ag outlook

THE STATES AS WORLD SALESMEN...Exports of farm commodities, worth $8.05 billion last year, used one out of every five U S. acres harvested. Ten States chalked up sales of $4 6 billion, or about 57 percent of the total Illinois led with $758 million, while Iowa followed with $620 million. Other leading exporters included: California, $592 million, Texas, $456 million, North Carolina, $420 million, Indiana, $384 million, Kansas, $365 million, Arkansas, $352 million, Minnesota, $374 million, and Missouri, $317 million

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EXPORTABLES...On the basis of value, overseas nations bought more than half of our soybean and rice crops, two-fifths of the wheat, cattle hides, and tallow, and one-third of the tobacco and cotton Our foreign customers also bought one-fourth the value of our dry edible beans, lemons, and nonfat dry milk and fifth of the feed grains

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FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES in 1972-73 will total 238 million tons on the basis of September indications, close to last year's big supply Production, forecast at 189 million tons, is some 16 million below last year's record total The smaller crop will be harvested from the least acreage of this century as farmers participated heavily in the voluntary set-aside under the 1972 feed grain program

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DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION of feed grains in 1972-73 looks as if it will make a further modest gain after the sizable 6 percent increase to 5 1 billion bushels in 1971-72. Prospects for 1-2 percent more grain consuming animal units and continued favorable livestock feed price ratios will likely maintain heavy feeding rates per animal unit

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OVERSEAS SALES...The 1972-73 feed grain export picture looks bright Boosted by substantial sales to the U S.S.R., U.S feed grain exports may well top the estimated 27 million short tons shipped overseas in 1971-72

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CARRYOVER CALCULATIONS...With expanding use in prospect, a moderate reduction in the carryover in summer and fall 1973 seems highly likely. At the start of the 1972-73 marketing year, the carryover was estimated at 50 million tons, 17 million more than the year before

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FARM PRICES for feed grains at harvesttime will be stronger than the levels in 1971. For example, corn prices in November will be higher than last year's low 97 cents a bushel, perhaps a few cents above the $1 05 loan rate However, as the year progresses prices may rise less than seasonally because of moderating effects of relatively large stocks under loan and owned by the CCC

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COTTON...Projected production of 13.6 million 480-pound bales (September 1 prospects) will provide enough cotton to satisfy domestic and export demand while replenishing stocks Output, up an estimated 30 percent from last year, benefited from 15 percent more acres and 13 percent higher yields. National average yields, roughly 494 pounds per acre, are up 56 pounds

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COTTON EXPORTS...With larger export availabilities in 1972-73, shipments could increase to around 3½ million bales, compared with the 3¼ million bales exported during 1971-72.

NEW COTTON REPORT...The cotton harvesting season has lengthened in recent years due to shifts in major producing areas, new cultural practices, and the use of machine harvesting. To obtain a more accurate assessment of late-season ginnings, SRS will begin issuing an additional cotton rrop report as of January 1. Also, issuance dates of cotton acreage and production reports have been changed to coincide with the general crop reports released by the SRS Crop Reporting Board.

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WOOL STORY...A smaller sheep inventory last January led to a July count of 4 percent fewer sheep shorn this year and a similar decline in shorn wool production. Fleece weights are averaging about the same as in 1971 Expected shorn wool output is 153 million pounds, grease basis.

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SHORN WOOL PRICES have staged a marked recovery from 1971's low average of 19.4 cents a pound. Farm prices climbed from about 20 cents a pound in January to about 43 cents in August, and they're likely to stay strong through December.

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MARKET ACTIVITY... Relatively low prices for raw apparel wool last year and early in 1972, smaller imports and larger exports of textile products, improving consumer incomes, and renewed military buying have added up to higher mill use of raw apparel wool than last fall. Use during January—June 1972, at 74 million pounds, was 16 percent ahead of a year earlier. Use should stay up through the fall and winter.