

# Good harvests reported

**HARRISBURG**— Pennsylvania's 1976 corn for grain crop is still expected to produce 100,320,000 bushels on conditions November 1, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

This production figure would exceed last year by 13 per cent, due mostly to the prospective yield of 88 bushels per acre. Thus far, weather has not favored harvest, but farm operators

still expect an excellent crop. Potato production is forecast at 7.1 million hundredweight, five per cent above the 1975 crop in Pennsylvania. Acres for harvest are off 1,000 from

last year, but expected yield of 255 hundredweight per acre is 20 hundredweight above a year ago.

Pennsylvania's tobacco production is forecast at 23.1 million pounds, 17 per cent increase from last year, unchanged from last month's forecast.

Production of summer cabbage for fresh market from the forecasted 1600 acres for harvest is expected to total 368,000 hundredweight. Yield per acre is forecast at 230 hundredweight for 1976. These

figures are equal to last year's acreage, yield and production. Total value of the 1976 crop is forecast at \$1,427,000, down 10 per cent from the 1975 crop value of \$1,568,000.

Pennsylvania's sweet corn acreage for harvest for fresh market is forecast at 11,900, up seven per cent from 1975 levels. Yield of sweet corn is forecast at 80 hundredweight per acre, equal to the 1975 yield, and production is expected to total 952,000 hundredweight up seven per cent from the 1975 crop. Total value for this year's sweet corn is forecast at \$8,092,000, an increase of 10 per cent from last year.

United States forecasts for corn as of November 1 show production at a record 6,063 million bushels, up three per cent (198 million bushels) from the October 1 forecast, and up five per cent from the 1975 crop.

United States' production of corn, sorghum, oats and barley is forecast at 188 million metric tons as of November 1, up three per cent from last year.

Production of U.S. tobacco is expected to be 2,071 million pounds, up 21 million pounds from October 1, but five per cent below the previous year's crop. Flue-cured production is down eight per cent and the barley crop is down one per cent from last year.

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## Milk prices projected

**BALTIMORE, Md.** — Economists at Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers, here, have projected milk prices for the coming months. All prices quoted below are per hundredweight, FOB Baltimore, 3.5 per cent butterfat.

The cooperative sees the Minnesota-Wisconsin manufacturer's price series as remaining at its present level of \$8.06 through March of next year. The average for 1976 is expected to be \$8.45, which compares with \$7.62 for last year's average, and \$7.06 for the 1974 tally.

The Class I price average for the year is pegged at \$11.38 by MCMP economists. That's up from \$10.04 for both 1975 and 1974. The November price, which has already been announced, is \$11.24. Next month it is expected to drop by 20 cents, followed by an additional 20 cent drop in January. The \$10.84 price is expected to hold its own through March. Class II prices are

predicted to be \$8.14 for the remainder of this year, then dropping to \$8.11 and \$8.10, respectively, for the first two months of 1977. The March price has been pegged at \$8.03. The average Class II price for 1976 is likely to end up at \$8.47, which compares with \$7.64 for all of last year and \$6.83 for the year before.

The percentage of utilization for Class I and Class II milk is expected to shift by two or three percentage points, with the plus shift going to the Class II side. The drop will occur in December, after which it will remain fairly stable or increase slightly. This will cause the blend price for the month to dip below the \$10.00 mark, where it is likely to remain for the first few months of 1977.

Base milk will be paid \$10.38 per hundredweight this month, according to MCMP figuring. That compares with \$10.13 for December, \$9.98 for Jan. '77, \$10.02 for Feb. '77, and \$9.81

for March of 1977. The average price for base milk this year is estimated to fall in at around \$10.48. A year ago it averaged \$9.34, and in 1974 it was \$9.05. Prices for surplus milk are likely to drop to \$8.29 for last month (compared to \$8.49 for September deliveries) and will drop to \$8.09 this month, the MCMP figures show. January of 1977 will see another five-cent dip, followed by a drop of a penny the following month, and a low of \$7.96 in March of 1977.

The average price paid for surplus milk in 1976 is estimated to be \$8.42. In 1975 it was \$7.59, and the year before it was \$6.78.

### BASIS OF PROJECTIONS

1. That the current support price for cheddar cheese will remain in effect through March 1977 but that the Minnesota-Wisconsin price will fall below support level by 20 cents-cwt beginning in November 1976.
2. That Federal Order No. 4 milk deliveries for the fourth quarter of 1976 and the first quarter of 1977 will reflect a normal seasonal pattern from September 1976 levels.
3. That Federal Order No. 4 Class I sales will continue through March 1977 at September level adjusted for normal seasonal sales patterns and calendar composition.
4. That there will be no further abnormally large transfers of Federal Order No. 2 producers to the Federal Order No. 4 market.

## USDA okays meat imports

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - The U. S. Department of Agriculture is adding the Republic of China - Taiwan - to the list of countries eligible to ship meat to the United States, effective Dec. 5, 1976.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said this amendment of federal meat inspection regulations is based on Taiwan having a meat inspection system with standards equal to those of the U. S. meat inspection program. This determination followed a point-by-point examination of Taiwan's meat inspection laws and regulations, as well as on-site reviews of inspection procedures.

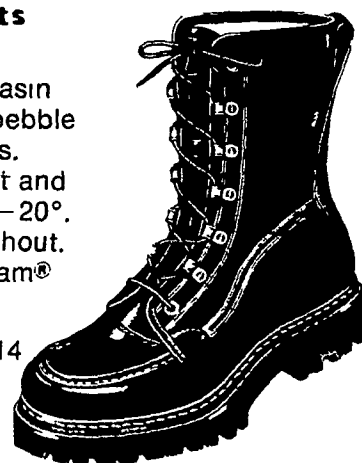
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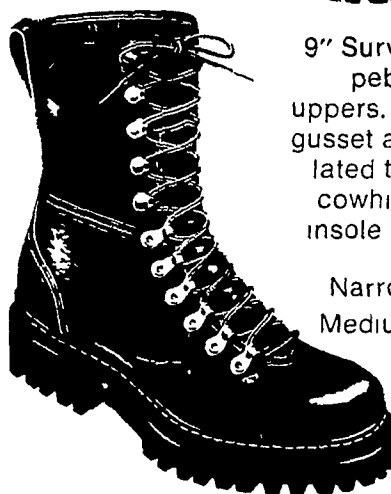
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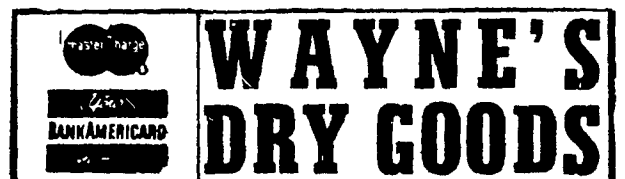


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