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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Letter No. 2284

Oct. 16, 1986

WORLD WHEAT  
PRODUCTION -  
1986/87

The world wheat production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 506 million 900 thousand tons. This is up 1 million 300 thousand tons or less than 1 pct. from last month and up less than 1 pct. from the 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 56½ million tons, down 14 pct. from last year's crop, due to lower area and yield. USSR production of wheat is estimated at 77 million tons, down 7 pct. from last year. China's wheat production is estimated at a record 88 million tons, up 3 pct. from last year's crop. European Community's production is estimated at 70 million 700 thousand tons, down 2 pct. from last year.

WORLD COARSE  
GRAINS PROD. -  
1986/87

The world coarse grains production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 820 million 500 thousand tons, down 3 pct. from the record 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 250 million 400 thousand tons, down 9 pct. from last year. China's production is estimated at 89 million 600 thousand tons, up 9 pct. from last year. Corn output is estimated at 71 million tons. E. Europe's corn production is estimated at 71 million tons, up 2 pct. from last year. USSR's corn production is estimated at 90 million tons, down 4 pct. from last year.

USSR IMPORT  
ESTIMATE  
FOR 1986/87

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects USSR grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year have been reduced by 4 million tons to 32 million. At this level, imports would still be up marginally from a year ago, but far short of the record 1984/85 imports of 55 million 500 thousand tons. Wheat imports, currently projected at 16 million tons, are down 3 million from a month ago but little different from the 1985/86 estimate and well below the levels of other recent years. Coarse grain imports, now estimated at 15 million tons, are down a million from the month earlier estimate but still above the 1985/86 level.

WORLD  
OILSEEDS  
PRODUCTION:  
1986/87

The world soybean production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 197 million 200 thousand tons, up 1 pct. from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 60 million 600 thousand tons, down 7 pct. from last year. U.S. soybean production is estimated at 54 million 200 thousand tons, down 5 pct. from last year.

LAGGING USSR  
GRAIN BUYING

The grain buying activity of the USSR continues to run well behind levels of recent years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of early October, buying commitments from all origins were estimated in the area of 7 million tons. A year ago at this time the USSR had purchased around 12 million tons and by early Oct. 1984 purchases for the 1984/85 marketing year were approaching 30 million tons. Soviet coarse grain imports are expected to continue large in 1986/87 as world coarse grain prices stay depressed. So far, Soviet wheat buyers have covered about a fourth of this year's projected wheat imports.

U.S. CROP  
PRODUCTION -  
OCT. 10

The corn for grain production in the U.S. is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 8 billion 220 million bushels, down 7 pct. from last year's record crop, according to the October forecast. Soybean production is forecast at 1 billion 990 million bushels, 5 pct. below last year. All cotton production is forecast at 10 million bales, 26 pct. below the 1985 crop. All tobacco production is forecast at 1 billion 220 million pounds, 20 pct. below last year and the smallest crop since 1936. (For state statistical info, call 202-447-2127.)

DAIRY  
TERMINATION

An estimated 13,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Sept. 27, as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Sept. 27 is an estimated 789,700 head.

COTTON: WORLD  
CONSUMPTION &  
PRODUCTION

The 1986/87 world cotton consumption forecast rose slightly to 77 million bales, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The world production for 1986/87 is estimated at 73 million 500 thousand bales, 7 pct. below 1985/86. U.S. exports increased sharply in Aug. as provisions of new farm legislation enabled U.S. cotton to once again become price competitive. Aug. exports totaled 286,000 bales, 38 pct. above Aug. 1985.

MOTOR CARRIER  
BANKRUPTCIES

Most agricultural commodities are transported to market by motor carriers, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The study reveals a dramatic increase in 1985 motor carrier insurance costs with many carriers reporting increases of 400 to 500 pct. in liability insurance renewals. Adding poor earnings and declining profits to the insurance costs, have caused many bankruptcies. (Copies of the study, "Preliminary Findings of the 1985 Motor Carrier Insurance Crisis", are available from the Office of Transportation, USDA, Room 1405 Auditor's Bldg., Wash., D.C. 20250. Tel: 202/447-8891.)

