

# Lancaster County Agricultural Products

COMMODITY	NO. OF UNITS	1982		NO. OF UNITS	1983		NO. OF UNITS	1984	
		SALES, DOLLARS	PA RANK		SALES, DOLLARS	PA RANK		SALES, DOLLARS	PA RANK
Dairy Products	111,000 (cows)	211,779,000	1st	112,300 (cows)	213,835,000	1st	112,000 (cows)	211,347,000	1st
Poultry-Broiler	41,022,000	45,411,000	1st	43,950,000	50,453,000	1st	39,600,000	53,579,000	1st
Layers & Eggs	7,934,600	100,862,000	1st	7,628,000	98,262,000	1st	6,465,000	102,406,000	1st
Other Poultry	—	11,762,200	1st	—	—	1st	—	11,056,100	1st
Cattle & Calves	272,500	175,762,500	1st	270,400	159,536,000	1st	267,000	153,525,000	1st
Hogs	285,000	21,945,000	1st	340,000	21,250,000	1st	304,000	24,016,000	1st
Sheep	5,700	361,700	3rd	6,200	396,800	3rd	5,000	335,000	3rd
Total Value - Livestock & Poultry		\$567,883,400	1st		\$569,510,500	1st		\$556,264,100	1st
Number of Farms	5,240			5,250			5,210		

MAJOR CROPS	ACRES	1982		ACRES	1983		Acres	1984	
		AVG. YIELD	SALES, DOLLARS		AVG. YIELD	SALES, DOLLARS		Avg. Yield	Sales Dollars
Corn-Grain	128,300	120.0 bu.	36,180,400	117,700	63.0 bu.	28,548,100	136,600	130.0 bu.	52,386,100
-Silage	65,100	20.1 T	31,459,200	78,300	13.5 T	28,753,100	61,300	21.3 T	34,339,900
Soybeans		NOT REPORTED		8,600	28.0 bu.	1,890,280	9,500	42.0 bu.	2,294,200
Wheat	23,200	40.0 bu.	2,969,900	17,800	45.0 bu.	2,883,600	19,000	43.0 bu.	2,941,200
Barley	7,900	59.0 bu.	932,200	7,100	60.0 bu.	894,600	7,400	62.0 bu.	1,124,100
Oats	2,700	58.0 bu.	266,200	2,100	65.0 bu.	266,175	1,800	66.0 bu.	231,660
Potatoes	2,000	265 Cwt.	2,915,000	1,700	200 Cwt.	2,550,000	1,700	270 Cwt.	2,983,500
Tobacco	11,800	1,995 lbs.	18,620,370	10,870	1,831 lbs.	18,913,990	10,800	1,867 lbs.	18,914,320
Hay	88,700	3.57 T	27,685,100	87,000	3.48 T	29,845,500	81,500	4.0 T	29,629,600
Vegetable	3,949	—	5,453,000	4,276	—	5,584,000	4,231	—	6,781,000
Fruits	—	—	2,747,000	—	—	1,951,000	—	—	1,755,000
Total Value-Field Crops	All Crops		\$129,228,370			\$122,080,345			\$153,380,580
Total Value-Livestock & Poultry			\$567,883,400			\$569,510,500			\$556,264,100
Total Value-All Agricultural Products			\$697,111,770			\$691,590,845			\$709,644,680

## Equipment maintenance may prevent harvest loss

NEWARK, DE. — With today's depressed grain prices farmers will want to harvest every bushel possible. The harvest season is about to begin, but despite the best intentions, some producers won't be ready. Some may have forgotten to order equipment parts. Others may have overlooked essential repairs.

"The most important thing farmers can do now is get organized, so that when the crop is ready, they'll be ready too," says University of Delaware extension agricultural agent Dean Belt.

"Start by finding your operator's manual and giving your combine a thorough checkup and service if this hasn't been done," he says. "Make necessary repairs promptly. Do your best to be ready when the crop is. Don't be shut down making repairs when you should be in the field. There are enough unavoidable problems to face without those you could have taken care of earlier."

Once harvest is under way, don't overlook necessary daily maintenance. This could prevent major down-time later. Again, the operator's manual will be a big help.

Belt advises farmers to check frequently for lost grain in the field. Conditions change by the hour and some may affect harvest loss. "A few minutes spent checking the ground for grain could save you a lot of money," he says.

A 3 percent field loss, which is considered acceptable, means 4.2 bushels left on the ground in a 140-bushel-an-acre crop. Many farmers leave more than that.

"I can't stress enough the importance of checking frequently for lost grain, and then determining where it's coming from," the county agent says. "A little easy arithmetic will tell you what a 3, 4 or 5 percent loss will cost you in your operation."

On the average, two kernels per

square foot equals a 1-bushel loss per acre. The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has fact sheets that explain how to measure field loss for corn and soybeans. To obtain copies, contact the county extension office in Newark (451-2506), Dover (736-1448) or Georgetown (856-7303).

According to Belt, the most frequent causes of harvest grain loss are:

- Improper adjustment of the table; check it for proper adjustment of gathering chains and stripper plates. Considerable shelling or ear loss can occur here before the crop enters the combine.

- Improper adjustment of cylinder speeds, concaves, fan or sieves.


- Worn, poorly fitting plates which allow grain to spill out.

- A ground speed too fast for crop conditions.

- Prepare your combine now so you can harvest as much as possible of what you grew," Belt concludes. "You ought to harvest 97 percent of your grain, or better."

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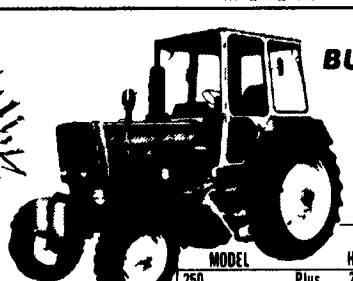
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