

# Space age technology comes to agriculture

## Part I

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The complex and highly important and valuable business of agriculture is developing some strong ties to the Space Age. Computers and satellites have become a part of the farming scene. Following is an

article about the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's LACIE project. LACIE stands for Large Area Crop Inventory Experiment. Next month, a several day conference will be held in Houston, Tex. to present findings and details on the project. An announcement of that conference will be made in Lancaster Farming in the near future.



Population growth puts increasing pressure for more crop production on the major arable land areas of the world depicted by the shaded regions above

Can you visualize a space-age system that uses pictures taken from satellites to predict crop production? At the push of a button, accurate forecasts of crop production for any wheat producing area of the world would roll out of a computer.

It doesn't happen that way today, but systems that will make it possible are being developed. The new systems will use pictures similar to those from weather satellites that we see on T.V. news programs. However, the pictures that will be used to estimate crop production will be much more detailed than the weather satellite pictures.

Scientists from three major U.S. agencies are now cooperating in a project to test the technology that would be used in a satellite-aided crop production estimating system. The three agencies are the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The project is called the Large

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## Livestock market and auction news

### New Holland Dairy

**New Holland Sales Stables**  
Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1978

Reported receipts of 155 cows, 152 heifers, and 9 bulls. Market stronger than last week's market.

Load of Wisconsin, fresh 940-1425; load of Pa., fresh 775-975; load of Butler Co., fresh 650-1175; load of Pa. purebreds and grades, fresh 1100-1225, springers 700-1250; load of Pa. fresh 625-925;

local cows 525-1140; springing heifers, grades 575-850, purebreds 825-1000; open heifers 300-500; bulls 375-625; herd dispersal of 22 head in all stages of lactation 430-1000; herd dispersal of 60 head in all stages of lactation 440-1075.

### New Holland Horse

**New Holland Sales Stables**  
Monday, September 4, 1978

Reported receipts of 281 horses, mules, and ponies. Market steady with last week's market.

Local driving horses 250-750; riding horses 250-375; better horses 425-700; lightweight killers 175-325; heavyweight 350-500; mare ponies 15-55; colts 10-25; geldings 15-50; larger ponies 75-210.

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CUTTER**  
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#### Egg marketing

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