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Oil Crops Outlook

Mark Ash and Erik Dohlman

Lean Carryover To Advance a Brisk Use of a Bigger 2004 U.S. Soybean Crop

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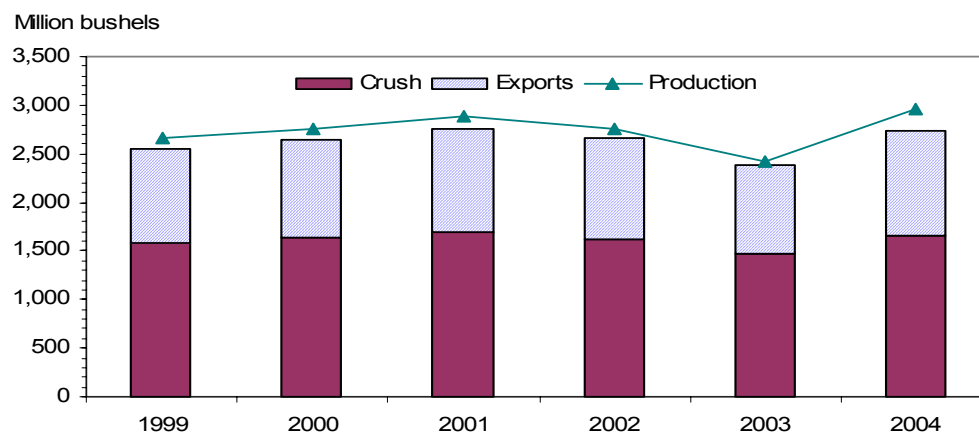
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World Agricultural
Outlook Board.

When finished sowing, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expects that U.S. producers will have expanded the 2004 acreage planted to soybeans to 75.4 million acres. A trend yield of 40.0 bushels per acre and a 74.1-million-acre harvested area estimate combine for a 2004 soybean production projection of 2,965 million bushels. Domestic soybean crushing next season may rise to 1,665 million bushels, or 13 percent higher than the current year. Similarly, U.S. soybean exports for 2004/05 could surge 20 percent from this season to a record 1,080 million bushels. The season average farm price is expected at \$5.85-\$6.85 per bushel compared with \$7.65 in 2003/04.

USDA lowered the estimate of Brazil's 2003/04 soybean production this month from 56.0 million to 53.5 million metric tons and is now only modestly above the 2002/03 crop at 52.5 million. The forecast of 2003/04 Argentine soybean production was lowered from 35.0 million to 34.0 million tons. The 2003/04 global soybean carryout was cut an additional 2.7 million tons this month to 31.7 million, compared with a record-high 39.8 million tons in 2002/03.

Figure 1

Larger U.S. soybean crop to revitalize 2004/05 domestic, export demand



Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.

Recovery of U.S. Soybean Supply and Demand Anticipated in 2004/05

Farmers throughout most of the Midwest and South have taken advantage of a warm and dry April to engage in a rapid planting pace for spring-sown grains and oilseeds. As of May 9, 84 percent of the intended corn acres and 35 percent of soybeans had been planted. For comparison, the 5-year averages for the same date are 63 percent for corn and 21 percent for soybeans. Substantive rains that fell in the past week will briefly slow planters. There is still ample time left to plant either corn or soybeans, and the moisture would now be welcome. For months, new crop futures have shown favorably competitive price ratios between soybeans and other crops. When finished sowing, USDA expects that U.S. producers will have expanded the 2004 acreage planted to soybeans to 75.4 million acres. Using a normal harvested-to-planted ratio, the harvested acreage is expected to be 74.1 million acres.

Over the last few years, the U.S. average soybean yield has shown relatively little upward growth. Drought, soybean aphids, and a shift of acres between higher-yielding and lower-yielding regions have all contributed to a period of static productivity. A westward shift of soybeans will continue this year, with North Dakota alone accounting for more than a quarter of the additional acreage. A probable expansion of soybean acreage by 560,000 acres in the lower-yielding Delta region may also limit the national yield potential. However, provided that weather conditions for the main Midwestern region return to a less abnormal pattern, a long-term regional trend indicates that the national average soybean yield could reach 40 bushels per acre. The yield and harvested area estimates combine for a 2004 soybean production projection of 2,965 million bushels. If realized, that would represent a record-large U.S. crop and exceed the drought-reduced 2003 harvest by 23 percent.

