

Wheat, oats output increase but barley, rye drop

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's 1980 winter wheat and oats crops exceeded 1979 production, but barley and rye production declined, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Pennsylvania winter wheat production totaled 9,250,000 bushels, 27 percent above the 1979 crop. The 250,000 acres harvested were six percent above a year ago. Yield per harvested acre averaged 37 bushels, compared with 31 bushels a year earlier.

Pennsylvania oats production, at 19,040,000 bushels, was three percent above a year ago. Acreage harvested was 340,000 acres, with an average yield of 56 bushels per acre.

Barley production in Pennsylvania totaled 3,750,000 bushels in 1980, down six percent from last year. Acreage harvested was 75,000 acres, with an average yield of 50 bushels per acre.

Rye production, at 434,000 bushels, was five percent below 1979. Rye acreage harvested was 14,000 acres, with an average yield of 31 bushels per acre.

Pennsylvania farmers seeded 260,000 acres of winter wheat this fall for the 1981 crop, the same as last year. Winter wheat production for 1981 is

forecast at 7,800,000 bushels, down 16 percent.

Pennsylvania growers seeded 65,000 acres of rye for all purposes in the fall of 1980. This is 18 percent above 1980 plantings of 55,000 acres.

United States 1980 winter wheat production increased,

but 1980 crops of barley, oats and rye declined. Production of winter wheat totaled 1.89 billion bushels, 18 percent more than last year's 1.60 billion bushels.

U.S. oats production, at 457.6 million bushels in 1980, was 13 percent below 1979. Barley production totaled

358.5 million bushels, six percent less than a year ago, while rye production, at 16.3 million bushels, was down 27 percent.

U.S. farmers have seeded a record high 63.9 million acres of winter wheat for the 1981 crop. This is 11 percent more than last year's 57.4

million acres and five percent above the previous record 61.2 million acres seeded in the fall of 1948.

Based on December 1 conditions, 1981 winter wheat production is forecast at a record 1.98 billion bushels, five percent above the 1980 crop. Seeded yield is

forecast at 30.9 bushels per acre, compared to last year's 32.9 bushel average.

Growers across the nation seeded 2.61 million acres of rye for all purposes this fall, three percent more than the 1980 crop of 2.53 million acres, but 11 percent less than the 1979 crop.

What are your major corn yield robbers?

LITITZ — "What are the five most important yield-limiting factors for corn?"

In most instances, they include:

1. Soil moisture deficit.
2. Inadequate soil fertility (including low pH).
3. Low plant population.
4. Stalk rots.
5. Mechanical harvest losses.

Many corn growers have specific problems, but some of these factors must be near the top of the reasons they don't put more corn in the bin or silo. In many areas, crop damage due to heat during the 1980 growing season is a fresh memory, but high temperatures are not likely to be a year-after-year concern.

Every year, most U.S. corn fields suffer a period of moisture deficit sometime during the growing season. Sometimes these are of short duration and yield losses are

overlooked. The longer and deeper a drought, the more severe the yield reduction. Inadequate soil moisture during the three-week corn pollination period is the most disastrous of all. Even with irrigation, enough moisture stress to cut yield sometimes occurs.

During the 1970's, many serious corn growers built their soil fertility levels appreciably and some have reached the point that maintenance amounts of P and K will provide yield insurance. Yet, fertilizer is a big-ticket item in corn production costs and there is a tendency to cut costs by cutting fertilizer rates. The long-range effect can only be lower yields and reduced income.

Soil acidity deserves special mention as it may well be the number one problem for many corn growers. Lime products

continue to be one of the best buys in agriculture. National statistics reveal there is not enough lime being applied to even balance the acidifying effect of the nitrogen fertilizers being applied.

Low plant counts are taking more of the yield basket than most realize. There are expectations - top notch corn growers whose management permits them to use very high populations with yield success. Yield-increasing higher populations demand good management of all the other input factors. But, when average corn plant populations across the major Corn Belt states run between 20,000 and 21,500 per acre, there is room for improvement, especially for about half the farmers who have harvest stands below these averages.

It may seem strange to pick out one disease and list

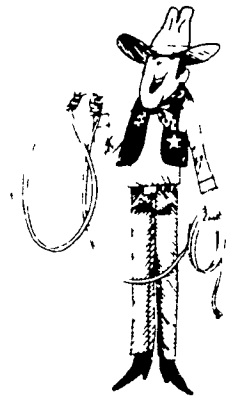
it as a top five yield robber, but over the years stalk rot has earned that distinction. Stalk rot is primarily an indication of stress during the growing season. Thus, weed competition, insect infestations, leaf diseases, and other adversities take their direct toll while adding indirect yield losses by inducing stalk rot.

There is too much unnecessary yield loss due to improper adjustment and operation of harvesting equipment. Growers seem less concerned about these losses than would be expected. It seems that the pressures of harvest dull the mind to what is being left in the field. It's a loss that comes right off the top of the profit column.

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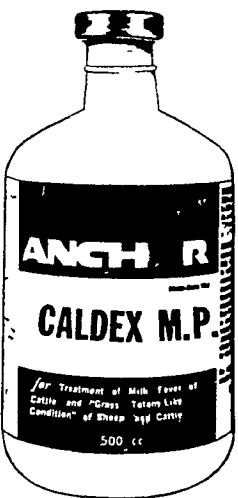
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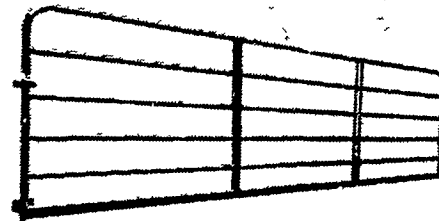


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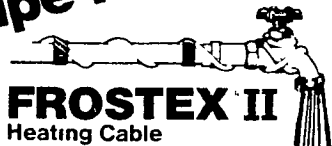


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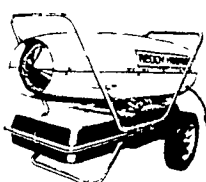
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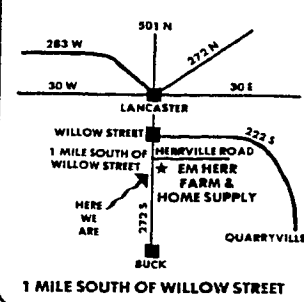
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