

Intended feed grain plantings up 6 percent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — prospective plantings of the four feed grains totaled 119 million acres in the 34 States surveyed, up three percent from the 115 million acres

planted in those States in 1979.

Intended plantings are up four percent for corn, up five percent for sorghum, up 11

percent for barley, but down five percent for oats.

CORN: growers in states surveyed intended to plant 81.6 million acres of corn for all purposes as of January 1, 1980, four percent more than both last year and 1978.

These states accounted for 98.2 percent of the Nation's corn acreage planted in 1979.

Intended plantings in the North Central States are up three percent from a year earlier. All of the major Corn Belt States are showing increases.

Intentions in the South Atlantic and South Central States are up 7 and 14 percent, respectively.

SORGHUM: Prospective plantings of sorghum for all purposes in 1980 total 15.9 million acres in the states surveyed, up five percent from 1979 but down two percent from 1978.

These states accounted for 97.9 percent of the U.S. acreage in 1979. Texas, with 32 percent of the Nation's sorghum acreage last year, is expecting a four percent increase this year. Kansas, which accounted for 30

percent of the U.S. total, indicates 10 percent more acreage than for 1979.

Other major states expecting increases are: Nebraska five percent, Oklahoma three percent, and Colorado one percent.

Missouri acreage is expected to be the same as last year. South Dakota is the only major state expecting a decline and intentions there point to 6 percent decline.

OATS: Average of fall seeded oats plus intended spring plantings in the states surveyed is expected to total 13.3 million acres in 1980, down five percent from the previous year and 17 percent less than in 1978.

The states surveyed accounted for 98.9 percent of the Nation's oat acreage in 1979.

Planted acreage for 1980 is expected to be lower than last year in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin and unchanged from 1979 in North Dakota.

Acreage in these six states, which accounted for almost two-thirds of the U.S. oat acreage in 1979 is ex-

pected to decline six percent from last year.

Only five of the states surveyed showed intentions to increase oats acreage over 1979.

BARLEY: Planted acreage of fall seeded barley plus intended plantings for this spring for the states surveyed totaled 8.43 million acres.

This is 11 percent more than 1979 but 12 percent below 1978. The states surveyed accounted for 94.6 percent of the U.S. planted acreage in 1979.

For the six major states, California was down 10 percent, while Idaho was up two percent, Minnesota up 21 percent, Montana up 18 percent, North Dakota up 24 percent, and South Dakota up 11 percent.

These states accounted for nearly three-fourths of the Nation's planted acreage in 1979 and showed a combined increase of 13 percent in intended acreage for 1980.

SPRING WHEAT: Growers in the spring wheat producing states surveyed, representing 99.5 percent of the U.S. total in 1979, expect to plant 15.7 million acres of spring wheat other than durum.

This is one percent more than the 15.5 million acres (6.28 million hectares) planted in 1979 and 11 percent more than 1978.

These states experienced large amounts of winter kill of winter wheat a year ago and reseeded to spring wheat. This year's acreage is more in line with two years ago.

Most other states expect a larger acreage than last year.

SOYBEAN: Growers in the states surveyed expected as of January 1 to plant a record high 70.7 million acres to soybeans in 1980, virtually unchanged from the record high of 70.6 million acres planted in those states last year.

Changes range from a 6 percent decline in Pennsylvania to a three percent increase in Virginia.

Growers in the North Central States expect to plant 43.0 million acres, down one percent from 1979. Changes in these States range from a decline of 4 percent in Indiana and Michigan to a 20 percent increase in Wisconsin.

Illinois acreage is expected to decline two percent while the expected acreage in Iowa is unchanged from last year.

Planted acreage in the South Central area is indicated at 20.9 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Changes from 1979 range from a decrease of 1 percent in Texas to an increase of four percent in Alabama. Producers in the North and South Atlantic areas plan only a slight increase from last year.

SUNFLOWER: Intended sunflower acreage for all purposes, in the four states estimating the crop, shows a decrease of 10 percent to 4.99 million acres (2.02 million hectares) in 1980.

Intended acreage planted to oil varieties at 4.76 million acres is down 11 percent from 1979 while non-oil varieties are expected to increase 4 percent from last year.

