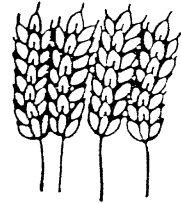


AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY & DEMAND ESTIMATES

Outlook '74



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Farmers' planting intentions for 1974 show that wheat plantings this spring may rise to over 19 million acres from 15.7 million a year ago. Also, corn plantings may increase a tenth to 78.8 million acres. And cotton acreage may jump 17 percent to 14.5 million. However, soybean acreage may drop 3 percent, failing to increase for the first time since 1958. And rice seedings are indicated to decline 2 percent. These intentions are the first official but still tentative indications of farmers' 1974 plans. Another planting intentions survey will be made as of March 1.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following crop production estimates are based on the planting intentions and assume trend yields and adequate supplies of fuel, fertilizer, and other inputs. Total wheat output (including an earlier forecast of winter wheat production) could reach a new high of 2,060 million bushels. Rice production, reflecting the possibilities of higher yields, could also rise somewhat. The corn crop could jump about 18 percent to 6.7 billion bushels, and the total feed grain crop including corn could amount to 235 million tons, up 30 million from 1973. The soybean harvest is projected at 1,550 million bushels, nearly up to the 1973 volume. Cotton production will probably rise sharply.

**HUGE WHEAT CROP COMING;
STOCKS THIS SUMMER MAY DIP
BELOW 200 MILLION BUSHELS**

Prospective spring wheat plantings of 19 million acres together with winter wheat acreage of 51 million acres indicate a 1974 wheat crop of about 2,060 million bushels, up from 1,711 million in 1973.

-more-

The 1973/74 export estimate has been raised to 1,200 million bushels because shipments from other exporting countries in recent weeks have lagged somewhat, indicating a slightly smaller out-go for the year for those origins, and hence a somewhat larger requirement for U.S. wheat. Together with some slight adjustments in domestic use, this indicates a July 1, 1974, carryover of 182 million bushels.

With the projected total supply at 2,243 million bushels for 1974/75 and utilization at 1,758 million bushels, the July 1, 1975, carryover could rise to about 485 million bushels.

RICE OUTPUT TO CLIMB; STOCKS TO STAY LOW

Intended rice plantings for 1974 are estimated at 2,134,000 acres, 2 percent below 1973 but 17 percent above 1972. With yields near trend of 4,700 lbs. per harvested acre, a crop of 99.6 mil. cwt. (rough rice) could be produced. Current estimates of domestic use and continued strong export demand would result in ending stocks projected at 4.8 mil. cwt.

FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES TO JUMP

Farmers may plant 127 million acres of feed grains in 1974, up from 121½ million in 1973. Such plantings would produce around 235 million tons of feed grains, up 30 million tons from 1973.

Corn acreage intentions of 78.8 million acres are up 10 percent, sorghum and oats virtually unchanged, while barley acreage prospects are down 15 percent. The indicated corn acreage would produce a crop of about 6.7 billion bushels, about

18 percent above 1973. The 1974/75 corn supply would total 7.3 billion bushels, 15 percent above 1973/74. That volume would exceed combined domestic and export requirements projected for 1974/75 and provide a recovery in carryover stocks on October 1, 1975, from the low 600 million bushels expected next October.

SOYBEAN SUPPLIES TO RISE DESPITE LESS ACREAGE

Soybean planted acreage for 1974 is likely to total 55.4 million. Harvested acreage is projected at 54.4 million which, with an anticipated yield of 28.5 bushels per acre, will produce a crop of 1,550 million bushels. This will result in a total supply of 1,790 million bushels for the 1974/75 crop year, up 163 million from 1973/74.

Crush and export estimates for both 1973/74 and 1974/75 are unchanged from the last report. Projected carryout, however, for 1974/75 is increased from 290 to 300 million bushels.

BOOST IN COTTON OUTPUT TO SATISFY NEEDS

With 2.1 million more acres planned to be seeded for the 1974 upland cotton crop, production will likely rebound sharply from 1973's 12.9 million bales. Thus, production should easily satisfy prospective domestic and export demand next season. Mill consumption is expected to increase slightly about 7.7 million bales, primarily reflecting moderating competition from manmade fibers because of energy-related cutbacks in production. At the same time, U.S. cotton exports may be about 5.5 million bales, a level near that of the past two seasons.

RICE

WHEAT			
Item	1972/73 Preliminary	1973/74 Indications	1974/75 Projected*
<u>Acreage (Mil. Ac.)</u>			
Set-aside	20.1	7.4	0
Planted	54.9 ^{1/}	59.0	70.0
Harvested	47.3	53.9	64.0
<u>Yld. Per Harvested Acre (Bu.)</u>			
	32.7	31.8	32.2
<u>(Million Bushels)</u>			
<u>Supply</u>			
Beginning Stocks	863	430	182
Production	1,545	1,711	2,060
Imports	1	1	1
Total	2,409	2,142	2,243
<u>Disappearance</u>			
Domestic	795	760	758
Exports	1,184	1,200	1,000
Total	1,979	1,960	1,758
Ending Stocks	430	182	485

^{1/} Includes 2.6 million acres planted and subsequently designated as voluntary set-aside.

Prepared by: Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee for Wheat
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*The 1974/75 projections in these tables are rough approximations based on presently available data. They are mainly indications of change. Each of the numbers should be considered as representative of a fairly wide range rather than as a precise estimate.

