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# From Washington

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## **USDA again lowers oilseed projection**

The October U.S. Department of Agriculture projections on oilseed production showed further declines in the U.S. soybean and peanut estimates. The net result was a lowering of projections on 1980/81 world oilseed production to 161.7 million metric tons from the September forecast of 164.2 million metric tons.

Much of the world decline reflected an October estimate of U.S. soybean production at 1.76 billion bushels (47.82 million metric tons) compared to the September estimate of 1.83 billion bushels. The peanut crop estimate also was sharply lower in October at 2.5 billion pounds, compared to the September forecast of 3.1 billion pounds. Peanut production in 1979 was close to 4 billion pounds. The U.S. International Trade Commission is considering whether to ease restrictions on imports of peanuts and some peanut products into the U.S.

Total U.S. cotton production was estimated at 11.6 million bales, which should yield about 4.5 million tons of cottonseed. The 1979 cottonseed crop was 5.8 million tons.

Sunflower production was estimated at 4.2 billion pounds for 1980, compared to 7.3 billion pounds in 1979. The decline reflects about a one-third decrease in planted acreage and a 16% drop in yield.

The October estimate for 1980 flaxseed production was 7.9 million bushels, compared to 1979 production of 13.5 million bushels. Flaxseed acreage in 1980 was approximately 25% below that of 1979.

## **Sunflower trading extension sought**

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission sought comments during October on a proposal to permit trading of September delivery sunflower seed contracts on the Minneapolis Grain Exchange. The exchange requested the permission based on increasing production of sunflower crop. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 1980, p. 65010.

## **Flaxseed support program for 1980**

The Commodity Credit Corporation published its rules for the price support program for 1980 crop flaxseed in the Tuesday, Sept. 30, issue of the *Federal Register* (p. 65457). The national average purchase rate will be \$4.50 per bushel. Producers are required to sign purchase agreements by the end of April or May in 1981, depending on the state where the flaxseed is grown. In a later notice, USDA said it would accept comments until Dec. 8, 1980, on proposals to establish a 1981 crop price support program. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1980, p. 66471.

## **Peanut acreage to remain stable**

The USDA was expected to announce by Dec. 1 that the 1981 national peanut acreage allotment would remain at the minimum 1.61 million acres. The USDA notice about the program said it appeared that, for the 1981 marketing year, supplies would total 1.71 million tons, with a production quota of 1.44 million tons. The required referendum of peanut growers to determine if the peanut support program is to be continued through 1983 was tentatively scheduled for Dec. 8-11, 1980. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct., 7, 1980, p. 66470.

## **Insecticide**

The federal EPA has proposed a tolerance of 1 part per million in sunflower seeds of the insecticide carbaryl (1-naphthyl-N-methylcarbamate). EPA said at that level any increased risk to humans would be negligible. Comments on the proposed rule were to be filed by Nov. 8. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1980, p. 66484.