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Calcium	30%	Oxide	0.64 ppm
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Calcium	7.5%	Cobalt	19.4 ppm
Carbonate	3.3%	Copper	334.0 ppm
Carbon Dioxide	0.047%	Iron	24.0 ppm
Fluorine		Manganese	

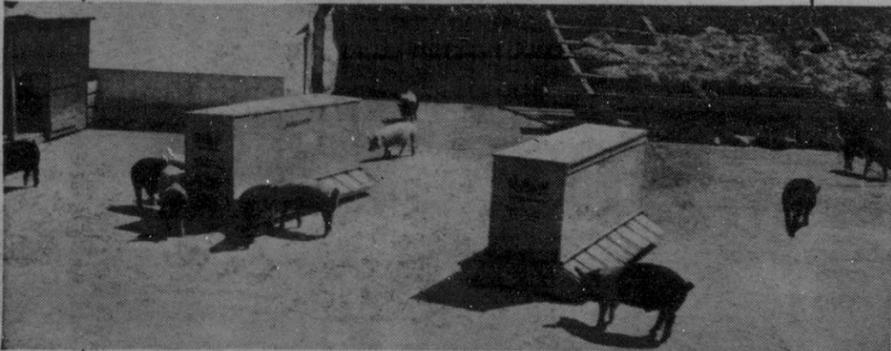
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## Soils and Crops

# Barley Program Compliance Depends on Many Factors

By ARTHUR F. SHAW

MUCH HAS BEEN said and written in recent weeks about the Feed Grain Program—more specifically, the barley program. Under the program Montana farmers may take a loss or reap the benefits. This will depend upon how the feed barley supply, as determined by climate and other growing conditions, will influence the demand and subsequent price.

Conceivably the program could be a blessing in disguise, in the event of a severe drought or other unforeseen circumstances. In spite of this, it is a farmer's inherent desire to produce, and for that we can be proud. Otherwise, we as a nation would not be strong individually or collectively.

In the few months remaining, a lot of pencil work and head scratching will be needed to reach a decision on whether to comply or not to comply with the program. Let's look at a few influencing factors.

To what extent will other areas of the state and nation comply with the program? What will be the influence of subsoil moisture reserves and seasonal precipitation on subsequent barley crops? What is the barley carry-over in Montana; probable supply and demand in 1962; disease or insects?

### National Compliance

As of Nov. 2 nearly one-half million acres had been diverted from barley in 36 states. California, the second largest barley producing state, has 219,000 acres set aside. No data was given for Montana as of Nov. 2. Opinions gathered recently indicate less interest in compliance in southern and western Montana. In southeastern Montana the moisture situation is relatively good, which would suggest less compliance.

These three areas produce an estimated 18 per cent of the state's total barley.

The southern and western areas are the livestock feeding areas and feed prices of recent weeks have been attractive to the barley producer but scorned by the stockman.

For the northern half of the state east of the continental divide it's a different story. This area normally produces about 70 per cent of the state's total barley and the remainder is in the central area. In the north the moisture situation is highly variable but generally leaves much to be desired. There will be program participation with the upward adjustments in acreage and payment rates but the extent is uncertain.

The subsoil moisture reserve is one factor that can be used with some satisfaction in helping you decide the course to follow. I would like to refer you back to the November 1st issue of this publication, page 9. The moisture aspect is discussed in detail and the accompanying maps are of interest. For anyone with a gambling spirit the odds are spelled out for you.

### Barley Stocks

As of July 1, Montana had only 15.5 million bushels indicated on farms, C.C.C. storage, and in mills and elevators. This was the lowest carry-over since 1957. Since that time, emergency drought measures have been taken, releasing C.C.C. stocks and much has moved off farms. The 1961 crop left much to be desired production-wise and by spring there shouldn't be too much

barley hanging around. So from this standpoint the outlook for prices above support levels may be good.

The probable supply in 1962 is anybody's guess. An occasional report is now coming in that livestock feeding is easing off. The reason is the difficulty in finding feed grain at a price they feel they can afford to pay. A general reduction in feeding could soften the barley market, so watch the trend.

Diseases and insects are largely an unknown factor, greatly influenced by climatic conditions. There will undoubtedly be grasshoppers in threatening numbers in isolated locations. As for disease there's little to worry about. There's much more risk with hail.

### Feed vs. Malting

The November report from the USDA made no mention as to the increase in acreage where malting type barley will be grown. Since most all malting barley is of the spring type, a more accurate estimate will be forthcoming as we near planting time.

One state in the north central region may increase their over-all barley acreage by nearly one-quarter of a million acres. Their acreage is based on barley almost entirely of the malting type. In a few states nearly 100 per cent of the total barley acreage is of the malting type. The potential increase in acreage in these states could nullify to a great extent the expected diversion and ultimate production.

In my ramblings I have tried to point out a few considerations in decision making. Deciding your most profitable route is no easy matter. Whatever you do, you will be seeding some acreage to barley anyway. That prompts me to get in one last word.

### The Seed You Use

The seed you use on whatever acreage you plant will influence your yield to some extent. To further reduce barley production I suppose I should say "use the lousiest seed you can find." Unfortunately, too many are doing just that today, so a more positive suggestion is in order.

Use seed of a known variety, adapted and recommended for your area. Numerous tests have shown that the plump seed with a high test weight, 48 pounds or above, will produce the stronger seedlings, and ultimately the better yield. Clean out shriveled and smaller kernels—besides all weed seeds and other trash.

Lastly, be sure the seed will grow—send a sample to the State Grain Laboratory for test. If it is certified seed, however, you have no worries.



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