

---

# From Washington

---

**U.S. soybean crop forecast:  
2.1 billion bushels**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's mid-May forecast for the 1982 soybean crop was 2.1 billion bushels (57.15 million metric tons), up slightly from the 1981 estimated crop of 2.03 billion bushels.

There may be more of a foreign market for U.S. 1982 soybeans also as the Brazilian crop, as of mid-May, was estimated by USDA at 12.8 million metric tons. Some private estimates were as low as 12.5 million metric tons. A year ago, Brazil's crop was estimated at more than 15 million metric tons.

**USDA estimates 1982/83 crush  
at 1.08 billion bushels**

The USDA World Agricultural Outlook Board's mid-May assessment forecasts a 1982/83 U.S. soybean crush of 1.08 billion bushels, up 25 million bushels from the 1981/82 expected crush, but below the 1979/80 record crush of 1.120 billion bushels. Improved domestic economy and reduced competition in foreign markets is expected to lead to more demand for soybean oil, the report said, with stocks at the end of 1982/83 market year forecast at 1,200 billion pounds, compared stocks of more than 1,500 billion pounds for the past two marketing years.

During early spring, U.S. crushers were operating between 60% and 70% of capacity, compared to 80% of capacity the same time the previous year. Increased exports and use of domestic soybeans have led USDA to revise downward its estimates of soybean stocks at the end of the 1981/82 marketing year. Whereas last November some USDA analysts had been saying stocks could be as high as 420 million bushels, the mid-May estimate was for 315 million bushels. At the end of the 1980/81 marketing year, stocks were at 318 million bushels.

**New rules coming on  
protein in school lunches**

Sometime in October the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service hopes to be able to publish final rules revising use of vegetable protein products in the agency's child nutrition programs, as discussed in the national school lunch regulations. The FNS says the new regulations will take into account improving technology, permit more flexibility in protein use and remove requirements that the department analyze specific products and provide lists of acceptable products. For further information: Cynthia Ford (703-756-3556), USDA FNS, Room 609, Park Office Center, Alexandria, VA 22302.

**OSHA reviewing  
cotton dust rules**

The Merritt Company's *Oshanews* reports OSHA has begun an over-all review of its cotton dust standards as they apply in textile and nontextile industries, including cottonseed oil plants. Included in the review will be a definition of "cotton dust" and whether monitors and medical surveillance should be required at levels below the permissible exposure limit.