The outlook for domestic soybean crushing in 2004/05 looks much brighter provided that a restoration of supply can be achieved. USDA projects that soybean crushing next season will rise to 1,665 million bushels, or 13 percent higher than the current year. That potential rally is based on likely

gains in domestic and export demand for both soybean meal and soybean oil.

Similarly, U.S. soybean exports for 2004/05 could surge 20 percent from this season to a record 1,080 million bushels. The U.S. market share of world soybean exports should benefit next fall from an improved domestic harvest and comparatively tight foreign stock carryover. An increase in U.S. soybean output of the expected amount could account for about 35 percent of the growth in world oilseed production, which is projected up 13 percent to 378 million metric tons. Global oilseed supplies are anticipated to increase just 9 percent, however, because of a smaller stock carryover from the current marketing year. The U.S. soybean export forecast is tempered by assumptions about the recovery of foreign oilseed production and the meaning for foreign consumption and trade. Specifically, foreign oilseed output (which increased a modest 6 percent in 2003/04) is expected to expand by 11 percent in 2004/05 to 288 million tons.

The scarcity of domestic soybean stocks should ease by next fall, even with a robust demand outlook. Season-ending stocks are forecast rising to 190 million bushels from a very lean 115 million expected at the end of August this year. There should not be quite so close a balance between supply and demand in 2004/05, which should signal a moderation of prices. The season average farm price is expected at \$5.85-\$6.85 per bushel compared with \$7.65 in 2003/04.

Stronger 2004/05 Soybean Meal and Oil Demand Linked to Expected Renewed Supply

Better supplies would permit both domestic and export demand of soybean meal and soybean oil to rebound next season. Domestic users of soybean meal are likely to increase its offtake by 8 percent to 33.8 million tons. The expected improvement in soybean meal consumption is not based so much on an increase in livestock production as a greater inclusion again in feed rations. That substitution will benefit from a 2004/05 average soybean meal price that is seen dropping to \$195-\$225 per ton from \$275 this season. Lower prices should make U.S. exporters more competitive again in foreign markets. High costs this year are leading to the poorest outlook for

U.S. soybean meal exports in three decades (4.25 million tons), but they could bounce back in 2004/05 to around 5.9 million tons.

The potential for re-supplying the soybean oil market will greatly depend on the strength of the soybean meal demand, which most determines the value for producing these joint products. A need to rebuild low domestic stocks of soybean oil will be the first priority, which could limit the capability to expand exports somewhat. Domestic disappearance of soybean oil is forecast up 6 percent to 17,400 million pounds. However, a forecast easing of soybean oil prices to 25-29 cents per pound (compared with the expected 2003/04 average of 32 cents) should aid a modest recovery in foreign trade from 850 million to 1,200 million pounds. It also may not be possible to do more than a modest easing of the tight carryout stocks of soybean oil, from 1,021 million pounds at the end of 2003/04 to 1,256 million next year.

2003/04 Domestic Supplies of Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil Begin Declining

Although Gulf export soybean prices are currently near an all-time high, they now exceed domestic processor prices by no more than 20 cents per bushel, compared with 35-40 cents last fall and winter. A reason is that only a handful of countries (almost exclusively Mexico and Japan) are still importing soybeans from the United States. As of May 6, the *U.S. Export Sales* report indicated U.S. soybean export shipments totaled 830 million bushels with just 52 million of outstanding sales. However, April soybean exports were just 26 million bushels, which is the smallest volume shipped during April since 1968. With 16 weeks remaining in the crop year, at the present rate of 3-5 million bushels a week, soybean exports appear to be tracking the 2003/04 forecast of 900 million bushels.

