

World Trade in Soy Beans

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WING to the many new uses that are constantly being found for vegetable oils and the ever-increasing popularity of oil cake and meal as a stock feed, oilseeds are year by year assuming a more important place in world trade. World production for the year 1926 approximated 35,900,000 short tons, of which about one-third was exported from the country where it was grown, either in the form of seed or as oil and oil cake and meal. Cottonseed is by far the most important of all oilseeds, world production in 1926 having been nearly 14,000,000 short tons, or about 40 per cent of the total production of all oilseeds. Other oilseeds in the order of their relative importance are sesame seed, flaxseed, and soy beans (peanuts not being considered, as a comparatively small proportion of them are crushed). Soy beans are of Asiatic origin and have been raised in China for many centuries. That country is still the chief source of supply and they play an important part in China's foreign trade. Manchuria is the great producing area, supplying about 40 per cent of China's total crop.

In Asiatic countries—especially China and Japan — the soy bean is largely used as a human food, being second only to rice in its importance as a food crop. Exports of soy beans and their by-products from China during 1925 were 5,824,296,000 pounds; in 1926, 6,877,302,000 pounds; in 1927, 7,576,493,000 pounds.

Production of Soy Beans in the U. S.

THE soy bean was introduced into the United States as early as 1804 and for several decades was regarded more as a botanical curiosity than as a plant of economic importance. With the introduction from Asiatic countries of new varieties into the United States, the soy bean has assumed great importance and offers far-reaching possibilities to the future agriculture of this country. A short ton of soy beans (33½ bushels) produces about 240 pounds of oil when crushed and 1,620 pounds of cake or meal, the remaining 140 pounds being invisible waste, mostly

moisture thrown off in the process of manufacturing. Soy beans bring the highest price for seed and for food purposes, and least for crushing, so that with the limited supply of home-grown beans available, it is only after other demands are met that mills are able to buy. In spite of this, cotton-oil mills are active in promoting the growth of soy beans, as it gives them an opportunity to use their plants for longer seasons than they can depending entirely on cottonseed, the same machinery being used without additional equipment being required.

Soy beans were first used for the production of oil and meal in the United States in 1910, imported seed being used. American-grown seeds were first used in 1915 by cottonseed-oil mills in North Carolina, according to Dr. W. J. Morse, of the United States Department of Agriculture. The production in this country has increased rapidly in recent years. While no accurate figures are available back of 1924, it is estimated that in 1917 only about 1,000,000 bushels were produced for seed. In 1924 production had increased to 5,190,000 bushels, the succeeding years being as follows: 1925, 5,131,000 bushels; 1926, 6,063,000 bushels; 1927, 7,925,000 bushels; 1928 (estimated), 8,052,000 bushels. (These figures do not include soy beans grown as a forage crop.)

The increase has been the most marked in the State of Illinois, production in that State having increased from 30,000 bushels in 1919 to 1,750,000 bushels in 1926, and 2,650,000 bushels in 1928 (estimated).

Imports of soy-bean oil, soy-bean cake, and soy beans into the United States

Year	[Pounds]		
	Soy-bean oil	Soy-bean cake	Soy beans
1925	19,492,900	27,801,936	3,811,897
1926	30,711,687	42,869,187	3,727,628
1927	14,914,792	53,950,898	4,204,268
1928 ¹	10,862,718	79,155,776	3,415,885

¹ 9 months only.

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