U.S. Tobacco - Prices Up on Same Output

About the same size U.S. tobacco crop this year and a reduced carryover point to a 3 per cent decline in the supply for 1972-73, according to a recent report from the USDA's Economic Research Service.

Although down for the eighth straight year, the estimated supply of 5.2 billion pounds remains adequate, because of declining use and increasing imports. This year's crop is an estimated 1.73 billion pounds (U.S. and Puerto Rico). Acreage is up 1 percent and yields are about unchanged.

Carryover of tobacco for the new season (beginning July 1 for flue-cured and cigar wrapper types; October 1 for others) is down about 5 percent.

Disappearance in 1972-73 may total slightly below the 1.9 billion pounds of the year just ending. In the big volume flue-cured sector sharply higher prices are limiting exports. For Maryland, fire-cured, and cigar filler tobaccos, reduced supplies mean cuts in domestic use.

U.S. cigarette output this fiscal year is expected to exceed the 593 billion cigarettes produced in 1971-72. Population is increasing and consumer incomes are rising

Persons 18 and older will smoke slightly more cigarettes in calendar 1972 than last year's 202 packs per capita By contrast, stability characterizes the outlook for use of cigars, snuff, and smoking and chewing tobacco.

With supplies reduced and prices higher, leaf exports this fiscal year may decline from last season's 524 million pounds (584 million, farm-sales weight).

This year's flue-cured crop has been actively sought by West Germany and Japan. The United Kingdom, a major U.S. export destination, decreased its takings in 1971-72 but may maintain that level this season. Britain continues its Rhodesian trade embargo.

U.S. manufacturers' stocks of imported cigarette types of tobacco last July 1 represented 2½ years' usings. With foreign tobaccos enjoying a price advantage, U.S. tobacco imports for ciagrettes in 1972-73 may rise above last season's 198 million pounds. The past season's increase was 29 million pounds.

U.S. cigar manufacturers in 1971-72 used about two-thirds foreign-grown tobacco and one-third domestic tobacco in cigars. Despite sagging sales, cigar manufacturers may again increase the share of imported tobacco.

By December 1. USDA must announce the 1973 national marketing quota for flue-cured tobacco on an acreage-poundage basis. Individual farm quotas and allotments will reflect overmarketings and un-

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