The predominant users of the small remaining U.S. soybean stocks now are domestic processors. Tighter supply availability trimmed the domestic soybean crush to 129.5 million bushels in March, putting the September 2003-March 2004 domestic soybean crush down 10 million bushels from the 2002/03 pace. But, the relatively late start for supply rationing will compel even sharper reductions from April through August. The cost of soybeans to processors may spike up well over \$10 per bushel this summer as many farmers have little crop left to market. Some

new crop output may become available before September, but an adequate quantity cannot be assured right now. At the same time, the upward climb of soybean meal and soybean oil prices encountered some resistance in April due to a bright outlook for planting the new 2004 crop. The likely arrival of protein and vegetable oil imports later this summer may also be helping to keep a lid on soybean product prices. Domestic crushing for 2003/04 is expected to total 1,475 million bushels, unchanged from last month's forecast but implying a 130-million-bushel loss against last year's pace during April-August.

When it occurs, the plunge in soybean processing will rapidly deplete supplies in both the markets for soybean meal and soybean oil. U.S. exports of both commodities this year have already been considerably lower than last year. This trade will be further chilled this summer as output from the new South American crop becomes available to foreign buyers. High prices of soybean meal and oil will encourage imports of both, as well as other protein and oil substitutes that will help stretch domestic supplies. For instance, U.S. canola meal imports for October 2003-March 2004 were 830,000 short tons, a record pace that is nearly double the previous year's rate.

Despite these changes, the worsening situation for domestic crushing should also increasingly pinch domestic disappearance. A drawing down of the visible stocks of soybean oil has started because of a slowing of soybean oil output in March and a negligible decline (halfway through the marketing year) for domestic disappearance. At the end of March, soybean oil stocks were 1,857 million pounds versus 1,988 million the previous month and 2,245 million in March 2003. However, it is unknown how much of the soybean oil that has disappeared so far has actually been consumed and how much is being stored by end users for consumption later in the year. It is the potential draining of these lower-cost "invisible stocks" that could contribute to a reduction of soybean oil domestic disappearance from 17,091 million pounds in 2002/03 to the forecast 16,350 million in 2003/04.

Soybean meal cannot be stored for quite as long as soybean oil, but feed formulators and feedlots may be similarly accumulating more inventories that they could deplete to a bare minimum by next September. It is unknown how many weeks of their normal soybean meal consumption they maintain in inventory

but 2 weeks' worth of use on a national basis could total more than 1 million tons. For the first half of 2003/04, soybean meal disappearance is 3 percent higher than the previous year. Though, if users eventually reduce part of their usual carryover by consuming it and do not replace the stocks, that could show in the statistics toward the end of the marketing

year as lower disappearance. Normal development of the 2004 soybean crop would help users make an easier decision about how much they can safely draw down such meal inventories. The forecast of domestic disappearance of soybean meal was unchanged this month at 31.3 million short tons, which would be 3 percent less than in 2002/03.

South American Harvest Losses Are Seen Reducing Global Soybean Stocks

The soybean harvest in Brazil is almost complete. Brazilian producers had high hopes to profit from favorable price circumstances after the disappointing 2003 U.S. crop. Yet, despite a 16-percent increase in soybean area, information from Brazil indicates that growing conditions were also quite poor throughout the southern part of the country. The national average yield is estimated down 12 percent from last year's record high. USDA lowered the estimate of Brazil's 2003/04 soybean production this month from 56.0 million to 53.5 million metric tons and now only modestly above the 2002/03 crop at 52.5 million.

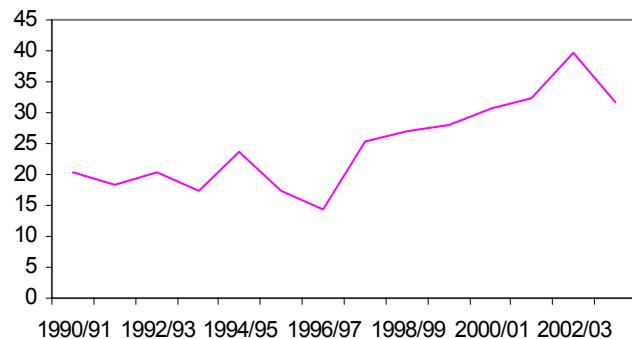
This month's 2.5-million-ton reduction in the Brazil soybean production estimate is partly offset by an upward revision in the beginning stocks estimate by 0.55 million tons. This led to a reduction of the 2003/04 forecasts for exports from 23.5 million to 23.0 million tons and the crush from 31.5 million to 31.25 million tons. Even after the expected cuts in demand, Brazil's carryover stocks in September are expected to fall an additional 1.2 million tons to 12.0 million.

