
From Washington

Soybean oil yield reported down slightly

Oil yield in U.S. soybean crushings from September to December 1980 were 10.9 pounds of oil per bushel, compared to an 11-pound average during the same period the previous year, according to the USDA's *Fats and Oils Outlook & Situation* report published during February. Meal yields were averaging about 47.8 pounds per bushel, the same as the previous year, the report said.

The forecast for disposition of the 1980 U.S. soybean crop indicated about 1,075 million bushels would be crushed (down 4% from 1979-80's 1,123 million bushels), and 800 million bushels exported, down from the previous year's 875 million bushels. Soy meal exports are forecast at 6.7 million metric tons (MT) and soy oil exports at 2.2 million pounds. U.S. soybean, oil and meal exports are forecast to decline in part because of increased competition from Latin American production.

A later USDA report said Brazil's 1981 soybean production is expected to total about 577 million bushels (15.7 million MT), an all-time record. Argentina is expected to produce 154 million bushels (4.2 million MT) and export 80% of that crop.

Sunflower supplies fall by one-fourth

Total U.S. sunflower seed supplies for 1980-81 are forecast at 2.9 million MT, down from 3.6 million MT the previous year. The change reflects reduced acreage and reduced yields during 1980. Sunflower acreage for 1981 is expected to be about the same as 1980, about 683,000 planted acres.

Cottonseed exports expected to double

U.S. cottonseed exports are expected to rise approximately 200,000 MT this year, largely because of a U.S.-Mexican agreement calling for more cottonseed imports by Mexico. The 200,000-ton total would equal the total cottonseed exports for the previous four years. Exports for the 1979-80 crop year were approximately 94,000 MT.

Domestic cottonseed oil supplies again will be about 1.5 billion pounds, with domestic use rising slightly to 675 million pounds and exports falling slightly to 710 million pounds.

Peanut production expected to rise

The small 1980 U.S. peanut crop should be offset by a larger crop in 1981, weather permitting. Acreage has been increased and, despite a drop in official poundage quotas, production should increase. Farmers who didn't reach their poundage quota in 1980 can carry over some of that to 1981.

Per capita domestic usage is estimated at a record 9.3 pounds, slightly above 1978's 9.2 pounds. In 1970, the per capita annual usage was 7.8 pounds.

Flaxseed supplies may preclude exports

The USDA estimates the 15.1 million bushels of flaxseed available in 1980-81 may serve to supply domestic needs with little or no exports. Imports of flaxseed into the U.S. first exceeded exports in the mid-1970s and during the past five years, exports exceeded imports only during 1977. Domestic crush is estimated at 11.7 million bushels.