

# Fruit production up, field crops decline

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania production of winter wheat, barley, apples, peaches, pears, grapes and tobacco should all be above last year, based on August 1 conditions, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Corn, soybeans, oats, rye, sorghum, alfalfa, other hay and pastures are predicted to fall below last year.

The 1980 Pennsylvania corn for grain crop, at 100.9 billion bushels, is estimated to be down 11 percent from last year, at 82.0 bushels per acre. Winter wheat, however, is predicted to set a new record yield of 38.0 bushels per acre, an increase of 17 percent to 9.5 million bushels.

Pennsylvania fruit crop production appears headed for across the board increases. Pear production is estimated at 3700 tons, up 32 percent from last year; grapes, at 56,000 tons are predicted to be up one percent; apples, with a forecast of 570 million

pounds are up seven percent; and peaches at 105 million pounds are up 17 percent.

Other Pennsylvania field crops production, percentage change and yield per acre from last year are as follows: soybeans for beans, 2.6 million bushels, down slightly at 27 bushels per acre; rye, 455,000 bushels, down one percent at 35 bushels per acre; oats, 18.4 million bushels, down slightly at 54 bushels per acre; barley, 5.7 million bushels, up five percent at 54 bushels per acre; sorghum, for grain, 350,000 bushels, down 33 percent at 70 bushels per acre; and tobacco, 22.1 million pounds, up 25 percent at 1.700 pounds per acre.

Alfalfa hay, estimated at 2.3 million tons, is down one percent at 2.7 tons per acre. Other hay, at 1.9 million tons, is predicted to be down three percent at 1.75 tons per acre. Pasture and range feed is being rated as poor to fair compared to an average rating of good to excellent

last year and for the past ten years

At the national level, all wheat production is forecast at a record high 2.32 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from the July 1 forecast, but nine percent above last year. The 90 percent confidence interval for this production forecast is from 2.25 to 2.40 billion bushels.

The U.S. winter wheat crop is now forecast at 1.87 billion bushels, up one percent from the July 1 forecast. Durum wheat production is estimated to be up eleven percent while other spring wheat is down six percent from a month earlier.

Food grain production (wheat, rye and rice) is expected to total 70.3 million metric tons in 1980, an increase of eight percent from last year. Corn production is forecast at 6.65 billion bushels, nine percent less than the July 1 prediction, and 14 percent below last year's record crop.

Feed grain production

(corn, sorghum, oats and barley combined) is expected to total 197 million metric tons, down 16 percent from the 1979 record high 234 million metric tons. Soybean production is forecast at 1.88 billion bushels, 17 percent less than last year, and sorghum grain production, forecast at 553 million bushels, would be down 32 percent from 1979.

Hay production is forecast at 124 million tons, down 15 percent from the record high crop of 1979. Pasture and range condition on August 1 averaged 60 percent, 24 points below a year ago. All tobacco production is forecast at 1,850.8 million pounds, 21 percent greater than the 1979 crop.

U.S. apple production is forecast at 8,360.5 million pounds, up three percent from last year, while peach production, forecast at 2,907 million pounds is down two percent from last year. Pear production is forecast at 872,800 tons, up one percent from the 1979 crop and grape production is forecast at 4.83 million tons, down three percent from last year.

## Rocky Springs disperses herd

EQUINUNK — The Rocky Springs purebred Simmental herd was dispersed in its entirety here on Saturday, July 19 as 151 lots totaled \$162,660 to average \$1077.

Two herd bulls averaged \$4000; 42 purebred cow-calf pairs averaged \$1590, 49 bred purebred cows averaged \$903; 27 open purebred heifers averaged \$650; 25 purebred yearling

bulls averaged \$749; 6 commercial Simmental pairs averaged \$984; and 2 bred commercial half-blood cows sold for \$738 each.

Volume buyer Ed Blake, New York, New York, paid \$5000 for the Lot 2 herd bull RSF Invincible 021J, a three year old son of Galant. His dam, Lot 34, by Parisien sold to the same buyer for \$2600. Blake paid \$3200 for the top

purebred cow-calf pair, Lot 6, Miss SBL 0256G by Rex with a bull calf at side by Mr. Clean.