In Argentina, few parts of the country have been untouched by a difficult season for growing soybeans. Drought affected much of Argentina prior to planting last November but improved enough in December to justify sowing (although later than usual). Subsequently, the crop deteriorated with spotty rains throughout most of the major soybean producing region. Between January and March, moisture conditions moderately improved in the western regions (particularly Cordoba) although continued to worsen in the eastern provinces. As in Brazil, the Argentine soybean yield estimate will fall sharply (by 14 percent) from a historic high last year. The USDA

Figure 2

Global soybean stocks decline this year

Million metric tons



Source: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

forecast of 2003/04 Argentine soybean production was lowered from 35.0 million to 34.0 million tons. A broad band of wet weather finally arrived in April, but by then it was mostly too late to help the nearly mature soybean crop and is only delaying the harvest progress. By the first week of May, more than 60 percent of the Argentine soybean crop had been harvested, lagging the 75-percent harvested by the same time last year.

A smaller crop estimate lowered the forecast of 2003/04 Argentine soybean exports this month by 650,000 tons to 9.6 million. The prospective soybean crush was also cut by 350,000 tons to 24.9 million. As world soybean exports are scaled back, soybean use and imports were trimmed slightly this month for China, Japan, and Taiwan. The crop reductions for Brazil and Argentina will further shrink world soybean stocks in addition to a decline previously attributed to the United States. The 2003/04 global soybean carryout was cut an additional 2.7 million tons this month to 31.7 million, compared with a record-high 39.8 million tons in 2002/03.

Contacts and Links

Contact Information

Mark Ash (soybeans, minor oilseeds)
Erik Dohlman (peanuts)

(202) 694-5289
(202) 694-5308

mash@ers.usda.gov
edohlman@ers.usda.gov

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Data

Monthly tables from *Oil Crops Outlook* are available in Excel (.xls) spreadsheets at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/soybeansoilcrops/Data/data.htm>. These tables contain the latest data on the production, use, imports, exports, prices, and textile trade of cotton and other fibers.

Reports from the Economic Research Service

Economic and Policy Implications of Wind-Borne Entry of Asian Soybean Rust into the United States examines how the economic impacts of soybean rust establishment will depend on the timing, location, spread, and severity of rust infestation and on how soybean and other crop producers, livestock producers, and consumers of agricultural commodities respond to this new pathogen. This report is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/OCS/APR04/OCS04D02/>

How Does Structural Change in the Global Soybean Market Affect the U.S. Price? estimates that a 1-percent increase in South American soybean production decreases U.S. soybean prices by about one-quarter percent. This report is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/OCS/APR04/OCS04D01/>

Related Websites

WASDE, <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/wasde/latest.pdf>

Oilseed Circular, http://www.fas.usda.gov/oilseeds_arc.html

Soybean and Oil Crops Briefing Room, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/soybeansoilcrops/>

