

Farm Exports to W. Hemis.

Climb to Record High in '72

U.S. agricultural exports to Western Hemisphere countries notched a new high of \$1.59 billion in 1972, up \$210 million from 1971's \$1.38 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In its annual review of the agricultural situation in the Western Hemisphere, excluding the United States and Cuba, the Department's Economic Research Service said the increase was due to a rapid rise in farm exports to both Canada and Latin America. Exports to Canada were valued at \$716

million in 1972, up 18 percent from 1971. Sales to Latin America (Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America) totaled \$870 million, exceeding the 1971 record by nearly \$100 million.

Bigger sales of cotton and fruits and vegetables to Canada helped account for the high 1972 figure, while in Latin America higher income levels coupled with a drop in per capita food production increased demand for wheat and other food products as well as animal and poultry feedstuffs.

The report forecast a jump in certain U.S. exports to Canada in 1973, particularly corn, fruits and vegetables and their preparations, meat and meat products, potatoes, cattle hides, and cotton. However, U.S. exports of soybeans and soybean products will probably decline.

The outlook for trade with Latin America suggests a future rise in U.S. exports this year, the report said. Mexico's wheat imports should continue at a high level and in Brazil, demand for wheat should also be up sharply due to a small crop in 1972. In Central America and the Andean region of South America—where adverse weather reduced the late 1972 harvest—demand is expected to continue strong for wheat, feed grains, fats and oils, and other food products.

A copy of "The Agricultural Situation In The Western Hemisphere: Review of 1972 and Outlook for 1973," ERS-Foreign 351, is available free on postcard (please include zipcode) or telephone (447-7255) request from the Division of Information, Office of Management Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Erosion Control Meetings Slated

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources has announced the schedule for a series of open meetings to explain the provisions of the erosion and sedimentation control regulations adopted last September by the Environmental Quality Board.

The sessions are open to the general public and in particular farmers, township and municipal officials, contractors and anyone

else involved in earthmoving activities.

Present to explain the new regulations, which are meant to prevent accelerated erosion and resulting sedimentation, will be personnel from DER's Bureau of Water Quality Management and State Conservation Commission as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Lancaster County meeting will be held Monday, May 21, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Commonwealth National Bank basement auditorium, north of Lancaster on Route 501. For further information, contact Henry Hackman, Conservation District Office, Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

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