Feed Grain Supply Down

1974-75 will be down more than a fifth from last season. Old crop carryover at 22 million short tons was lowest since 1952 as a result of heavy feed grain disappearance during the last 2 years. And 1974 corn production estimated at 4.6 billion bushels, will be 18 percent below last year. The grain sorghum crop is forecast at 609 million bushels, down more than a third from 1973. Consequently, feed grain supplies total around 187 million tons, the least since 1957-58. when U.S. inventories of livestock were smaller and foreign demand for U.S. feed grains was less.

The 1974 crops of feed grains (corn, grain sorghum oats, and barley) were estimated as of November 1 to total only 165 million tons. Farmers had planted more acres to corn in 1974 than in any year since 1960, encouraged by good price prospects and no acreage set-aside requirements.

Under normal weather conditions this much acreage would have produced an all-time record harvest. But weather was abnormal. Earlier planted corn and sorghum were

Feed grain supplies for substantially damaged by a severe drought in July. Unusually wet weather in much of the Eastern Corn Belt kept farmers out of their fields during mid-May to mid-June - the tail end of the planting season. This led to later than normal plantings that were hard hit by earlier than usual frosts in September and October.

There likely will be a modest increase in the volumes of feed grains used for food, industry, and seed in 1974-75, but the limited supply will drastically reduce usage for domestic feeding of livestock, poultry, and dairy animals and for exports. But even with lower disappearance, carryover stocks at the end of 1974-75 will still be cut to a minimal level. This indicates substantially higher feed grain prices than in 1973-74.

Feed costs for livestock, poultry, and dairy enterprises are high in relation to what producers have been able to get for their products. As a result, many producers are reducing the size of their operations, curtailing output of grain-fed livestock and poultry products. This will show up at the retail level first in poultry and pork. Fed beef production is smaller

Parke Addresses N.W. Feed Men

Penn Ag Industries donment plans.
Association, addressed Because of cl evening in Greenville.

update on legislative issues in Harrisburg and reviewed may be presented during the 1975 legislative year.

Parke reviewed what PennAg Industries has accomplished in its fight against rail abandonment. He warned that, "PennAg is convinced that many agricultural leaders do not appreciate the consequences of losing rail services." PennAg has spent a great amount of time making surveys and keeping its

than a year ago, but there has been a sharp increase in slaughter of cattle directly off grass and total beef production is larger than last year. Such animals, which typically would have gone into feedlots for finishing, are coming out of a record large beef herd. In the first half of 1975, production of fed beef will continue at a reduced level because of current low levels of placements in feedlots, but alaughter of cattle off grass will be larger. Pork, poultry, and milk production will be smaller this winter and next spring.

In the face of diminishing world stock levels, foriegn demand for U.S. feed grains is strong. But the limited U.S. supply has been called to the attention of foreign buyers and they have been asked to limit their puchases accordingly. Cooperation is asked of U.S. exporters to get advance approval from USDA for foreign sales above specified volumes. USDA estimates that 1974-75 feed grain exports will be down to 30-32 million short tons from 44.4 million in 1973-

Donald W. Parke, members abreast of the Executive Vice President, changing railroad aban-

Because of changing rail members of the Nor- abandonment plans, Parke thwestern Feed Dealers stated that PennAg has Association Wednesday urged communities to organize rail committees The PennAg executive and survey their rail needs gave the feed dealers an now, so that if abandonment now, so that if abandonment is threatened they are ready for it. Details of proposed potential legislation which rail plans will be released at the end of February by the U.S. Railway Association.

Milk Order omments Extended

The time for commenting on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommendations to expand the marketing area covered by the Middle Atlantic federal milk marketing order, and make related changes in pooling and payment provisions has been extended to Dec. 13. The previous deadline was Nov.

The recommended changes are based on a joint public hearing in January, February, and March to consider proposed changes in the Middle Atlantic and New York-New Jersey federal milk orders. Based on the hearing evidence, a proposal to extend the New York-New Jersey marketing area to include 20 northeastern Pennsylvania counties was denied.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) said additional time for submitting comments was requested by cooperative associations and milk

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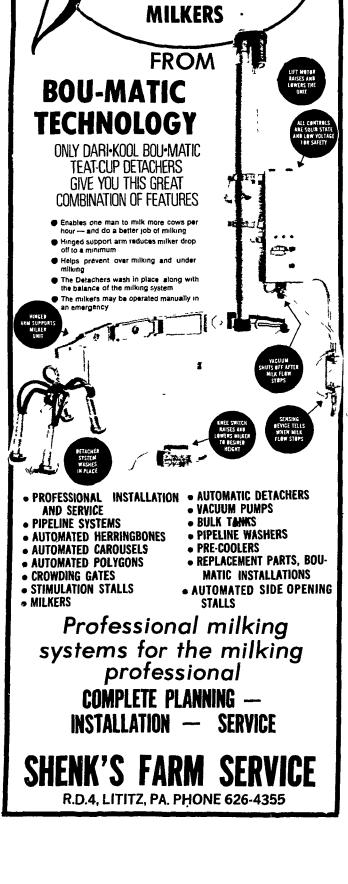
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