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Table 1--Soybeans: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Sept. 1	Area		Yield	Supply				Disappearance				Ending stocks
	Planted	Harvested		Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Crush	Exports	Seed, feed, residual	Total	
	Million acres		Bu/acre				Million bushels					
2002/03 ¹	73.9	72.4	38.0	208	2,756	5	2,969	1,615	1,045	130	2,791	178
2003/04 ²	73.4	72.3	33.4	178	2,418	8	2,604	1,475	900	114	2,489	115
2004/05 ²	75.4	74.1	40.0	115	2,965	5	3,085	1,665	1,080	150	2,895	190
2002/03												
September						0.1		122.3	30.9			
October						0.8		149.5	136.7			
November						0.5		145.7	152.8			
Sep-Nov				208.1	2,756.1	1.4	2,965.6	417.5	320.4	112.3	850.3	2,115.4
December						0.3		150.2	114.7			
January						0.3		142.7	157.0			
February						0.5		129.2	154.0			
Dec-Feb				2,115.4	---	1.1	2,116.5	422.0	425.7	66.7	914.4	1,202.0
March						0.3		142.7	91.5			
April						0.4		127.0	66.4			
May						0.5		130.5	38.6			
Mar-May				1,202.0	---	1.2	1,203.3	400.2	196.4	4.3	600.9	602.4
June						0.5		121.2	30.8			
July						0.3		129.3	39.0			
August						0.1		125.1	32.7			
Jun-Aug				602.4	---	0.9	603.3	375.6	102.5	(53.1)	424.9	178.3
Total						4.7	2,968.9	1,615.3	1,045.0	183.3	2,365.6	
2003/04												
September						0.2		127.6	36.6			
October						1.0		146.2	166.8			
November						1.0		145.6	186.8			
Sep-Nov				178.3	2,417.6	2.2	2,598.1	419.4	390.1	99.9	909.5	1,688.7
December						0.8		145.8	147.0			
January						0.4		146.0	113.2			
February						0.2		131.4	85.8			
Dec-Feb				1,688.7	---	1.4	1,690.0	423.2	346.0	15.4	784.5	905.5
March						0.3		129.5	76.8			
Total to date						4.0	2,599.9	972.1	813.0			

¹ Estimated. ² Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Last update: 5/18/2004

Table 2--Soybean meal: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year begin. Oct. 1	Supply				Disappearance			Ending stocks
	Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Domestic	Exports	Total	
	1,000 short tons							
2002/03 ¹	240	38,213	166	38,619	32,386	6,013	38,399	220
2003/04 ²	220	35,030	475	35,725	31,300	4,250	35,550	175
2004/05 ²	175	39,610	165	39,950	33,800	5,900	39,700	250
2002/03								
October	240.0	3,499.3	41.5	3,780.8	3,150.4	345.3	3,495.6	285.2
November	285.2	3,424.7	7.5	3,717.4	2,747.4	598.3	3,345.6	371.7
December	371.7	3,526.8	8.7	3,907.2	2,897.2	673.0	3,570.2	337.0
January	337.0	3,358.4	11.7	3,707.2	2,545.2	862.9	3,408.0	299.1
February	299.1	3,048.4	12.7	3,360.3	2,552.9	547.8	3,100.7	259.5
March	259.5	3,360.1	8.5	3,628.0	2,661.5	630.9	3,292.4	335.7
April	335.7	2,994.7	6.2	3,336.6	2,630.1	443.0	3,073.1	263.5
May	263.5	3,072.4	5.0	3,340.9	2,647.8	381.3	3,029.1	311.8
June	311.8	2,873.4	4.4	3,189.6	2,519.4	398.6	2,918.0	271.6
July	271.6	3,064.4	5.5	3,341.4	2,743.3	369.8	3,113.1	228.4
August	228.4	2,966.6	46.4	3,241.4	2,590.6	383.8	2,974.5	266.9
September	266.9	3,023.5	8.1	3,298.6	2,700.6	378.0	3,078.6	219.9
Total		38,212.9	166.1	38,619.0	32,386.3	6,012.7	38,399.0	
2003/04								
October	219.9	3,462.1	6.7	3,688.8	2,947.9	423.0	3,370.9	317.8
November	317.8	3,465.9	6.2	3,789.9	2,664.6	692.9	3,357.6	432.4
December	432.4	3,483.7	5.1	3,921.2	3,213.0	427.5	3,640.5	280.7
January	280.7	3,479.3	6.0	3,765.9	2,910.4	526.6	3,437.0	328.9
February	328.9	3,144.9	5.4	3,479.2	2,633.7	429.7	3,063.4	415.8
March	415.8	3,086.4	7.5	3,509.7	2,688.1	445.9	3,134.1	375.6
Total to date		20,122.3	36.9	20,379.1	17,057.8	2,945.7	20,003.5	

