

# Overestimates Of Corn Crop May Cause Income Loss

AMES, Iowa — Overestimates of the 1993 corn crop in the June USDA Supply and Demand report may cause a \$200 million gross income loss to U.S. corn farmers in the next four months, said National Farmers President, Steve Halloran.

The report, released recently, estimates this year's corn crop at 8.5-billion bushels — precisely

the same estimate USDA made in its May Supply and Demand Report. According to Halloran, National Farmers see no scientific evidence, nor on-farm evidence, that the two crop estimates should be an identical 8.5-billion bushels.

Since the report was issued, a month of extremely poor planting and growing conditions dramatically changed fall corn harvest prospects. National Farmers believes the June Supply and Demand Report should reflect observable on-farm conditions and stay consistent with scientific research. In a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Michael Espy, National Farmers requests that USDA review all the negative factors that impacted the U.S. corn crop between May 1 and June 1.

According to Halloran, "such a review is necessary and if USDA chooses not to listen to our request, it should be prepared to shoulder the responsibility for needlessly causing U.S. corn farmers to lose in excess of \$200-million in gross income."

In the case of corn planting, the June report shows 87-percent of the U.S. corn crop planted. The 5-year average percentage is 94-percent. The 10-year average is 95-percent.

Iowa State University corn research shows the effect of late planting on corn yields. Corn planted June 1 yields from 84-percent of what it yields if planted on May 1. Ohio State University research shows similar yield loss for late planted corn. Based on this scientific yield-reduction evidence and the clear fact that farmers are planting fewer corn acres, the June corn crop estimates should be significantly lower than the May estimate.

If USDA allows the reports' inaccuracy to stand, National Farmers grain department analysts estimate that the false supply signals the report sends to the marketplace will lower corn prices 10-cents per bushel on the next 2-billion bushels sold.

Halloran points out that in recent weeks, USDA made grain program changes that show its concern for the severity of corn

planting problems. Unfortunately, the June Supply and Demand Report fails to reflect a parallel concern.

The state ASCS offices in Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois have extended the crop deadline due to late plantings or have extended the deadline for planting a cover crop on ACR/CU. Several other states are considering similar action. In Ohio, the state presidents of the National Farmers Organization, the National Farmers Union, and the Farm Bureau Federation have

sent letters to the State ASCS Office requesting an extension of seeding ACR/CU acres as well as an extension of the deadline for crop certification.

The USDA in Washington, D.C. changed the prevented-planting rules on June 3, 1993 to allow producers who cannot get their spring program crops planted to drop out of the Acreage Reduction Program with no liquidated damages assessed. The change also allows farmers to plant soybeans, thus protecting crop base

and maintaining eligibility for the marketing loan provisions. The USDA also re-opened the entry into the 0-50 or 0-92 program, whichever is applicable for producers who don't get their crops planted.

The extremely wet spring and late planting conditions prompted all these actions. None of these actions were anticipated by anyone on May 1, 1993. Consequently, the May USDA Supply and Demand Report appeared based on facts at that time.

## Tractor Family Moves

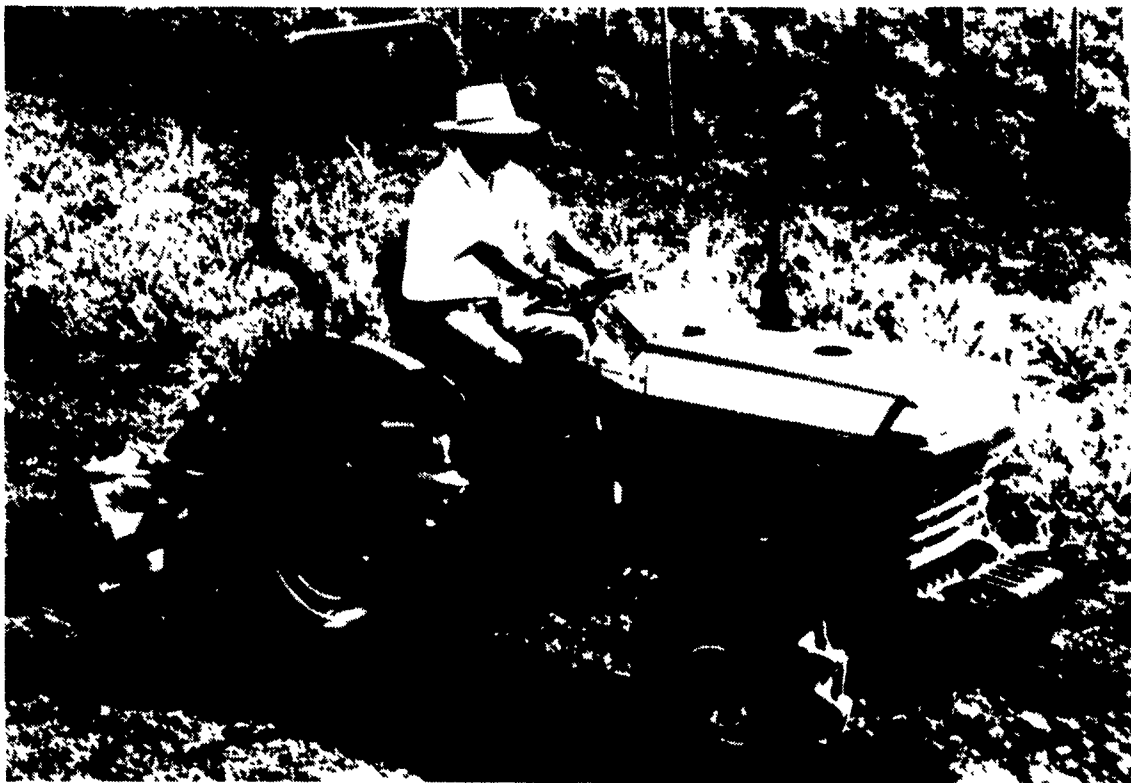
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The HPOCA will have a banquet on Saturday evening August 28. Duane Starr of Lincoln, Neb., will be the keynote speaker.

The association has more than 1,300 members from all parts of the country, Canada and numerous countries around the world. For an application to join, write the HPOCA at P.O. Box 685, Charles City, IA 50616.



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