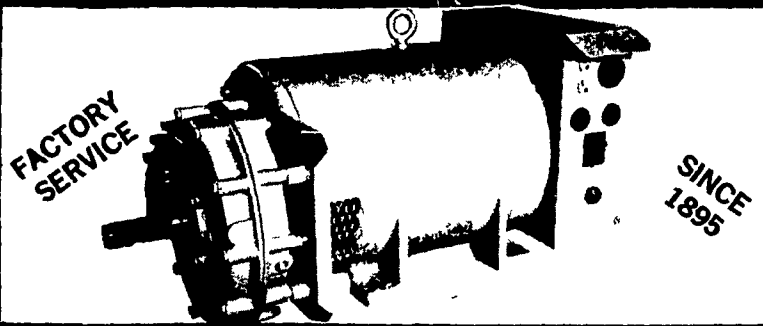


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**US Sunflower Oil Output Increasing**

Greater demand for fats and oils in the expanding food product market has prompted rising interest in U.S. sunflower production, according to a report released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. Sunflowers already rank as one of the world's leading oilseed crops. Since 1967, sunflowers have been produced for oil in the U.S., but on a limited scale. Interest in expanded U.S. production is being stimulated by a need for alternative cash crops

in certain areas; the yield potential of high-oil hybrid sunflower varieties; excess crushing capacity in screw-press cotton oil mills; emphasis on the health value of polyunsaturated fat; and growing world demand for edible oils. U.S. acreage devoted to oilseed sunflowers has been growing steadily, exceeding 600,000 acres in 1972. Production has been concentrated in the Red River Valley area of Minnesota and North Dakota, with trial plan-

tings undertaken in the Cotton Belt States. Commercial introduction of higher yielding hybrid sunflower varieties in the next few years should improve the competitive position of oilseed sunflowers in all growing areas. Producing sunflowerseed costs approximately \$23 per acre in the Red River Valley, and \$40 per acre in the Cotton Belt, based on present average yields of about 1,000 pounds per acre in the Red River Valley and 1,250 pounds in the Cotton Belt.

**USDA to Get Farm Return Data**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today clarified the limited income tax data it will get from farmers' income tax returns.

"This information will be limited to the name, address, taxpayer identification number, type of farm activity and some identification of the size of the farming operations," explained Don Paarlberg, USDA's director of agricultural economics.

The size indicator "might be the farmers' gross income or his gross sales of farm products," Dr. Paarlberg added.

The limits are envisioned in a new executive order which the President is expected to issue, replacing his executive order of Jan. 17. This order gave USDA access to farmer income tax data to help the Department to develop better lists of farmers and livestock producers for its sample surveys.

"The whole idea was to identify farmers of the same size and type of farming activity so that we could then contact them by mail or telephone to get more data on their operations," Dr. Paarlberg said.

"We would then develop this information for use in regular reports to help guide farmers in making their day-to-day farming decisions. This would enable us to

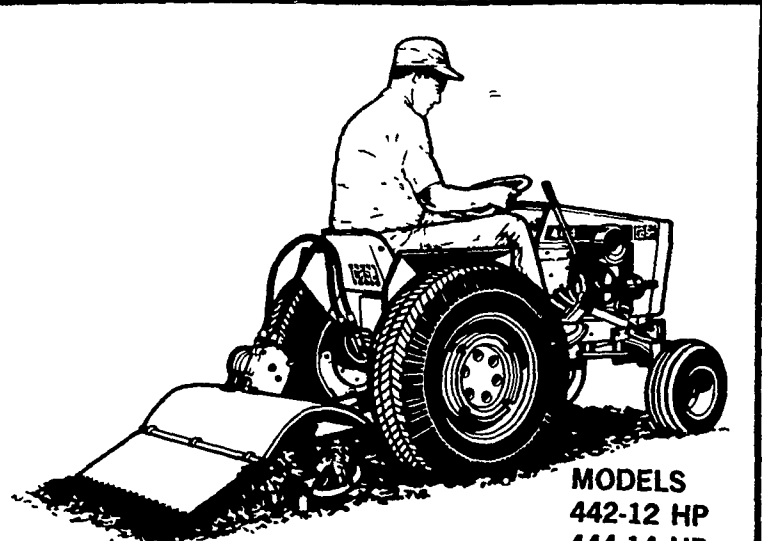
provide better information at lower cost.

"It was never our intention to look at the farmers' complete tax return," Dr. Paarlberg said.

The new order simply puts this intention into writing by limiting the information that may be given to USDA personnel, he said.

Estimates of gross profits from processing sunflowerseed range from \$13.87 to \$40.47 per ton, depending on yield of oil, mill size, length of the processing season and mill location.

A copy of "Potential For Oilseed Sunflowers In The United States," AER 237, is available free on postcard (please include zipcode) or telephone (447-7255) request from the Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



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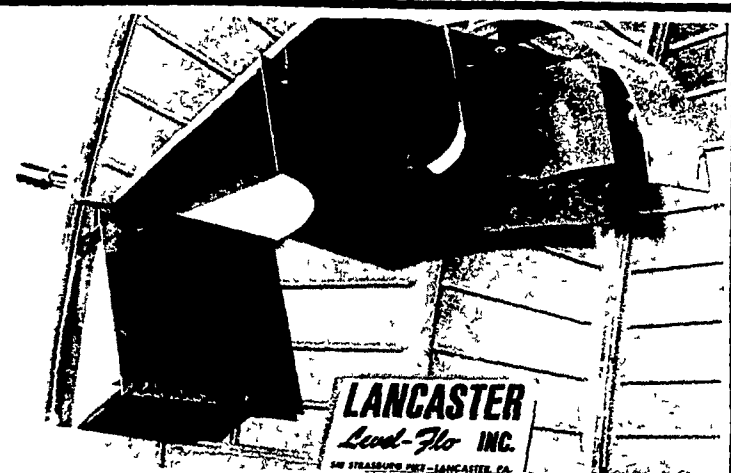
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