

## Output Still High

# '63 Crop Acreage Outlook Small Again

WASHINGTON — The 1963 crop will be grown on the second smallest planted acreage of record.

The Agriculture Department estimated Wednesday that this year's total field crops would be planted on 308 million acres, 2 per cent greater than the record low planted acreage of 302 million acres in 1962.

The department calculated the total crop acreage at 3.8 million acres as a projection from a detailed report on farmer's planting intentions for 17 major crops.

Farmers' plans as of March 1 indicated the 17 crops would be planted on 283 million acres, 2 per cent more than last year's record low for the same crops.

The record low planted acreage last year developed into a record low harvested acreage of 288 million acres. Even so, the total all-crop output last year tied the record production of 1960. This would seem to indicate that a total crop grown on an acreage 2 per cent larger would result in that much larger production. This can be de-

termined, however, only as the crop season unfolds.

### More Corn

The department said farmers indicated they would plant almost 70 million acres to corn this year. This is 3.8 million acres or 5.7 per cent more than last year.

Given a normal growing season, average yield plus allowance for trend, the intended acreage should produce a crop of 3,946,000,000 bushels. A crop this size would be 8 per cent larger than last year and 1 per cent more than the 1960 record.

Growers' plans were reported during the sign-up period for the 1963 feed grain and wheat programs. Planting intentions for corn, sorghums, spring barley and spring wheat may be altered by later decisions on participation in the feed grain and wheat programs.

### Drop In Oilseeds

At present, feed grain acreage is expected to be 2 per cent more than food grain acreage to

give a net drop of less than 1 per cent in oilseeds.

Of the spring planted crops corn shows the largest prospective increase—3.8 million acres—followed by soybeans, sorghums and spring wheat with increases of about a million acres each.

The planned total acreage for the four feed grains—corn, oats, barley and sorghum—is 128.5 million acres. This is 2 per cent more than in 1962 but 13 per cent smaller than the 1957-61 average.

## Group Clears Tax Proposal

SALEM (AP)—A bill to force Multnomah County's property tax assessment rate from 36 per cent down to 25 per cent has been approved for introduction by the House Rules Committee.

The bill is being introduced by the House Taxation Committee. At this stage of the session it must win approval of the Rules Committee to be introduced.

The Taxation Committee decided to introduce the bill after its chairman, Rep. Richard Eyemann, D-Marcola, said he had not been able to get Multnomah County Assessor Joe Hawkins to appear before the committee.

The committee wanted Hawkins to discuss the rate, which is the only one in the state not at 25 per cent of true cash value.

Charles H. Mack, chairman of the State Tax Commission, said it appeared the proposed change in the rate would have cost Portland about \$150,000 last year, in the assessment of the fixed millage levy that brings in \$1 million a year for street lighting.

Mack said Hawkins has been gradually bringing the ratio down.

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## Oregon Farm Receipts Up On Livestock

Oregon farmers counted higher cash receipts in 1962 with sales up on both livestock and crop products over 1961, reports Elvera Horrell, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

Preliminary estimates place Oregon's 1962 cash receipts from farm marketing at approximately \$430 million, up 4 per cent from 1961 and the second highest on record, she said. The total figure does not include direct government payments to farmers.

Drawing upon U. S. Department of Agriculture reports and other information, Mrs. Horrell pointed out that livestock accounted for around \$199 million, up 2 per cent for the year. Crop receipts were boosted some 6 per cent to approximately \$231 million. Oregon marketings were heavier last year and prices averaged higher.

Last year's estimated total of \$430 million was exceeded only in 1951, the record high year of livestock and livestock products receipts, she noted. The record high for crops was in 1952.

Oregon's farm sales started slowly in 1962, with the first four months below the same time in 1961. In May, however, the tide turned and each month except October saw sales receipts topping the same month a year earlier, Mrs. Horrell pointed out.

However, it is still not known how much Oregon farmers had left after paying their expenses, the economist stressed. To date, no information is available on 1962 production costs, but nationally production expenses moved up 2 per cent, soaking up much of the gross gain, she stated.

### \$1.2 Million Contract

PORTLAND (AP)—The Aluminum Co. of America received a \$1,229,505 contract Wednesday for cables and other material for the 110-mile-long Big Eddy-Keeler section of a high voltage line from the John Day Dam. The Bonneville Administration line will serve Portland and the Willamette Valley.

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## Plantings Decline For Spring Wheat

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Agriculture Department says spring wheat plantings are down in Washington and Oregon because of a mild winter but up slightly in Idaho.

Acreage of other crops in the Pacific Northwest is about the same as 1962, the department reported Wednesday.

Spring wheat acreage was listed at 130,000 in Washington, down 40 per cent. Oregon's was

77,000, off 14 per cent. Idaho showed a gain of 6 per cent to 374,000 acres.

Most wheat in the Northwest is winter seeded, so that when losses are light there is little replanting in the spring.

The estimated acreage for other key crops this year, and the percentage of last year's, respectively, included:

Barley—Washington, 659,000 and 102; Oregon, 470,000 and 104; Idaho, 665,000 and 96.

Dry beans — Idaho, 109,000 and 87.

Dry peas—Washington, 173,000 and 95; Idaho 138,000 and 103.

Sugar beets—Washington, 58,000 and 104; Oregon, 20,000 and 98; Idaho, 144,000 and 109.

Potatoes, late summer and fall crops—Washington, 39,000 and 98; Oregon, 35,500 and 95; Idaho, 270,000 and 101.


## Market Outlook Mixed in Oregon

The 1963 outlook for Oregon grain, wool and seed prices is mixed according to the "Oregon Farm and Market Outlook" just published by Oregon State University.

M. D. Thomas, OSU extension agricultural economist, points out that supports to grain market prices provided by government loans and agreements are being reduced in 1963 for all except oats, while direct payments to qualifying wheat, barley, corn and sorghum growers are being made to offset possible income reducing effects of these changes in loan rates.

Economic forces that influence Oregon wool prices suggest a fairly strong market undertone in 1963 and higher average prices, notes Stephen C. Marks, OSU extension agricultural economist, in his wool outlook report.

Cause for "some optimism" in Oregon's turf seed market situation is seen by Ray H. Teal, OSU extension seed and grain marketing specialist, in his report. Carryovers on July 1 this year should be smaller for most kinds of turf seeds than at the same time last year.



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