

September 15, 1966

## MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has initiated a program of mushroom estimates which, in this the first year, covers Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. The results of this first survey show that there were 95,040,000 pounds of mushrooms produced in these three States during the crop year July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1966. About 85 percent of the 95 million pounds were produced in the Kennett Square area of these three States. (The survey in Pennsylvania outside of the Kennett Square area was made with local funds.) Total value of the 95 million pounds was \$29,107,000 or 30.6 cents per pound. The crop was produced on 41 million square feet of beds for an average yield of 2.32 pounds per square foot. For the 1966-67 season growers intend a 5 percent increase in fillings for a total of 43.1 million square feet. The first filling of beds last year accounted for 23.7 million square feet, 58 percent of total fillings for the year, and growers expect their first filling to total nearly 24.0 million square feet this year. Of this 24.0 million square feet about 28 percent will be in air conditioned houses and 2 percent in new houses to be filled for the first time.

Production of mushrooms in Pennsylvania totaled 89 million pounds; Delaware 4.3 million pounds; and Maryland about 1.8 million pounds. The average yield was 2.3 pounds per square foot in Pennsylvania, 2.6 pounds in Delaware and 2.4 pounds in Maryland. Pennsylvania's producers had nearly 38.7 million square feet in production (total for all fillings) last year and expect to have 5 percent more during this next season or about 40.6 million square feet. Of the total 38.7 million square feet in production last year in Pennsylvania, 57 percent was from the first filling, 36 percent the second filling and 7 percent from all additional fillings. Mushrooms in Delaware were harvested from more than 1.6 million square feet last year and growers expect to increase the area in production by 7 percent this year to about 1.7 million square feet. The first filling accounted for nearly 71 percent of last year's total fillings. In Maryland fillings for the year totaled 723,000 square feet. More than 66 percent of this total was accounted for by the first filling. A one percent decrease is planned for the 1966-67 fillings.

About 30.6 million pounds or one-third of last year's production in the 3 States was sold for fresh consumption. These sales averaged 35 cents per pound. Processing sales accounted for 64.5 million pounds and averaged 28.5 cents per pound. Fresh market sales were one-third of the total production in Pennsylvania and one-fifth in Delaware and in Maryland. Average prices for fresh market sales were 35 cents per pound in Pennsylvania and in Delaware, and 36 cents in Maryland. Sales for processing averaged 28.6 cents per pound in Pennsylvania, 27 cents in Delaware and 28 cents in Maryland.

It is expected that the survey next year will be expanded to include all of the rest of the States where mushrooms are grown as well as the States surveyed this year. Plans also call for a survey of processors to determine the disposition of the mushrooms that are processed.

TABLE 1.--PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF MUSHROOMS

State and Area	Fresh Market Sales		Processing Sales		Total Sales	
	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Dollars
Pennsylvania	29,370	10,309	59,630	17,054	89,000	27,363
Delaware	854	299	3,436	928	4,290	1,227
Maryland	336	121	1,414	396	1,750	517
3 State Total	30,560	10,729	64,480	18,378	95,040	29,107

TABLE 2.--SQUARE FEET OF MUSHROOM BEDS IN PRODUCTION

State and Area	July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1966				Intentions July 1, 1966 to June 30, 1967				Intention as % Last Year
	First Filling	Second Filling	Additional Fillings	Total	First Filling	Second Filling	Additional Fillings	Total	
	1,000 Sq. Ft.	1,000 Sq. Ft.	1,000 Sq. Ft.	1,000 Sq. Ft.	1,000 Sq. Ft.	1,000 Sq. Ft.	1,000 Sq. Ft.	1,000 Sq. Ft.	Per cent
Pennsylvania	22,057	13,931	2,708	38,696	22,347	15,033	3,250	40,630	105
Delaware	1,149	467	4	1,620	1,146	499	85	1,730	107
Maryland	479	244	---	723	483	233	---	716	99
3 State Total	23,685	14,642	2,712	41,039	23,976	15,765	3,335	43,076	105