

# Prospective Planting Stats Encouraging In Pennsylvania

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre) — Pennsylvania farmers are responding well to market conditions and to the possibility of another drought, says Penn State economist George Greaser.

"Farmers are reacting to continued strong commodity prices for wheat and other small grains by having planted more last fall and planning to plant more acreage in these crops this spring," says Greaser. "They are also spreading the risk of drought loss because small grains tend to be drought resistant. They also tend to be short-season crops, so some farmers may have the option of double cropping with soybeans, if moisture levels hold," he says.

Greaser is responding to USDA's Highlights of Prospective Plantings, based on a survey by the Agricultural Statistics Board of what 65,000 farmers plan to plant this year. Greaser is a research associate in the department of agricultural economics.

"Since planting intentions are not as high as the industry expected, the market will be bullish. Trading and commodity prices will be very volatile over the next three months and will be dominated by the weather," Greaser says.

Nationally, farmers will plant 54 million acres in wheat. In Pennsylvania, winter wheat production is up 26 percent as

opposed to a national increase of 12 percent. But even with the increase, there's little danger of flooding the market, says Greaser. The 10-year high was in 1985 when U.S. farmers planted 65 million acres. Winter wheat was planted last fall and will be harvested in Pennsylvania during June and July. "Pennsylvania farmers will be looking at a fairly decent commodity price for their wheat," he says.

Corn crops will increase 8 percent nationally but will remain stable in Pennsylvania. The report projects that in Pennsylvania 1.48 million acres will be planted in corn—the same level as last year. In 1987 the state had 1.55 million

acres planted in corn.

"Many farmers assume that there'll be enough corn from the midwest and from their own production to keep prices fairly reasonable," says Greaser. Poultry and hog farmers are especially dependent on corn, while dairy farmers, who produce a lot of Pennsylvania corn, rely more on protein feeds like soybeans and soybean-mill alternatives.

"Farmers should expect a strong commodity price for oats," he says. The report indicates that state farmers intend to plant 300,000 acres in oats. Last year they planted 290,000.

Other Pennsylvania projections were 260,000 acres in soybeans, up 13 percent from 230,000 acres

last year; and 80,000 acres in barley, up 33 percent from 60,000 acres last year. These figures reflect intentions to double-crop barley and soybeans or wheat and soybeans.

USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board will issue the next set of crop projections May 11 and another set in July. Thereafter, during the harvest season, reports will be issued monthly.

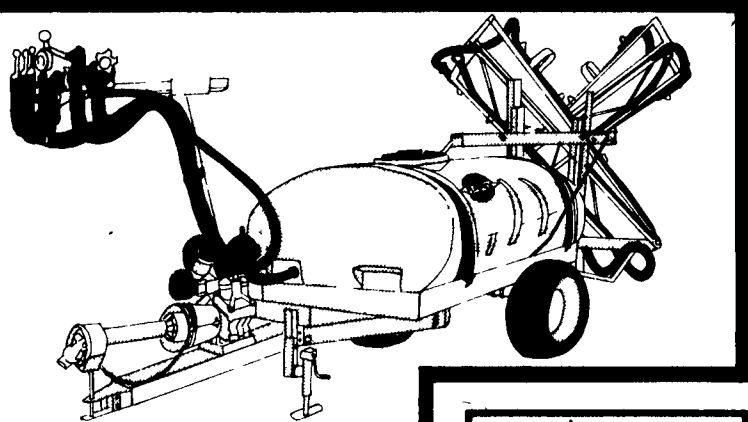
This month's statistics can be found under Market Reports on PENpages, the College of Agriculture's public electronic information system. For information about how to access PENpages, contact your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office.

## HARDI TL Trailer Sprayers

### ...performance

#### HARDI - The World Leader

Quality assurance - all components are manufactured in-house with state of the art production equipment



#### Sprayer with a built-in future

Add special HARDI features and options .. when you need them.

- Available in 300 or 500 US gallon single axle, and 500 gallon tandem axle models
- Self levelling booms from 35' to 45' (or the 28' standard boom).

An affordable, basic sprayer equipped with many features and built to the same tough engineering standards as HARDI's more sophisticated models.



#### HARDI Chemical Filler

- Safe & quick mixing of both powdered & liquid chemicals
- Many other accessories available

**Better design...  
Better reliability...  
Better accuracy...  
HARDI!**



HARDI NORTHEAST  
108 South Railroad Avenue  
New Holland, PA 17557  
Telephone: (717) 354-8929

— See Your Participating HARDI Dealer Today! —

#### PENNSYLVANIA

**EASTON**  
Geo. V. Seiple & Sons, Inc.  
215-258-7146

**EVERETT**  
Morris International Inc.  
814-652-6101

**LEWISBURG**  
Erdley Farm Equipment  
717-524-2408

**LYNNPORT**  
Kermit K. Kistler Inc.  
215-298-2011

**MARTINSBURG**  
Wineland Farm Equipment  
814-793-2109

**MILL HALL**  
Dotterer Equipment Inc.  
717-726-3471

#### NEW HOLLAND

A.B.C. Groff Inc.  
717-354-4191

**RINGTOWN**  
Ringtown Farm Equipment  
717-889-3184

**TUNKHANNOCK**  
Bartron Supply Inc.  
717-836-4011

**ZIEGLERVILLE**  
Robert E. Little Inc.  
215-287-9643

#### NEW JERSEY

**SHILOH**  
Robert G. Hampton  
609-451-9520

**WASHINGTON**  
Frank Rymon & Sons Inc.  
201-689-1464



## MILK. IT'S FITNESS YOU CAN DRINK.

Middle Atlantic  
Milk Marketing Assoc.



## One Is A Banker Both Are Farmers.

**LVNB's Agricultural Loan Officers Are Farming Experts.** It's true! LVNB's Agricultural Loan Officers know farming. Most of us still operate small farming operations. We come to LVNB with years of agricultural experience.

We'll help you with finances for **construction, operating loans, mortgages and refinancing, money for new machinery and equipment, and estate planning.**

At LVNB, you'll work directly with an agricultural loan department that understands a farmers special needs. Regardless of what type of farming you do, LVNB can help you do it better.

If we can help you or answer any questions, please call us at (717) 274-6906.

**LVNB-We're At Home On A Farm.**



**Lebanon Valley  
National Bank**

Member FDIC Equal Opportunity Lender