 90 percent or more complete by the first of September. About three-fourths of the type 11 crop had been harvested in North Carolina and 60 percent in Virginia.

## Pa. Broiler Placements Down 16 pct.

Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending September 9 were 1,154,000 according to a report this week from the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The placements were 16 percent below the corresponding week a year earlier, but 7 percent above the previous week. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 12 percent below a year earlier.

Settings for broiler chicks were 1,770,000 - 6 percent above the previous week but 5 percent below the comparable period a year earlier. The current 3-week total of eggs set is 7 percent below the same period a year earlier. The current 3-week total of eggs set is 7 percent below the same period a year ago.

Inshipments of broiler-type chicks during the past 10 weeks averaged 19,000 compared with 6,000 a year ago.

Outshipments averaged 261,000 during the past 10 weeks, 15 percent above a year earlier.

Burley production is forecast at 563 million pounds, 3 percent above the August 1 forecast and 19 percent above the 473 million pounds produced in 1971. Prospects improved in Kentucky, Indiana, and Virginia. Conditions have been favorable and harvesting is progressing on schedule. Harvest of the crop in Kentucky is 30 percent complete, slightly ahead of a year earlier while about half Tennessee's acreage has been harvested.

Southern Maryland production is expected to be 26 million pounds, unchanged from the August forecast but down 7 percent from the 28.1 million pounds produced in 1971. Harvest of the crop is later than a year earlier. Moisture is short on late planted acreage and harvest is delayed.

Fire-cured output, types 21-23, is forecast at 45 million pounds, up 3 percent from the 1971 crop of 43.5 million pounds. Yield per acre is expected to average 1,744 pounds, compared with the 1971 yield of 1,775 pounds.

Production of dark-air-cured leaf, types 35-37, is placed at 16 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 16.8 million pounds produced in 1971. The September

indicated yield of 1,800 pounds per acre is up 26 pounds from a year earlier.

Production of all cigar tobacco is forecast at 63 million pounds, a decline of 8 percent from the 1971 crop of 68.4 million pounds. The decrease in production can be attributed to both less acreage and a lower yield. Forecast yield per acre, at 1,645 pounds, compares with 1,764 pounds in 1971.

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