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## Exports Said Crucial to Increased Farm Incomes

Increased demand abroad for food, livestock feed, and oilseeds is the key to higher farm income at home, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz told a recent two-day open session of the National Advisory Committee on Grains-Wheat, Feed Grains, and Soybeans-at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Pointing out that the average age of American farmers today is 51, the Secretary said: "The only way that we are going to man the farms of tomorrow with younger men is to make it profitable for them to be there. To do this, we must continue to strengthen farm income by relying on the world marketplace for its source."

Exports of farm products will pass the \$10 billion mark—a record high—this fiscal year, Secretary Butz said. At the same time, he pointed out that net farm income will reach a new high of \$18.8 billion this year. Thus, the Department's farm programs should be planned to continue this trend by producing crops that are in demand at home and abroad.

"I hope that we avoid getting into a position where we can't sell a commodity overseas because we have a shortage of it," the Secretary added.

Recent moves by foreign countries to upgrade their people's diet have led to increased livestock production in those nations, and this is expanding world demand for feed grains, Carroll G. Brunthaver, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Chairman of the Advisory Committee, told the group. He cited figures showing the large increase in exports of feed grains and soybeans during the past two years and cautioned the group against being too conservative in assessing the continued growth of world markets for U.S. agricultural products.

"The risk in the year ahead is thinking too small in a world that is expanding its demand for food," the Assistant Secretary said, adding: "We are finding new markets for our farm products—and must continue to find them. But if we don't produce the crops, we can't sell them abroad."

Mr. Brunthaver said "The best thing that could happen to the U.S. soybean industry is to lock in the USSR and East European countries—which are considering expanding their livestock industries—by getting them used to

using high quality U.S. soybean meal. We must increase soybean production in order to be able to do this."

Some members of the committee indicated satisfaction with the current market picture for feed grains and soybeans and generally expressed concern that the 1973 program be directed toward avoiding overproduction of these commodities and thus result in a depressing effect on farm prices. Consensus of the group was that the freedom for the farmer to make his own decisions should be retained, as provided by the Agricultural Act of 1970.

Feed grain program alternatives for 1973 were presented to the committee by Glenn Weir, Associate Administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, who said: "Primarily, we want to be satisfied that we have the right mix between corn and soybeans as we approach this program."

The 30-member Advisory Committee, which represents a cross-section of farmers, farm organizations, dealers, and processors, met to consider various alternatives and to make recommendations for the 1973 feed grain program. Program details will be announced later by the Secretary of Agriculture.

**GOOD YEAR**

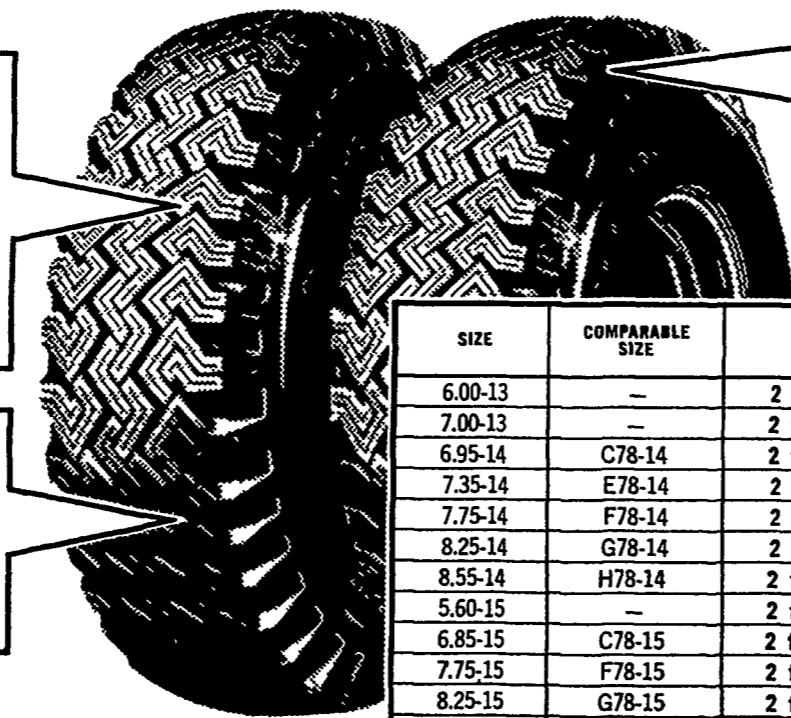
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