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Penna. Crop Forecasts Down

The October 1 Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco crop is forecast at 23,100,000 pounds - down 1,650,000 pounds from last month's forecast and appears to be a poor year for many tobacco growers. This year's low yield at 1400 pounds is the lowest since 1945 when yield dropped to 1283 pounds per acre. Much of this year's 16,500 acres for harvest was hindered by the unfavorable weather conditions and had to be topped short. Many fields never reached full maturity as cool nights and not enough moisture prevailed when the reverse would have been welcomed.

The forecast for potato production is 5,700,000 per hundredweight - down three percent from last month and 27 per cent below the 1971 production. Yield

from the 30,000 acres is projected at 190 per hundredweight per acre and compares with 35,500 acres and 220 per hundredweight per acre in 1971.

The U.S. production of all types of tobacco is forecast at 1,727 million pounds as of October 1, up one million pounds from a month earlier and 20 million pounds above the 1971 crop. An increase in burley prospects during the month is primarily responsible for the larger leaf production. Yield per acre for all tobacco is indicated at 2,041 pounds, up seven pounds from the 1971 average. Differences between the October 1 forecast and final estimates in the past decade averaged 75 million pounds—ranging from 1 million to 149 million pounds.

With potato harvest about two-thirds complete nationally, the outlook is for a small crop with yields down considerably from a year ago. Tuber size ranges from average to small with approximately 60 percent of the crop reported to be in the small category. Soil moisture conditions during September were reported to be dry by two-thirds of all reporters. Sunburn and aphid damage appears to have been more of a problem to this year's crop than normal.

Ricotta Cheese

Ricotta cheese is made from cow's milk, whole or partly skimmed or whey from cow's milk with whole or skim milk added. Extension dairy specialists at Pennsylvania State University say it may be soft, moist or even dry and have a sweet, nut-like flavor. It's even used in lasagne-type dishes.

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