

Radio Free Europe/Munich  
Non-Target Communist Area Analysis Department  
Background Information USSR

24 July 1962

MID-YEAR FARM REPORT

The agricultural section of the semi-annual report of the Central Statistical Administration on the state of the Soviet economy reveals that the continued spatial expansion of the grain area is the primary and immediate means upon which Khrushchev is depending to raise the sagging farm output of the Seven-Year Plan.<sup>1</sup> The plan envisaged an 8 percent yearly growth in farm products but in the first three years the annual increment has been on the order of one percent. Among the several emergency measures which Khrushchev adopted during the year was a drastic change in the cropping structure: a reduction in the grasslands, fallow, and oat areas in favor of the soil-depleting grain crops.

Thus while the total sown area expanded by 5 percent this year the grain hectareage rose by 10 percent and that of oats and annual grasses dropped by 37 and 63 percent respectively.

The CSA report is unusually complete this year on the agricultural sowings:

SOWN AREAS -- SOVIET UNION  
(million hectares)

	1962	1961
Total area seeded to crops	215.7	204.6
of which		
Grain crops (without silage crops)	133.9	122.3
of which		
Wheat	67.8	63.0
Corn, as dry grain	9.7	7.2
Millet	4.8	3.8
Buckwheat	2.4	1.9
Oats	7.2	11.5
Pulses, of which	8.3	4.3
Peas	4.7	2.0
Beans, feed	0.8	0.13

<sup>1</sup> Pravda, 21 July 1962.

SOWN AREAS -- SOVIET UNION (Cont'd)  
(million hectares)

	1962	1961
Sugar beets	6.0	4.4
of which for feed	2.7	1.3
Cotton	2.3	2.3
Sunflowers	4.4	4.2
Flax	1.7	1.6
Potatoes	8.7	8.9
Vegetables	1.43	1.42
Corn as silage and green feed	27.3	18.45
Annual grasses	9.6	16.7
Perennial grasses	15.2	18.4

The whole thrust and emphasis is on grain and feed crops; even such vital "technical" crops as cotton and flax (Stalin's favored crops) will remain at static dimensions. But for the urban consumer, however, the failure to increase the vegetable area means that the short supplies and limited selection of vegetables characteristic of the past years will continue to be the norm for another year.<sup>2</sup>

With 134 million hectares under grain crops, or 8.7 million more than in the record year of 1958, it is possible that the harvest record of 141.2 million tons of that year may be reached or surpassed in 1962. Much still depends on the favorable ripening of the corn crop during August, however.

In line with the expansion of grain crops, the output of harvesting machinery for such cultures showed a sharp rise during the first half of the year despite criticism in the press of the inadequacy and quality of the harvesting machines delivered to the new lands. By comparison, tractor output rose by only 3 percent.

Livestock numbers increased by 9 and 8 percent for cattle and pigs respectively on the state and collective farms while sheep and goats grew by only one percent. The herds on the private plots continued to grow compared to last year, with pigs increasing by 13 percent and cows by 4 percent. This indicates that the anti-grasslands program, which some observers felt would limit feed supplies, has not been a deterrent on the growth of the private herds.

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<sup>2</sup> By comparison the U. S., with less people and a meat consumption over twice that of the Soviet Union, harvested 1.6 million hectares high quality commercial vegetables in 1961, compared to 1.4 million hectares in the USSR (mostly cabbages, beets and cucumbers). (Agricultural Statistics, USDA, 1961, p. 209.)