ASSISTANCE  
FOR RED MEAT

On Oct. 9, Acting Under Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Goldberg announced plans for a \$7-million program to expand exports of U.S.-produced red meat to Japan and Hong Kong. The U.S. produces 19 pct. of the world's beef, pork and lamb, but accounts for less than 3 pct. of total world meat exports.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

CURRENT CROP PRODUCTION REPORT...USDA economist Larry Van Meir offers the latest supply and demand situation for crops in the U.S. and talks about factors contributing to the current estimates. Vic Powell interviews. (296)

UNLEADED GAS AND FARM EQUIPMENT...Gerald Grinnell with USDA's Office of Energy talks about the proposed ban of leaded gasoline by the Environmental Protection Agency, and how this ban could affect the agricultural industry. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (297)

CURRENT VEGETABLE OUTLOOK...USDA economist Shannon Hamm takes a look at the current vegetable situation, including harvesting conditions as well as production and stocks, and factors contributing to that outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (298)

BEAN CONSUMPTION IN U.S....USDA economist Neil Conklin takes a look at the decline of bean consumption in the U.S. and how that decline is affecting U.S. producers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (299)

SOW SOUNDS AND PIG PERFORMANCE...Scientists with the University of Illinois are studying how pig performance can be improved with the use of recorded sow sounds. Gary Beaumont interviews. (300)

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1533...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The cost of irrigation is driving some farmers back to dryland farming; but can those farmers succeed? Brenda Curtis finds out from an expert.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1522...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Generic certificates--a new currency; Dryland farming and new techniques; New market for U.S. wine producers.

CONSUMER TIME #1015...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) A warmer world?; Making Bonsai plants look old; Urban renewal, Argentine style; How much noise is too much?; The independent elderly.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Oct. 23, Poultry production; Fri, Oct. 24, Cattle on feed; World food needs; Tues, Oct. 28, Oil crop situation, Weather and crop report; Wed, Oct. 29, Fruit situation; Thurs, Oct. 30, Grain stocks; Fri, Oct. 31, Ag. prices. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

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OFF MIKE

It's hard to realize, but by the time you read this the NAFB Convention will be only about three weeks away. From the looks of the preliminary program, president-elect Evan Slack (Evan Slack Network, Denver, Colo.) has put together a goodie. We'll be there. Hope you will be, too ... Ed Slusarczyk (Ag Radio Network, Utica, NY) received the Eastern Milk Producers Cooperatives' annual Agricultural Press Award. Our congratulations! ... Interesting idea. The Indiana Agri-Business Network (Gary Truitt/Holly Dowling) has a special phone number for anyone who wants to call up and listen to the network's 9-1/2 minute show at 12:05 Eastern Time. As the notice in the network's latest newsletter points out, it's a "live" show, not a taped one ... Our Brenda Curtis-Heiken has been away this week serving as guest lecturer at a university over in West Virginia. And our Don Elder is honeymooning somewhere up north...way up north. Those who attended his wedding in Alexandria, Virginia, were escorted by bagpipers to Robert E. Lee's boyhood home where the reception was held and were greeted at the door by a town crier dressed in early American costume and equipped with loud hand bell and lusty voice. Festive, to say the least ... It rained here Monday. Driving to work on wet roads is always an experience around here. So, after a two-hour commute (normally about an hour), I concur wholeheartedly with Johnny Martin (Ohio Farm Bureau, Columbus) who said, "If all the cars in the U.S. were lined up bumper to bumper, some fool would pull out and try to pass."



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Farm Broadcasters Letter  
Radio and Television, Rm. 410-A  
Office of Information, OGRA  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
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