

Growers expand 1981 wheat acreage

LANCASTER — U.S. growers seeded the largest area ever to winter wheat last fall - 63.9 million acres - and USDA's first forecast indicates the 1981 winter crop could be a record 1.98 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 1980.

Acreages of Soft Red and Hard Red varieties were up 37 percent and seven percent, respectively, while White wheat areas were slightly smaller. Total area planted to winter wheat was 6.5 million acres larger than last season.

Although spring wheat growers' intentions have not yet been surveyed, higher prices may mean some increase in spring acreage. With average yields, the expanded acreage suggests that 1981 total wheat production would be record size.

So far, moisture conditions in some areas have not been favorable; however, weather in coming months will determine final production.

Assuming larger supplies in 1981-82, strong demand will be needed to support prices.

Although some increase in domestic use is likely, the key element will be foreign demand. Foreign wheat stocks for 1980-81 are being drawn down, particularly in the major exporting countries, and this circumstance would appear to favor larger U.S. exports. But drawdown also encourages expansion of foreign wheat areas and could result in increased world wheat production.

If so, only modest gains are likely in U.S. exports and farm prices. On the other hand, any production shortfalls in key countries would intensify upward price pressures.

The 1980-81 wheat marketing season is well past the halfway mark, and disappearance during June-December totaled a near-

record 1.4 billion bushels. But large wheat supplies continue to dominate the U.S. market.

The January 1 stock total, 1.9 billion bushels, was 10 percent larger than a year ago and is one of the highest January figures since the early 1960's. Continued brisk disappearance would result in year-end stock about the same size as a year ago.

About half of June 1 stocks are expected to be in the farmer-owned reserve or owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The 1980-81 export season appears likely to set another record, even though June-December vessel loadings barely kept pace with the record activity of a year earlier.

Large outstanding scales and the accelerated pace of January loadings indicate that wheat exports for the season should be

around 1.5 billion bushels. This year's exports to China include the biggest single-country wheat sales (around 300 million bushels) since the record U.S. transaction with the Soviet Union in 1972-73.

Final tally of the 1980 world wheat crop is near, and the harvest appears to have been only slightly above 1979's reduced level. Nevertheless, the 1980 total (about 433 million metric tons) will still be the second largest output ever.

The continuing high level of global wheat consumption indicates world trade this season totaling about 93 million tons and topping the 1979-80 record of 85.8 million. Because world wheat disappearance will exceed production, ending stocks for 1980-81 (July/June) are estimated to be 70 million tons, the lowest since 1975-76.

Crops workshop to start Monday

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — A three-day farm business management workshop, conducted by the Extension Service, is set to begin on Monday, February 23. Sessions are to begin at 10 a.m., conclude at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of next week. They will be held in the Hunterdon Extension Center, Flemington, N.J.

Billed as The Economics of Crop Production, this marks the fourth year the course has been offered, according to Calvin Wettstein, Hunterdon County, N.J. Agricultural Agent.

This is a joint effort of the Hunterdon, Somerset, and Mercer County Extension Services," he said.

Opening day includes presentations by Cook College extension Specialists and Agricultural Agents, Jon Repair, Mercer, H.N. Repair, Somerset, and Wettstein. Topics deal with labor, land, fertilizer, seed, cultural practices.

The Wednesday session is probably the most popular, says the Agent. A grower is interviewed and discussion follows on the methods he uses on his farm. This year's participant will be Earl Tindall, Mercer County grain farmer and grain broker. He will discuss production and marketing.

Third day, Friday, will feature topics, including machinery, credit, accounting, marketing, and records.

Registration is encouraged. Anyone interested should call the Hunterdon Extension Service office, 201/788-1339.

Ladies Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas

Lancaster Extension Home Economist



PROTECT HARDWOOD FLOORS

It is hard to surpass the warmth and beauty of well cared for hardwood floors, but many homeowners are confused about just what a well cared for floor involves.

Keeping the floor free from the grit and dust which can damage the finish, and wiping up spills as they occur are about the two most important things the homeowner can do on a regular basis.

The best finish for a wood floor is a high quality varnish. Waxing varnished floors is not recommended. Wax will cause the varnish to soften and discolor, and once the finish is softened, it damages easily.

If your floor is not varnished, use a very hard paste wax. Always check the label on any wood floor care product before buying to be sure it is suitable for your floors. After waxing, buff the floor thoroughly. The more you buff, the harder and drier the floor will become. The easiest way to buff is with an electric floor polisher.

HOW TO SELECT HOME SEWING PUBLICATIONS

Perhaps it's human nature to assume that if you pay \$10 for something it's better than something that is free. Books are no exception. But an expensive book may have pretty pictures, a handsome cover and quality paper yet lack complete information and accuracy.

Home sewing has been

discovered by the publishing business. Some sewing books on the market are useful, but most are a waste of money. Sometimes you get more information from inexpensive booklets at your fabric store - or free from the Penn State Extension Service office in your county.

If you order any home sewing books by mail, be sure you have the option of returning them if you aren't satisfied. If you don't like a book, return it.

One reason so many of these books are sold by mail is that you wouldn't buy them if you did examine them first. The publisher gambles on the fact that you won't go to the bother of returning the book. If you need a reference, try a bookstore first and thoroughly examine the book to see if it is right for your needs.

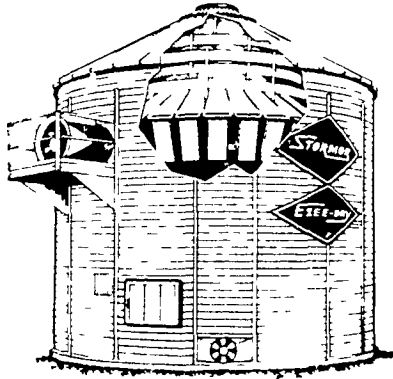
When evaluating the worth of a book, look for a description of the author's credentials. This may not mean a thing, but if there is no reference to the author, you have a right to wonder why.

You may be better off to invest your time and money in a good sewing class instead of a book.

Once you learn the basic techniques you can get most of the additional help you need from the pattern instructions. Also use your common sense and creative instinct and you may come up with a solution to a particular problem that is better than those in the reference books.

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