

Pa. Crop Statistics Show Boosts in 1974

Pennsylvania farmers produced more corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, potatoes and tobacco, but less soybeans in 1974 than they did in 1973 according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Corn for grain production in Pennsylvania totaled 89.1 million bushels in 1974, 10 percent more than 1973 production and the highest production of record. Yield per acre harvested for grain was 81 bushels. This rate of yield was exceeded in 1967, 1969 and 1970.

Corn silage harvest was estimated to be 5.6 million tons, 6 percent less than the silage harvest the preceding year. Yield averaged 14.00 tons per acre both years.

Oats production, at 20.1 million bushels, was 14 percent more than it was the preceding year. Yield averaged 51 bushels per acre, compared with 47 the year before.

Wheat production totaled 12.6 million bushels, an increase of 71 percent from the year before. Yield averaged 36 bushels per acre, compared with 28 bushels in 1973.

Barley production totaled 3,690,000 bushels, an increase of 27 percent from 1973 production. Yield averaged 55 bushels per

acre, compared with 44 bushels the preceding year. Rye production totaled 512,000 bushels in 1974, an increase of 26 percent from 1973.

Production of soybeans totaled 1,144,000 bushels, a decline of 20 percent from the preceding year. The decline was a result of a reduction in number of acres harvested, as yield averaged 28 bushels per acre in both years.

Production of all hay in Pennsylvania totaled 4.3 million tons in 1974, a decrease of 7 percent from the preceding year's production. About half of this hay, 2.2 million tons, was alfalfa or mixtures containing alfalfa. Yield of all hay averaged 2.2 tons per acre and yield of alfalfa hay averaged 2.7 tons per acre.

United States production of corn for grain in 1974 is estimated at 4,651 million bushels, 18 percent less than the record production of 5,647 million bushels in 1973 and 17 percent less than the 5,573 million bushels in 1972. The lower production, despite a larger acreage, was due to the poorest yields in a decade. The U.S. average yield was 71.3 bushels per acre, off 19.9 bushels per acre from 1973.

Corn cut for silage is estimated at 10,895,000 acres, 20 percent more than 1973. Silage production totaled 111.3 million tons, 1 percent less than a year earlier. The average yield per acre of 10.4 tons compares with 12.6 tons in 1973.

U.S. oat production is estimated at 621 million bushels, 7 percent less than the 667 million bushels output from the 1973 crop. Acres harvested for grain was down 5 percent to 13.3 million acres from the 1973 acreage of 14.1 million acres. Yield per harvested acre averaged 46.6 bushels compared with 47.4 bushels last year.

The 1974 production of barley totaled 308 million bushels, 27 percent below the 1973 and 1972 crops of 422 million and 423 million bushels respectively. This reduction in the 1974 crop was influenced by a sizeable decrease in acreage harvested and lower yields in most major producing states. Yield per acre averaged 37.2 bushels, down 3.1 bushels from last year's average of 40.3 bushels.

Production of all wheat in 1974 totaled a record high 1,793 million bushels, 5 percent above the previous high of 1,705 million bushels in 1973 and 16 percent above the 1972 output. Yield per acre of the 1974 crop at 27.4 bushels is the lowest average yield since 1967 and compares with 31.7 for the 1973 crop and 32.7 in 1972. Wheat was harvested from 65.5 million acres - 22 percent more than in 1973 and the largest since 1953 when 67.8 million acres were harvested.

The 1974 rye crop totaled 19.3 million bushels, 27 percent below the 1973 production and 34 percent below the 1972 crop as a result of lower acreage and yield. Yield per acre, at 21.5 bushels, was 3.9 bushels below the 1973 average and the lowest average yield since 1964 when the average was 19.1 bushels per harvested acre.

The U.S. soybean crop totaled 1,233 million bushels. Production was down 20 percent from the previous year and 3 percent below 1972. Reduced yields and smaller acreage contributed to the sharp decline from 1973. Soybean yield per acre averaged 23.5 bushels, down 4.2 bushels from 1973 and 4.3 bushels below the record high 1972 per acre output.