¹ Estimated. ² Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Last update: 5/18/2004

Table 3--Soybean oil: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year begin. Oct. 1	Supply				Disappearance			Ending stocks
	Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Domestic	Exports	Total	
Million pounds								
2002/03 ¹	2,359	18,438	46	20,843	17,091	2,261	19,352	1,491
2003/04 ²	1,491	16,495	235	18,221	16,350	850	17,200	1,021
2004/05 ²	1,021	18,730	105	19,856	17,400	1,200	18,600	1,256
2002/03								
October	2,358.6	1,692.6	2.8	4,054.0	1,660.3	113.6	1,773.9	2,280.1
November	2,280.1	1,631.5	3.6	3,915.1	1,394.1	194.9	1,589.0	2,326.1
December	2,326.1	1,696.0	3.9	4,026.0	1,417.8	210.2	1,628.0	2,398.0
January	2,398.0	1,612.8	3.7	4,014.5	1,323.7	295.1	1,618.8	2,395.7
February	2,395.7	1,473.6	3.2	3,872.6	1,300.9	299.8	1,600.7	2,271.9
March	2,271.9	1,633.3	3.4	3,908.6	1,387.3	276.8	1,664.1	2,244.6
April	2,244.6	1,447.5	4.8	3,696.8	1,349.9	226.8	1,576.7	2,120.2
May	2,120.2	1,491.7	4.9	3,616.8	1,453.1	109.8	1,562.9	2,053.9
June	2,053.9	1,391.0	5.0	3,449.9	1,424.6	96.7	1,521.4	1,928.5
July	1,928.5	1,482.4	3.9	3,414.7	1,386.0	234.5	1,620.5	1,794.2
August	1,794.2	1,440.4	3.4	3,238.0	1,486.8	96.8	1,583.6	1,654.4
September	1,654.4	1,445.2	3.6	3,103.1	1,506.6	105.9	1,612.5	1,490.6
Total		18,438.1	46.0	20,842.7	17,091.2	2,260.9	19,352.1	
2003/04								
October	1,490.6	1,630.8	3.3	3,124.7	1,560.3	152.5	1,712.9	1,411.8
November	1,411.8	1,610.6	2.7	3,025.2	1,383.5	111.2	1,494.8	1,530.4
December	1,530.4	1,604.6	3.2	3,138.2	1,422.9	135.3	1,558.3	1,579.9
January	1,579.9	1,618.9	3.1	3,202.0	1,185.3	71.1	1,256.4	1,945.6
February	1,945.6	1,462.4	2.7	3,410.6	1,359.7	62.9	1,422.6	1,988.0
March	1,988.0	1,459.3	3.4	3,450.6	1,520.6	73.2	1,593.8	1,856.8
Total to date		9,386.5	18.5	10,895.5	8,432.4	606.3	9,038.8	

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Last update: 5/18/2004

Table 4--Cottonseed: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Aug. 1	Supply				Disappearance				Ending stocks	
	Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Crush	Exports	Other	Total		
1,000 short tons										
2002/03 ¹	400	6,184	104	6,688	2,495	371	3,475	6,341	347	
2003/04 ²	347	6,694	200	7,241	2,600	295	4,011	6,906	335	
2004/05 ²	335	6,694	200	7,229	2,600	295	3,998	6,893	336	

¹ Estimated. ² Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Table 5--Cottonseed meal: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Oct. 1	Supply				Disappearance			Ending stocks
	Beginning stocks	Imports	Production	Total	Domestic	Exports	Total	
1,000 short tons								
2002/03 ¹	62	0	1,114	1,176	1,092	51	1,143	33
2003/04 ²	33	0	1,140	1,174	1,082	57	1,139	35
2004/05 ²	35	0	1,240	1,275	1,163	77	1,240	35

¹ Estimated. ² Forecast.

