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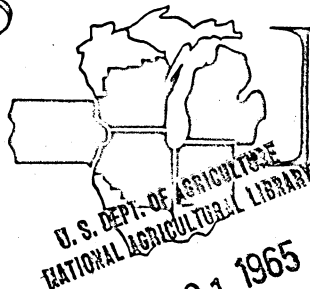
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August 20, 1965

Agricultural Letter



SEP 21 1965
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Number 818

THE BIGGEST CROP ON RECORD is in sight. Prospects improved sharply during July and total crop production is now projected at 116 per cent of the 1957-59 average. This would be 6 per cent above last year and 4 per cent above the previous record in 1963.

Average yields per acre are estimated at 122 per cent of the 1957-59 average—7 per cent above last year's level and 5 per cent above the previous high in 1963.

Whether the currently indicated production will be realized depends, of course, on the weather and growing conditions between now and harvest time. For the most part, there is ample moisture in the major crop-producing regions.

Favorable weather in the Midwest since the first of August probably has improved prospects somewhat further in this region. However, there are some dry areas in eastern Wisconsin and Michigan.

Indications for some of the major crops are as follows: Corn production prospects throughout the major producing areas are excellent. Sharp increases in yields are projected in nearly every state, except those in the Northeast where drought continues. For the nation, yields are expected to average a record 71.6 bushels per acre compared with 62.1 bushels last year and the previous record of 66.6 bushels in 1963. Total production for the nation is forecast at a record 4.1 billion bushels—15 per cent above the drought reduced output of 3.5 billion in 1964.

Crop Prospects Improve Sharply

	<u>Ill.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>Mich.</u>	<u>Wisc.</u>	<u>United States</u>
	(million bushels)					
<u>Corn</u>						
1964	711	338	754	102	105	3,549
1965	834	445	838	91	115	4,096
Per cent change	+ 17	+ 32	+ 11	- 11	+ 10	+ 15
<u>Soybeans</u>						
1964	145	67	118	7	2	700
1965	175	84	141	8	3	864
Per cent change	+ 21	+ 25	+ 19	+ 6	+ 25	+ 23
<u>Oats</u>						
1964	56	15	118	32	106	882
1965	50	16	103	24	127	961
Per cent change	- 11	+ 7	- 13	- 25	+ 20	+ 9

In the Seventh District, record yields and production are forecast for each of the Corn Belt states. An average yield of 92 bushels per acre is projected in Indiana;

88 in Illinois, and 83 in Iowa. Despite drought in some portions of the state, both yield per acre and total production in Wisconsin are estimated to exceed 1964 levels. In Michigan, however, both yield and production are indicated to be smaller than last year.

Grain sorghum output is projected at 624 million bushels or about 27 per cent above that produced in 1964. If the current forecast is realized, the crop would be the largest on record. The average yield is indicated to be up nearly 6 bushels per acre and acreage is nearly 11 per cent larger than a year ago.

Production of both oats and barley is estimated to be higher than a year ago—each up 9 per cent—reflecting solely increased yields per acre. Acreages of both of these crops declined further this year as farmers continued to substitute the higher income crops on these acreages.

Wheat production is estimated at 1.4 billion bushels—up about 7 per cent from last year reflecting the record yield of 27.6 bushels per acre. A heavy infestation of plant diseases on crops from northern Kansas, through Nebraska, the Dakotas and into Wyoming caused a reduction in the winter wheat output, but exceptionally favorable prospects in the spring wheat areas are expected to more than offset this decline.

The soybean crop prospects nearly parallels that of the other crops. Production is indicated to be about 864 million bushels based on August 1 conditions. If this production is realized, the crop would exceed last year's record harvest by about one-fourth. The exceptionally large crop reflects both the record acreage planted to soybeans, in response to very favorable prices at planting time, and favorable weather conditions. Acreage was increased nearly 13 per cent from last year and yields are expected to be about 2 bushels per acre higher.

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