

More Soybean, Small Grain Double Crops Seen

"Following the small grain harvest quickly with plantings of soybeans offers farmers an opportunity to take advantage of

higher soybean prices and increase farm income in 1973," suggests Buel Lanpher, farm management specialist, Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. He says the practice is being used successfully in the southern and coastal plains states and in the southern corn belt, with some as far north as Michigan and Wisconsin.

Here are some of the key factors individual farmers will need to consider in order to get both small grain and soybean crops the same year, according to Harold Owens, Extension agronomist.

— Will the grain crop be harvested early enough to get a crop of soybeans planted in time to mature for harvest this fall ahead of frost?

Some ways to speed up the harvest date of small grains are 1) Harvest the small grain for silage or hay, 2) harvest small grain early at 20 to 25 percent moisture and dry it, 3) plant varieties of small grain that will mature early, and 4) switch to small grain crop like barley which matures early.

— There must be a fair supply of moisture available either at planting time or soon after to get the beans established and started.

Growers can save this critical moisture by leaving stubble of about 8 inches and planting the soybeans with a no-tillage planter. But all established weeds must be killed as soon as possible with a contact herbicide to prevent weeds and with a residual herbicide to control weeds that germinate after soybeans are planted to make double cropping work. Contact herbicides should be applied with a surfactant to increase weed control with no-tillage.

— Plant soybeans following small grain in rows 4 to 6 inches closer than soybeans planted earlier.

"The reason for rows closer together is to shorten the time it will take for the bean to get up and completely shade the ground to reduce soil temperature and the loss of soil moisture, and retard weed growth," says Mr. Owens.

— How much of a normal yield can a grower expect when soybeans are planted late after a small grain harvest?

If growers get a break on rains or have supplemental irrigation available, yields are comparable with early planted soybeans. For example:

In a three-year study (1967-69) at the Alabama Black-Belt experiment station, soybeans grown as the principal crop averaged 31 bushels per acre, and when grown as a double crop following wheat the yield was 27 bushels.

Estimated "break-even" yields in a budget prepared for growers in Illinois show it would take from 7 to 13 bushels depending on the method of planting with soybean prices at only \$2.50 per bushel, Mr. Lanpher says.

A Missouri budget estimate for the Bootheel area using average annual farm prices for soybeans suggested the following "income above variable cost per acre with these yields: 20bu. — \$32.50, 30 bu. — \$55.00; 40 bu. — \$78.00 with non-irrigated double cropping with small grains.

Selecting the variety of

soybean to plant in double cropping is very important and state Extension specialists and county Extension agents will be

able to advise for local conditions. You do not necessarily plant an early maturing soybean variety for best overall yields.

Pa. Broiler Placements Down 5 pct.

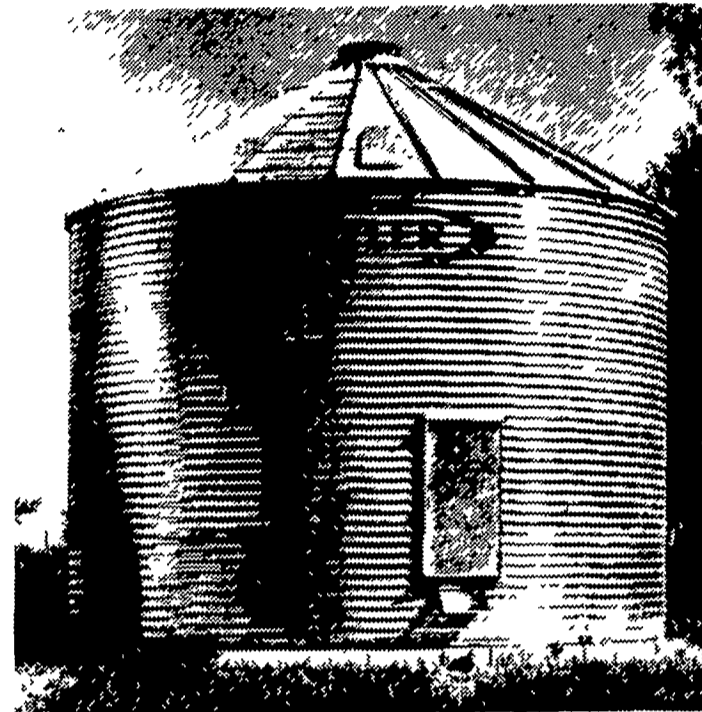
Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending February 10, 1973 were 1,131,000. The placements were 5 percent below the corresponding week a year earlier, and 9 percent below the previous week. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 6 percent above a year earlier.

Setting for broiler chicks were 1,884,000 - 2 percent above the previous week and approximately the same as the comparable 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 8,000 compared with 13,000 a year ago. Outshipments averaged 215,000 during the past 10 weeks, 7 percent below a year earlier.

Placements in the 22 States were 57,555,000 - approximately the same as the previous week but 6 percent below the same week a year earlier. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 3 percent below a year ago. Settings were 73,100,000 - 4 percent above the previous week but 7 percent below a year earlier. The current 3-week total of eggs set is 8 percent below the comparable period a year ago.

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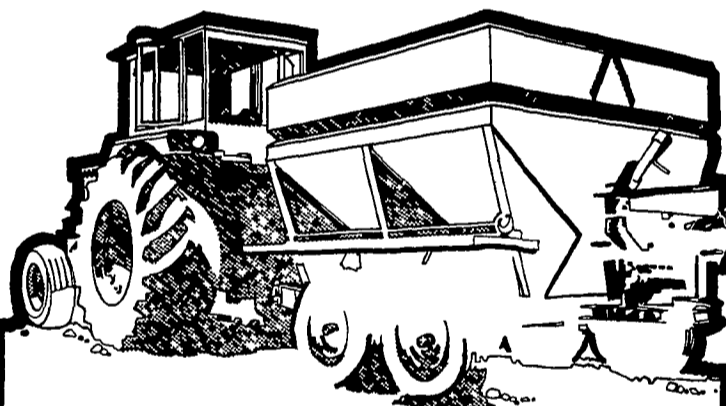
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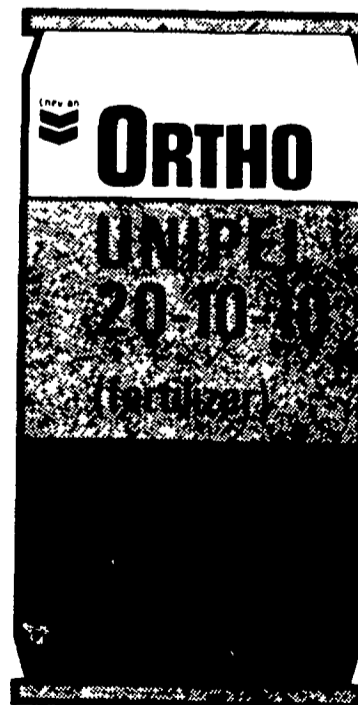
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