

## USDA economists

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this year, the USSR suffered its third consecutive poor harvest. World coarse grain trade this season is projected at 115.6 mmt., of which the U.S. holding better than half the world stocks—should account for 72 mmt., up slightly over the 1980/81 export level.

U.S. domestic feed use should be up 6 percent this season to further ease the supply, but, even so, stocks should build 18 mmt. this season to a total of 53 mmt. only about matching 1979/80's ending stocks. The mid-November outlook for the 1981/82 crop year is for corn prices to average \$2.55-\$2.80 per bushel, down from last season's record \$3.10.

Food Grains: This season's world food grain harvests were so abundant that gains in Outlook production of 2.4 percent will not only cover growth in consumption, but should also allow for some minor stock buildup, said USDA economist John C. Dunmore. The record U.S. wheat crop of 74.8 mmt. is a major factor in this abundance.

Major wheat exporters, including the U.S., Australia, and Canada, enjoyed gains in production averaging almost 11 percent. Of all major exporters, only the European Community had a smaller crop, while Argentina's crop is now forecast to be at about last year's level.

Meanwhile, major importers, including Eastern Europe, the USSR, China, Brazil, North Africa, and Spain, averaged a 6.8 percent smaller crop. Only China showed a gain among major importers. Result: world wheat trade should be up from last season's 98 mmt. The forecast ranges from 98.5 to 108.7 mmt.

Beef Cattle: High expectations among cattle producers for 1981 meat prices soured as the economy slowed, interest rates rose, and consumer budgets tightened.

The outlook is for continuing slow beef price gains through mid-1982, although lower feed costs, moderating interest rates, and improved forage conditions should restrain production costs. Beef production should rise 3 to 4 percent in 1982 as the herd expansion continues, said USDA livestock economist Ronald A. Gustafson.

Pork: After declining about 6 percent in 1981 from record 1980 output of 16.4 billion pounds, pork production is expected to decline another 4 to 6 percent next year. Even so, supplies should still be ample—especially with high production of competing meats and with sluggish consumer demand.

Second-half 1981 hog prices were up sharply from the low levels of January-June 1981.

Prices to producers are expected to strengthen in 1982, and the

average price of barrows and gilts may range from \$46 to \$50 per cwt., said USDA livestock analyst James E. Nix.

Poultry: The record feed grain crop should also benefit poultry and egg producers in 1982, easing pressures from the expected weak poultry and egg prices during the first half of next year.

Broiler producers are expected to expand output by about 1 percent, but egg production may decrease slightly, and turkey production could decline 4 to 6 percent, according to USDA economist Allen Baker.

## Peechatka named SCSA vice-president



Walter N. Peechatka

the statewide efforts of conservation districts and since 1972 has managed a mandatory erosion and sediment control program, the first program of its kind in the nation.

Other Bureau functions have involved Peechatka in surface mine reclamation, nonpoint pollution control, watershed planning, soil survey, recreation, and joint federal-state conservation planning.

Prior to 1971, Peechatka was State Conservation Commission program specialist in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. He also worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters as a service forester, then as assistant supervisor of the state's Cooperative Forest Management Program.

Peechatka is a member of SCSA, the Association of State Soil Conservation Administration Officers, and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

Peechatka, who hails from Scranton, graduated from Pocono High School in 1957. He earned a B.S. degree in forestry from Penn State in 1961.

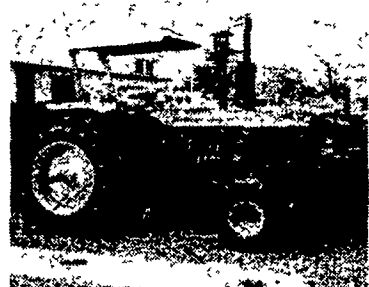
Peechatka and his wife, Bonita, have two children, Troy and Trent.

was to have assumed the Society's top administrative post.

Peechatka has served as director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation and executive secretary of the State Conservation Commission since 1971. In this capacity, he has directed a staff of professional foresters, agronomists, geologists, and engineers.

Peechatka has also coordinated

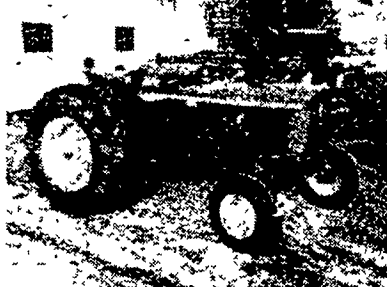
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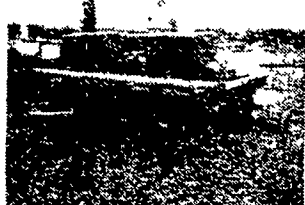
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