Lot 3, Miss SBL 0180G, and her polled bull calf by Keep-It-Clean sold for \$3,000.

Cattle sold into 8 states throughout the East.

Gerald Bowie and Mike Jones served as auctioneers and The Auction Way Company managed the sale.

## Rain theft

(Continued from Page A1)

crops, and who are able to control moisture to some extent by irrigation.

More recently the insurance companies who insure the tree crops have been blamed, the reasoning being they fear large payouts should the fruit crop be damaged.

No proof exists against any of the groups.

The 1968 Weather Modification Law requires a license for anyone who wants to modify the weather in any manner.

At present there are no licensees in Pennsylvania, according to the Agriculture Department. That would mean any cloud seeder working in Pennsylvania now would be acting illegally.

"At this point we have no knowledge or evidence of any cloud seeding equipment in the area, nor has anyone been able to say they have seen any such equipment in the area," Hallowell said.

"The investigation will attempt to determine if there is any basis to the charges," he added.

A report back from police and aviation officials will be requested within 30 days.

The board consists of seven members, four being state officials, including one Penn Stater; and three private citizens.

Also listening to farmers' concerns were Representative Kenneth J. Cole, 91st district, and Senator William J. Moore's legislative assistant.

While the majority of concerned growers farm 50 acres or more of grain in Adams County, some Maryland grain producers also attended the sessions.

The cloud seeding question has popped up several times over the past decade, reaching highs in 1971 and again in the mid-70s. This year's flurry of activity is the first resurgence of the rain theft charges in a few years.



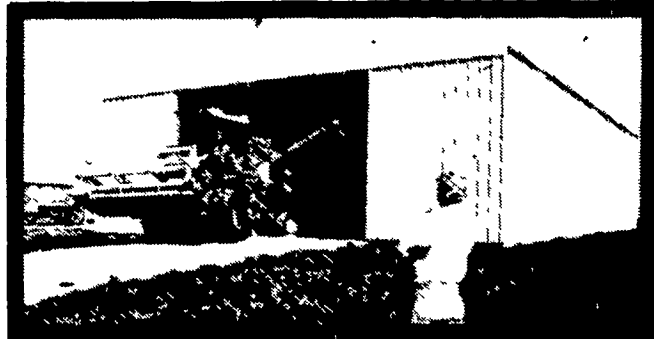
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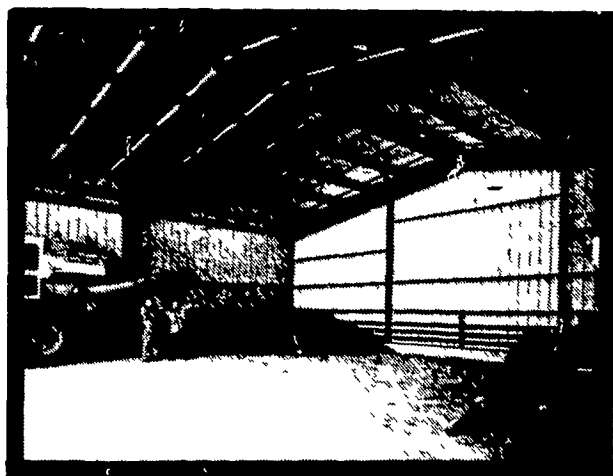
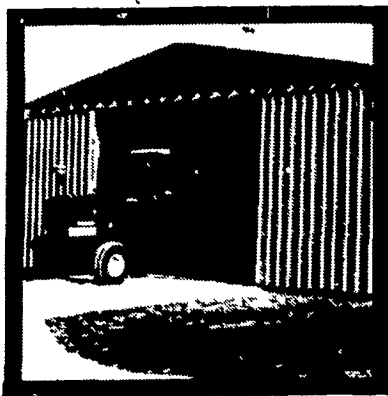
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