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# Pa. Feed Grain Intentions Rise

Commonwealth farmers have made another revision upward in their estimates of how much acreage they intend to plant for three major feed grains, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

On January 1, 1973, the estimate was 1,948,000 acres of corn, oats and soybeans. This was 63,000 more than last year or a 3.3 percent increase. A later survey determined that another 22,000 acres would be planted for an overall 4.5 percent jump over 1972.

Three-fourths of this total will be planted in corn — 1,490,000 acres, another 430,000 acres will go to oats; while soybeans will be up to 50,000.

Although soybeans are a distant third, percentage-wise, they took the biggest jump - 11

percent. Recent prices on the Chicago Board of Trade topped \$7 per bushel. Soybean meal is the principal source of protein for dairy, livestock and poultry feeds. Soil and climate discourage widespread planting in Pennsylvania.

The Commonwealth's 1973 potato acreage is expected to be 35,000 acres, an increase of 1,000 from the previous year's planting. This is a modest 3 percent increase but with favorable growing conditions, it could be a whopping jump in production over the 1972 harvest. Only 30,000 of the 34,000 acres planted last year were harvested and coupled with low yields because of dry weather, last year's production was 40 percent below the current 5-year average.

Pennsylvania tobacco growers

intend to set 17,000 acres of Pa. seed leaf for harvest this year, 6 percent more than last year's harvested acreage. A sharp increase in production is expected over last year if farmers are able to harvest an average crop. The 1972 crop was reduced by heavy rains in June followed by dry weather during critical stages of development. Lancaster County accounts for over 90 percent of the state's tobacco acreage.

Not much change is anticipated in winter grains as acreage sown earlier is practically unchanged from the previous year. Winter wheat is up 2 percent at 296,000 acres, but barley is down 2 percent at 272,000 acres.

Nationally, corn plantings are expected to total 71.6 million acres, 7 percent above last year, soybean intentions are for 53.8 million acres, up 14 percent; oats intentions at 20.5 million, up 1 percent; sorghum 18.6 million, up 6 percent; all barley 11.0 million, up 4 percent.

Growers intentions for 1973 acreages were reported as of March 1, about halfway through the signup period - February 5 to March 16 - for the 1973 feed grain, wheat and cotton programs. Actual plantings may be altered by later decisions relating to Government programs. In addition, plantings may change because of spring weather, labor prospects, and other economic factors during the planting season.

The largest holders of New York Stock Exchange listed stock in 1972 were the pension funds. The corporate, private, state and local government funds reached a value of \$113.2 billion or 44 percent of all institutional holdings.



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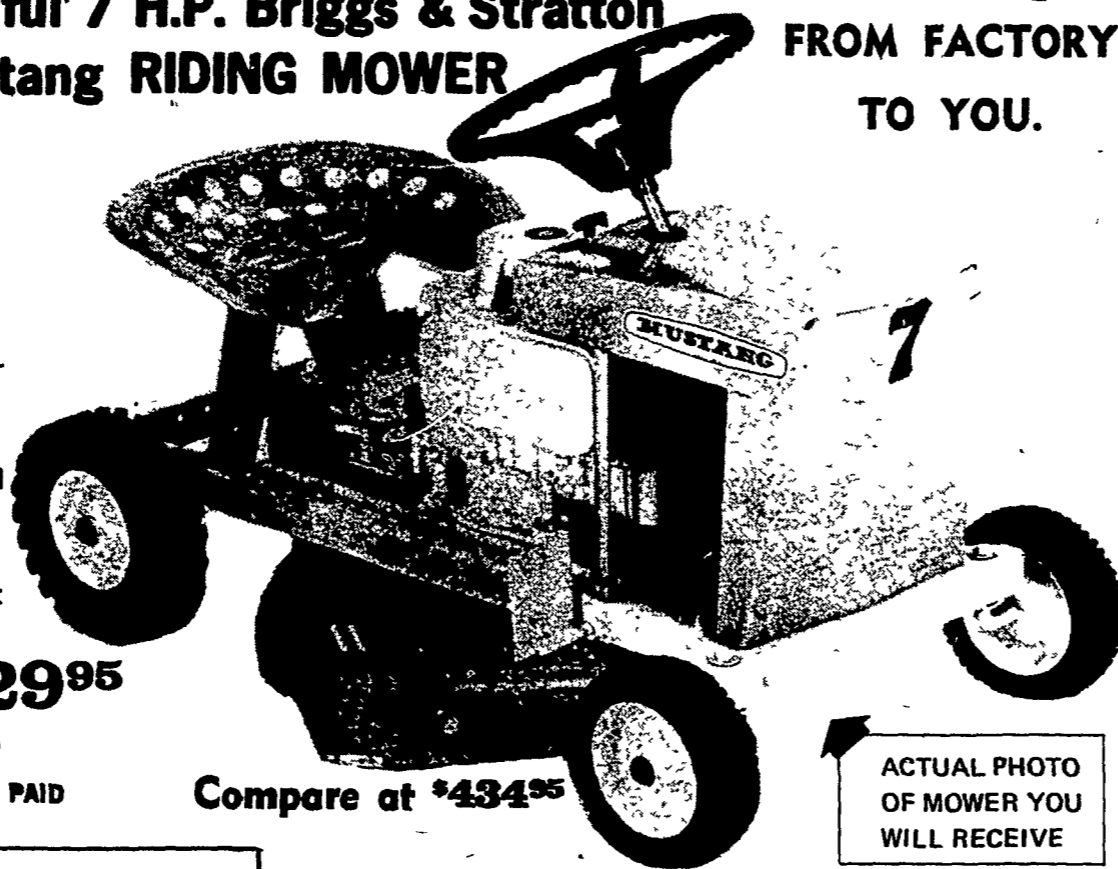
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