Source: Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Table 6--Cottonseed oil: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Oct. 1	Supply				Disappearance			Ending stocks
	Beginning stocks	Imports	Production	Total	Domestic	Exports	Total	
Million pounds								
2002/03 ¹	40	21	725	786	639	111	750	36
2003/04 ²	36	20	805	861	706	110	816	45
2004/05 ²	45	0	865	910	736	110	846	64

¹ Estimated. ² Forecast.

Source: Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Table 7--Peanuts: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Aug. 1	Supply				Disappearance				Ending stocks	
	Beginning stocks	Imports	Production	Total	Domestic food	Crush	Seed & residual	Exports		Total
Million pounds										
2002/03 ¹	1,476	75	3,320	4,872	2,228	857	422	490	3,997	875
2003/04 ²	875	65	4,144	5,085	2,412	714	504	490	4,120	965
2004/05 ²	965	65	3,815	4,846	2,463	637	361	475	3,936	910

¹ Estimated. ² Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Last update: 5/18/2004

Table 8--Oilseeds prices received by U.S. farmers

Marketing					
year	Soybeans	Cottonseed	Sunflower	Peanuts	Flaxseed
	\$/bu	\$/ton	\$/cwt	Cents/lb	\$/bu
1995/96	6.72	106.00	11.50	29.30	5.19
1996/97	7.35	126.00	11.70	28.10	6.37
1997/98	6.47	121.00	11.60	28.30	5.81
1998/99	4.93	129.00	10.60	28.40	5.05
1999/00	4.63	89.00	7.53	25.40	3.79
2000/01	4.54	105.00	6.89	27.40	3.30
2001/02	4.38	90.50	9.62	23.40	4.29
2002/03	5.53	101.00	12.10	18.20	5.77
2003/04 ¹	7.65	111.00	12.15	19.25	5.80
2002/03					
September	5.39	95.00	13.10	17.90	5.57
October	5.20	100.00	12.00	17.90	5.77
November	5.46	100.00	12.00	18.00	6.04
December	5.46	101.00	12.30	17.50	5.92
January	5.51	105.00	12.10	19.10	5.71
February	5.55	110.00	12.50	19.60	6.25
March	5.59	NA	12.50	22.60	6.47
April	5.82	NA	12.30	18.40	6.57
May	6.07	NA	12.20	19.60	6.05
June	6.09	NA	12.00	17.70	6.02
July	5.82	NA	11.60	NA	6.38
August	5.68	NA	10.90	NA	5.30
2003/04					
September	6.06	100.00	10.40	18.30	5.43
October	6.61	104.00	11.40	18.50	5.77
November	7.05	121.00	11.60	18.40	6.06
December	7.17	127.00	11.60	19.60	6.22
January	7.34	127.00	12.10	20.70	6.09
February	8.28	140.00	12.80	18.80	6.40
March	9.27	NA	13.60	18.50	6.52
April ¹	9.54	NA	13.30	17.60	7.00

¹ Preliminary. NA = Not available.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Last update: 5/14/2004