Item	1972-73 Preliminary	1973-74 Indications	1974-75 * Projected
<u>Acreage</u>			
Allotment (Million A.)	1.84	2.22	1.65
Planted (Million A.)	1.82	2.18	2.13
Harvested (Million A.)	1.82	2.17	2.12
Yield/harvested acre (lb.)	4,700	4,277	4,700
<u>Supply</u>			
<u>(Million Cwt.)</u>			
Beginning stocks, Aug. 1	11.4	5.1	4.7
Production	85.4	92.8	99.6
Imports	0.5	0.5	0
Total	97.3	98.4	104.3
<u>Disappearance</u>			
Domestic	35.8	38.3	38.3
Exports	54.0	55.4	61.2
Total	89.8	93.7	99.5
Ending stocks, July 31	5.1	4.7	4.8
Difference unaccounted	+2.4	-	-

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FEED GRAINS 1/
(Includes Corn, Sorghum, Oats and Barley)

CORN

Item	1972/73 Preliminary	1973/74 Indications	Projected 1974/75*	Item (Mktg. year beginning Oct. 1)	1972/73 Preliminary	1973/74 Indications	Projected 1974/75*
<u>Acreage (Mil. acres)</u>				<u>Acreage (Mil. acres)</u>			
Set Aside	36.6	9.4	-0-	Set Aside	24.4	6.0	-0-
Planted	115.1	121.4	127.0	Planted	67.0	71.6	78.8
Harvested	94.0	102.3	107.7	Harvested	57.4	61.8	68.8
<u>Yield Per Harvested Acre (Tons)</u>				<u>Yield Per Harvested Acre (Bu.)</u>			
	2.13	2.00	2.18		97.1	91.4	97.0
<u>Supply Million Short Tons</u>				<u>Supply Million Bushels</u>			
Beginning Stocks	48.4	32.4	27.1	Beginning Stocks	1,126	707	606
Production	199.9	205.0	234.8	Production	5,573	5,643	6,674
Imports	0.4	0.4	0.4	Imports	1	1	1
Total	248.7	237.8	262.3	Total	6,700	6,351	7,281
<u>Disappearance</u>				<u>Disappearance</u>			
Domestic	173.2	171.0	182.2	Domestic	4,735	4,620	5,075
Exports	43.1	39.7	36.7	Exports	1,258	1,125	1,050
Total	216.3	210.7	218.9	Total	5,993	5,745	6,125
Ending Stocks	32.4	27.1	43.4	Ending Stocks	707	606	1,156

1/ Marketing year beginning October 1 for corn and sorghum, July 1 for barley and oats.

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*The 1974/75 projections in these tables are rough approximations based on presently available data. They are mainly indications of change. Each of the numbers should be considered as representative of a fairly wide range rather than as a precise estimate.

SOYBEANS

Item	1972/73 Preliminary	1973/74 Indications	1974/75 Projected*
<u>Acreage</u>			
Planted (mil. A)	46.9	57.3	55.4
Harvested (mil. A)	45.7	56.4	54.4
<u>Yield Per Harvested Acre (Bu.)</u>			
	27.8	27.8	28.5
(Million Bushels)			
<u>Supply</u>			
Carryin, Sept. 1	72.0	60	240
Production	1,270.6	1,567	1,550
Total	1,342.6	1,627	1,790
<u>Disappearance</u>			
Crushings	722	775	825
Exports	480	525	575
Seed, Feed and Residual	81	87	90
Total	1,283	1,387	1,490
Carryover, Aug. 31	60	240	300

Membership of the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee for Soybeans, Flaxseed, Cottonseed and Oils:

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 Alan Holz, Alternate, FAS
 Clarence Goldsborough, EMS
 George Kromer, ERS

SOYBEAN OIL

Item	1972/73 Preliminary	1973/74 Indications ^{1/}	1974/75 Projected*
(Million Pounds)			
<u>Supply</u>			
Carryin, Oct. 1	785	516	716
Production	7,501	8,450	8,825
Total	8,286	8,966	9,541
<u>Disappearance</u>			
Domestic	6,702	7,150	7,450
Exports	1,068	1,100	1,100
Total	7,770	8,250	8,550
Carryover, Sept. 30	516	716	991

SOYBEAN MEAL

Item	1972/73 Preliminary	1973/74 Indications ^{1/}	1974/75 Projected*
(1,000 Short Tons)			
<u>Supply</u>			
Carryin, Oct. 1	192	183	233
Production	16,709	18,725	19,550
Total	16,901	18,908	19,783
<u>Disappearance</u>			
Domestic	11,973	13,200	14,000
Exports	4,745	5,475	5,600
Total	16,718	18,675	19,600
Carryover, Sept. 30	183	233	183

^{1/} Based on an October 1 marketing year crush of 790 million bushels.

UPLAND COTTON

Item	1972/73 Preliminary	1973/74 Indications	1974/75 Projected *
<u>Acreage (Million Acres)</u>			
Planted	13.9	12.4	14.5
Harvested	12.9	11.9	<u>1/</u>
Set-Aside	2.0	0	0
<u>Yield Per Harvested Acre (Pounds)</u>	507	519	<u>1/</u>
		<u>(Million 480-lb. Bales)</u>	
<u>Supply</u>			
August 1 Beginning Stocks	<u>2/</u> 3.2	<u>2/</u> 4.0	3.8
Production, Imports and City Crop	13.6	12.9	<u>1/</u>
Total	16.8	16.9	
<u>Disappearance</u>			
Mill Consumption	7.7	7.4	7.7
Exports	5.3	5.7	5.5
Total	13.0	13.1	13.2
<u>Ending Stocks</u>	<u>2/</u> 4.0	3.8	

1/ USDA is prohibited from estimating production prior to release of the August Crop Production Report.

2/ Based on Census Bureau data.

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