

Pa. small grains down in 1979

HARRISBURG—A recent report from the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service announced that small grain production in the state for 1979 was down slightly from the previous year.

The 1979 small grain production figures totalled 32,411,000 bushels, compared to 32,492,000 bushels in 1978. This past year's production level was down five per cent from two year's ago.

Even though more acres of rye were produced, the total amount harvested yielded ten per cent less than in 1978.

Farmers planted 1000 acres more of this small grain, totalling 17,000 acres, which gave them 459,000 bushels, roughly 27 bushels per acre.

The story seemed to continue into the winter wheat saga. Pa. farmers combined 262,000 acres in 1979, an increase over the previous year's 245,000 acres.

But, the yield declined by two bushels to the acre, giving 8,122,000 bushels, an increase of less than one per cent from 1978.

The barley situation saw less acres planted in 1979 than in 1978, with 115,000 and 125,000 acres respectively. Although the average yield

stayed at 47 bushels per acre, the state production level dropped by eight per cent because of the fewer acres planted.

The only small grain that realized an increase during the past year was oats. Even though farmers harvested 5000 less acres of the small grain, its increase yield of two bushels per acre, an average of 55 bushels for the state, boosted the total production by two per cent to 18,425,000 bushels.

On the national scene, oats production dropped by ten per cent from 1978 to 1979, and in two years the drop was 29 per cent. This is said to be the lowest level since 1881.

However, the national yield per acre for oats increased from 52.2 bushels in 1978 to 54.4 acres this past year, making it the third highest yield on record.

Barley yields on the national scale set a new record. An average of 50.6 bushels per acre broke the 1978 record by more than 2 bushels to the acre. But, this record yield was offset by 16 per cent less acres harvested.

The U.S. winter wheat harvest was the second highest on record. The 1.61

billion bushel production in 1979 topped the 1.25 billion bushels harvested in 1978.

This increase in winter wheat can be attributed to the increased acreage harvested and the record high yield of 36.9 bushels per acre.

The rye story told of decreased yields and decreased production since 1978 on the nation's farmland.

The Pa. potato crop currently follows the trend of

the state's small grains. The fewer acres harvested led to a decline of four per cent in potato production since 1978. However, the average yield remained the same at 250 cwt. per acre.

Snapbeans, cabbage, sweet corn, and tomatoes were no different and decreased 87,000 cwt in 1979, with 1,377,000 cwt. The total value of the fresh market vegetable production dropped by six per cent to \$15,389,000.

Woodburning stove safety workshop topic

LEWISBERRY—Walter Johnson, a Penn State Forestry Specialist, noted that homeowners who insulate their chimneys with fireproof materials when installing a woodburning stove still run the risk of a fire.

"While the insulation will not catch fire," Johnson says, "heat can still be conducted through the material and cause a fire underneath."

How to combat this problem and others related to woodburning stoves will be the subject of a public

workshop to be held at the Valley Grange Hall in Lewisberry, York County, on February 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Subjects to be covered in the workshop will include proper stove installation and operating techniques, as well as wood preparation, seasoning, and storage.

"It is essential the public learn how to use this appliance properly," Johnson states. "We are already hearing that many gas and insurance companies are performing inspections for safety purchases in many homes in Pennsylvania."

"If the insurance company sends an adjuster over to inspect the stove and finds some problems, it could mean higher homeowner's insurance premiums."

"A gas company has already red-tagged several woodstoves because the homeowners were using the same flue for both their stove and their heater," reported Johnson.

In each case, costly modifications had to be performed before the homeowner could begin using his stove again.

Other areas of discussion will include how to determine what type of stove is best for each individual's needs, and what are the best insulation materials for chimney-lining.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Valley Grange, of Lewisberry, in conjunction with the Penn State Extension Service.

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