Table 9--U.S. vegetable oil and fats prices

Marketing year	Soybean oil ²	Cottonseed oil ³	Sunflower oil ⁴	Peanut oil ⁵	Corn oil ⁶	Lard ⁶	Edible tallow ⁶
Cents/lb							
1995/96	24.70	26.53	25.40	40.30	25.24	21.70	21.56
1996/97	22.50	25.58	22.64	43.70	24.05	23.02	23.01
1997/98	25.80	28.85	27.00	49.00	28.94	19.46	20.69
1998/99	19.90	27.32	20.10	39.74	25.30	14.66	15.14
1999/00	15.60	21.52	16.68	35.39	17.81	13.64	13.21
2000/01	14.15	15.98	15.89	34.81	13.54	14.61	13.43
2001/02	16.46	17.98	23.25	32.52	19.14	13.55	13.87
2002/03	22.04	37.75	33.11	46.70	28.17	18.13	17.80
2003/04 ¹	32.00	34.50	34.00	63.00	30.00	26.50	25.50
2002/03							
October	20.75	26.84	29.82	NA	22.45	14.39	14.73
November	23.00	36.90	33.90	42.00	26.90	16.28	17.02
December	22.60	46.89	33.60	43.67	28.25	18.42	19.25
January	21.50	49.82	32.52	45.75	29.30	18.61	19.22
February	21.20	49.90	32.60	46.00	28.90	17.11	17.38
March	21.56	47.52	33.10	47.00	27.20	16.85	17.45
April	22.40	44.57	33.70	50.25	27.55	16.72	17.48
May	23.17	42.33	34.37	52.75	29.10	17.29	17.41
June	22.90	28.69	33.64	56.60	30.15	18.90	18.58
July	21.80	24.38	33.50	58.25	29.90	18.93	17.48
August	20.40	25.51	32.65	60.00	30.68	20.08	17.57
September	23.20	29.64	33.92	60.67	27.71	23.98	20.05
2003/04							
October	27.40	32.93	32.73	61.60	26.99	27.50	24.22
November	27.76	32.24	31.60	63.25	27.56	26.40	27.76
December	29.54	33.26	32.00	64.50	28.73	25.18	29.50
January	30.34	32.76	32.56	65.00	29.26	26.50	26.81
February	33.05	34.21	33.97	61.67	30.16	25.83	20.27
March	34.66	34.91	34.91	60.00	30.56	23.77	20.58
April ¹	34.19	34.47	34.77	60.00	30.36	22.58	22.58

¹ Preliminary. ² Decatur. ³ PBSY Greenwood, MS. ⁴ Minneapolis.

⁵ Southeast mills. ⁶ Chicago. NA = Not available

Source: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

Last update: 5/18/2004

Table 10--U.S. oilseed meal prices

Marketing year	Soybean meal ²	Cottonseed meal ³	Sunflower meal ⁴	Peanut meal ⁵	Canola meal ⁶	Linseed meal ⁴
\$/Short ton						
1995/96	235.90	190.74	123.75	202.70	177.22	159.00
1996/97	262.00	192.00	110.60	232.00	192.02	158.75
1997/98	185.30	144.00	84.20	209.60	131.15	117.54
1998/99	138.50	109.55	64.20	104.94	112.28	84.49
1999/00	167.62	127.43	75.00	108.15	117.07	103.42
2000/01	173.62	142.93	90.50	121.60	139.20	121.92
2001/02	167.72	136.16	87.27	113.69	143.33	121.29
2002/03	181.58	146.12	105.00	125.00	144.06	122.91
2003/04 ¹	275.00	205.00	135.00	190.00	215.00	160.00
2002/03						
October	168.20	150.10	NA	NA	131.50	114.00
November	163.20	150.00	95.00	130.00	134.70	113.10
December	163.60	156.40	95.00	122.50	142.17	112.50
January	167.40	157.38	85.00	118.50	154.10	118.40
February	176.80	143.60	NA	114.25	155.80	120.10
March	175.40	142.40	NA	124.00	147.55	133.00
April	182.10	142.40	NA	125.00	145.60	126.70
May	195.40	131.75	NA	135.00	148.50	125.00
June	191.90	131.50	NA	135.00	146.95	127.25
July	187.30	143.00	NA	135.75	137.10	129.10
August	189.70	151.70	NA	130.00	135.50	130.60
September	217.95	153.20	NA	130.00	149.20	125.20
2003/04						
October	225.20	163.50	103.50	147.10	169.65	139.90
November	242.00	182.50	117.88	161.00	187.19	178.75
December	231.54	185.00	112.10	163.25	181.35	162.25
January	252.15	188.00	116.00	163.35	201.07	166.25
February	257.39	193.00	115.50	168.75	205.50	174.37
March	301.14	205.10	125.40	200.40	228.65	193.60
April ¹	311.83	219.67	130.75	226.00	214.40	197.75

¹ Preliminary. ² Hi-pro Decatur. ³ 41% Memphis. ⁴ Minneapolis.

⁵ 50% Southeast mills. ⁶ 36% Pacific Northwest. NA = Not available.

Source: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

Last update: 5/18/2004