Corn Plantings Could Total 1.45 Million Acres

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — The U. S. Department of Agriculture's prospective plantings report places Pennsylvania's 1992 corn seedings at 1.45 million acres, 4 percent above last year. Corn plantings for the nation are expected to total 79 million acres this year, 4 percent more than last year, and possibly the largest acreage since

Richard Troutman, chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, said the acreage actually planted may vary from those indicated because of the 1992 farm programs, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in economic conditions before planting.

The report is based on voluntary responses from approximately 70,000 farmers and ranchers to a mail survey conducted the first two

weeks in March.

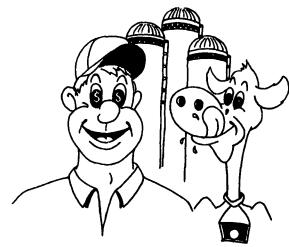
"Many producers had not made their final planting decisions for the 1992 crop year at that time," Troutman said. The signup period for this year's farm programs ended May 1. Therefore, the survey results are only a preliminary response to the 1992 Feed Grain Program, he said.

The program contains a 5 percent acreage reduction requirement for corn, grain sorghum, and barley and a 0 percent reduction for oats. It offers a federal target price of \$2.75 per bushel and price support on loans at \$1.72 per bushel. Farm prices for corn in 1991-1992 are expected to be around \$2.40 per bushel.

The USDA report shows that Pennsylvania farmers planted 1.4 million acres of corn in 1992 and 1.38 million acres in 1990.



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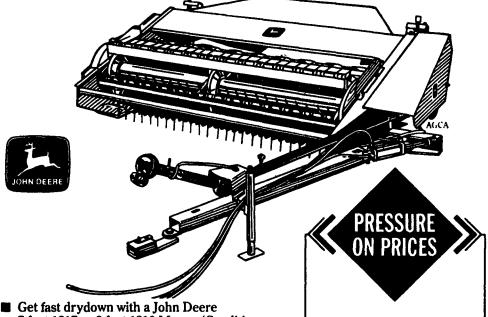
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