All hay production in 1974 totaled 127.00 million tons, down 6 percent from the record high of a year earlier and the smallest tonnage since 1969. Reduced acreage and lower yield throughout most of the country accounted for the decline.

Alfalfa hay production totaled 74.3 million tons in 1974, down 6 percent from 1973 and the smallest total since 1968. Acreage harvested in 1974, at 26.6 million acres, declined 4 percent from the 27.8 million acres harvested in 1973 and was the lowest since 1969.

All other hay production totaled 52.7 million tons in 1974, down 5 percent from the 55.6 million tons in 1973, but 4 percent more than the 50.6 million tons harvested in 1972. Harvested acreage totaled 33.9 million acres, 1 percent less than the 34.3 million acres harvested in 1973 but 4 percent more than the 32.7 million acres in 1972. Yield per acre averaged 1.55 tons in 1974, well below the 1.62 tons in 1973 but the same as in 1972.

Broken Bit 4-H Club



Natalie Immel was elected president of the Broken Bit 4-H Horse Club at their recent meeting.

The Broken Bit 4-H Horse Club met recently at the home of Leslie and Lyn Sherman, Conestoga. President, Cindy Enck presided at the business meeting. Plans were completed for a field trip to member's homes on February 1st to see and take pictures of their horses.

Martha Gregory reported on the plans for a hoagie sale to be held March 1. The annual horse show date was set for May 25 at the Friendly Horseman's Show Grounds in Denver.

Jane Gregory and Natalie Immel reported on the 4-H Expo County meeting they attended and told of plans for the club exhibit.

New officers were elected with Natalie Immel being chosen as president. Other officers elected included:

Jon Keller, vice-president; Dee Dee Rice, secretary; Daphne Immel, treasurer; Tom Keller and Lyn Sherman, game leaders; with Jane Gregory as news reporter.

The next club meeting will be February 21 at the Brickerville Fire Hall.

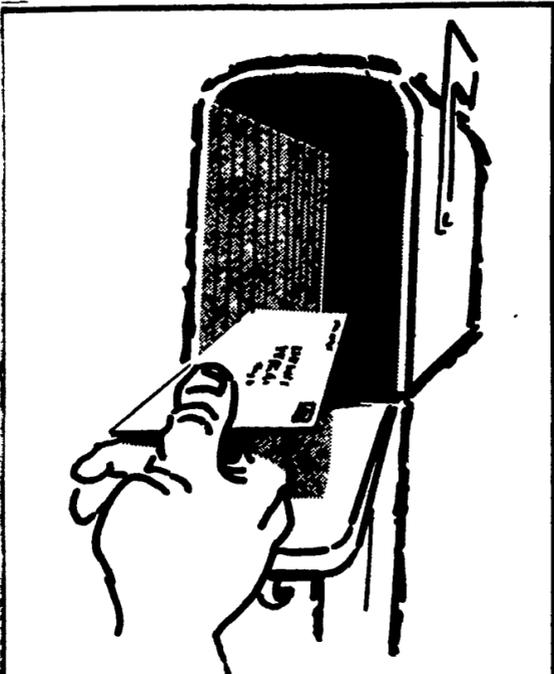
Milk Price Dips In December

The December uniform price for base milk decreased 4 cents to \$8.83, from the previous month. Excess milk showed a decrease of 35 cents to \$6.50, according to Andrew Marvin, Ephrata, fieldman for Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative.

In comparison to December levels one year ago, base milk was down 17 cents and excess down 40 cents per hundredweight.

The weighted average price for the market was down 57 cents compared to December 1973.

A total of 390.5 million pounds of producer milk was pooled in December of which 63.60 percent was sold as Class I, showing a decrease of 2.6 percent of deliveries made in November, and a 0.44 percent increase over December a year ago. Seven thousand six hundred and eight Order No. 4 producers provided 12.6 million pounds per day to dealers during December, averaging 1656 pounds per farm per day. Total value of producer milk was set at \$33,041,591.13 for the month.



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