

*While Butter, Lard, Tallow Consumption Drop*

# Soybean Oil Use Grows in U. S.

Consider for a moment the oil derived from the soybean. Compare consumption trends with competing fats and oils.

Over the past 10 years, one of the things that impresses is the decline in the use of animal fats, and the general rise in the use of vegetable oils, particularly soybean oil.

The consumption of butter in the United States continues to decline. The per capita consumption dropped from around 75 pounds in 1960 to 55 pounds in 1969.

There was a dramatic drop in total lard consumption — from 11.1 pounds per capita to 8.5 pounds per capita. There has been a modest rise in consumption of edible tallow in the past decade (from 18 to 26) but not nearly enough to offset the total decline in total use of animal fats.

The production of butter, lard and edible tallow in this country totaled 44 billion pounds in 1960. By 1969, output had fallen to 36 billion pounds.

Thus, there was about a billion pounds less annually of butter, lard and edible tallow available for consumption at the end of the decade.

The total per capita consumption

of edible vegetable oil and animal fats in the United States in 1969 totaled 516 pounds as compared to 453 pounds in 1960.

Interestingly, the per capita consumption of animal fats decreased to 166 pounds in 1969 as compared to 204 pounds in 1960, while the vegetable oil per capita intake totaled 372 pounds in 1969 as compared to 285 pounds in 1960. Soybean oil accounts for 284 pounds of the vegetable oil portion last year as compared to 188 pounds in 1960.

Total production of edible vegetable oil rose from 66 billion pounds in 1960 to 90 billion pounds in 1969. So while animal fat production was down nearly a billion pounds, vegetable oil production was up nearly 25 billion pounds.

Various factors figured in these changes.

Cottonseed oil production declined with the drop in cotton production of recent years. At the beginning of the 1960's, cotton production was running at 14.3 million bales. In 1969 the crop was 10.1 million.

The drop in lard production is related to the higher quality of meat-type hogs being produced.

If you look at USDA grading

standards for hogs today, you find that today's U. S. No. 3 slaughter hog is quite close in appearance to what we thought of 20 years ago as the top of the market. No. 1 and 2 hogs are of a much leaner type.

The drop in butter production is related to the long-term trend

toward the substitution of margarine on the family table.

There is an overall increase in the use of fats and oils. And an increasing share of this market has gone to vegetable oils.

I suspect that the general increase in the use of these products is in part a reflection of the

changing eating habits of Americans — changes in the time, place, and the frequency of eating.

We know that the use of "snack type" foods has gone up sharply. A Department of Agriculture study a few years ago (Continued on Page 26)

## Why Soybeans Aren't Big Locally

"It's a crop that's never really moved in this area and I don't think it ever will."

That's Arnold Lueck, associate county agent talking about soybean production in Lancaster County.

It's not that soybeans aren't tremendously important in Lancaster County. The crop is invaluable to the county's two biggest farm income producers, dairying and poultry, as a source of high protein feed at relatively low cost.

But for a combination of reasons, the crop has never caught on in this area.

Perhaps the most important reason is that soybeans usually are "grown on large farms in

big grain areas" where, unlike in Lancaster County, it's not necessary to have "a high return per acre."

Lueck also noted that harvesting in this area has proven to be "a problem" and that "field losses have been high."

He thinks the soybean varieties have been developed primarily for the cornbelt area and "haven't given the response here that they have in the midwest."

Possibly as a result of these other factors, the yields per acre in this area haven't been large enough to give the farmer the kind of return he needs to grow soybeans as a cash crop. "We don't get excited about soybeans,"

said, and don't respond well to fertilizer.

As a result, soybeans actually catch on much better in areas with poorer soils.

Southeastern Pennsylvania is the only part of the state with the full growing season necessary for soybeans, he said, and the high protein crop is grown to a limited extent. The biggest soybean area in the state is Bucks County. More of the crop is grown in Lebanon than Lancaster County.

The soybean is highly important in dairy and poultry feeds. Soybean meal, Lueck said, is cheaper than cottonseed meal and other protein sources because of the huge quantities grown in relation to other high protein feeds.

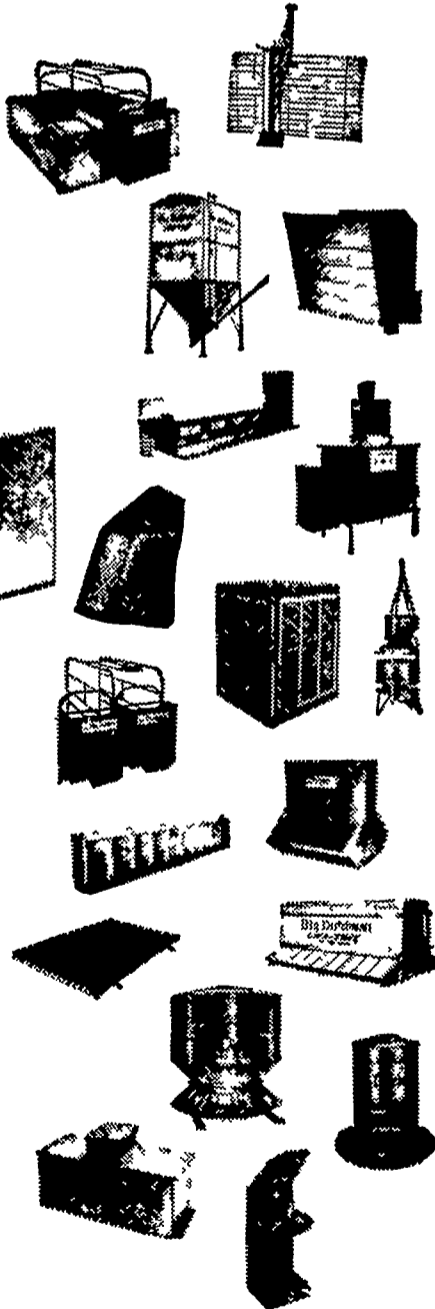
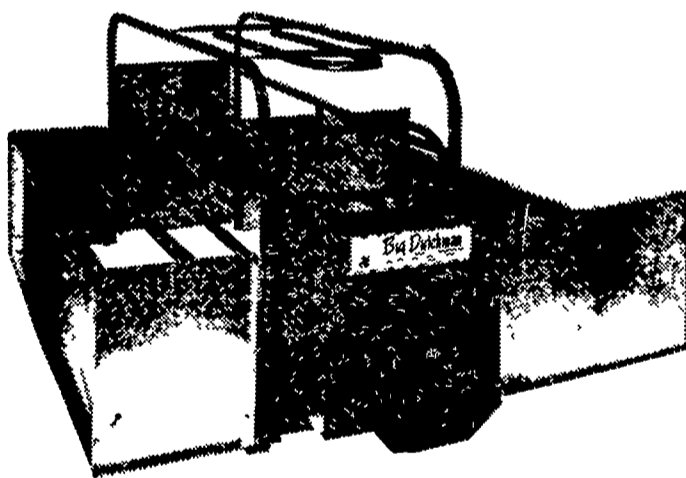
Lueck noted that Lancaster County's rich soils are not particularly an advantage in soybean production. Soybeans don't seem to notice much difference between rich and poor soils, he

Soybeans are generally used as a feed supplement.

In 1966 some 243,000 tons of soybean oil meals were consumed in the state's farming operations.

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