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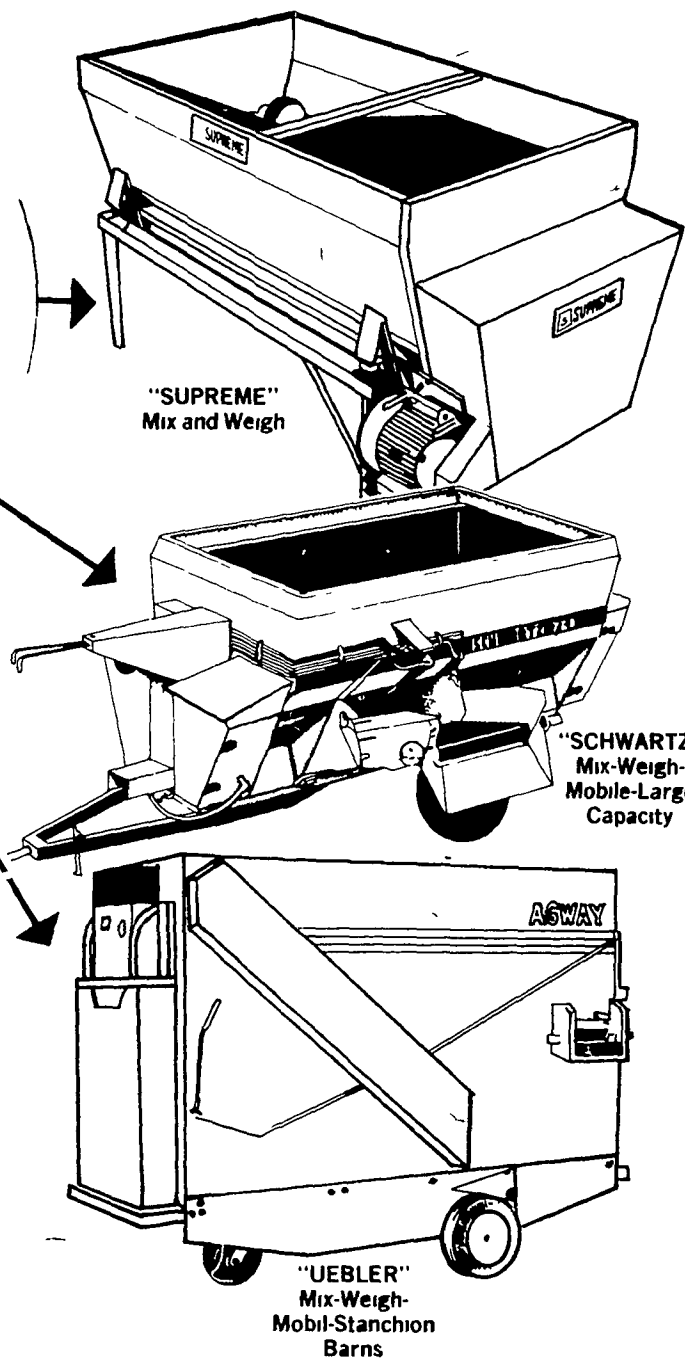
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Increase egg shelf-life

MEDIA — The length of time an egg will stay fresh and of high quality depends mostly on the conditions under which the egg is kept, both in the store and in your home.

The most critical factor in maintaining egg quality is temperature says Greta C. Vairo, Delaware County extension home economist with the Penn State Extension Service. Egg stored at room temperature, or about 65 to 75°, lost more

quality in a single day than they would lose in a full week in the refrigerator. Refrigerated eggs should retain their freshness for at least four to six weeks.

While many refrigerators feature special compartments for egg storage, it's a good idea to keep eggs in the carton in which you brought them home from the store. The carton keeps the eggs covered and keeps them in a secure position. This prevents breakage and the subsequent increased deterioration.

When a high quality egg is broken out into a pan or bowl, the yolk should stand high and the white should not spread out excessively. In lower quality eggs, the yolk is flat and the white appears watery and washed out. When they are hard-cooked, high quality eggs have a well-centered yolk. Storage deterioration primarily detracts from the eye appeal of the raw egg.

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