

Fertilizer Supply Seen Same As Last Year's

Net domestic supplies of fertilizer materials in 1972-73 are expected to total 19.0 million tons of plant nutrients - nitrogen (N), phosphate (P₂O₅), and potash (K₂O). This is the same as last

year's supply. Estimated supplies of N will total 8,993,000 tons, up 3 percent; P₂O₅, 5,303,000 tons, down 2 percent; and K₂O, 4,699,000 tons, down 3 percent.

Production rate for anhydrous ammonia during the first 6 months of the fertilizer year was near that of last year. Solid ammonium nitrate production was up about 2 percent and ammonium sulfate production down about 2 percent. Production rates for urea, nitrogen solutions, and N-P materials ranged from 10 to 17 percent over last year.

Production rates for nitrogenous materials are expected to continue at rates above those of last year provided marketing channels can make room for them. Production of anhydrous ammonia is expected to rise to levels above last year to support the increased production of nitrogenous materials and the merchant anhydrous ammonia market.

Wet-process phosphoric acid production during the first half of the year was about 2 percent ahead of last year. Ammonium phosphate production was up 11 percent while concentrated superphosphate was down 4 percent.

This relationship could change during the second half of the fertilizer year because of changes in domestic and world market needs. Producers have some choice on whether to use limited quantities of phosphoric acid in ammonium phosphate or concentrated superphosphate. The normal superphosphate supply is expected to be about the same as last year.

About two-thirds of the net domestic supply of potassium chloride is expected to be imported, primarily from Canada.

Domestic supplies are expected to be up about 2 percent in support of an expected increase in exports. The potassium sulfates are expected to be about the same as last year.

The spring season is more clouded than usual. In addition to the ever present risk of unfavorable weather, the shortage of railroad cars for moving fertilizers to consuming areas and the possible shortage of fuel for operating farmers tractors could have an adverse influence on the quantities of fertilizer used by farmers. This can be minimized through favorable weather and the use of transportation and fuel resources as efficiently as possible.

Anhydrous ammonia facilities were operated at about 90 percent of total capacity during the first 6 months of the fertilizer year. Wet-process phosphoric acid facilities were operated at about 95 percent of capacity. Anhydrous ammonia capacity is

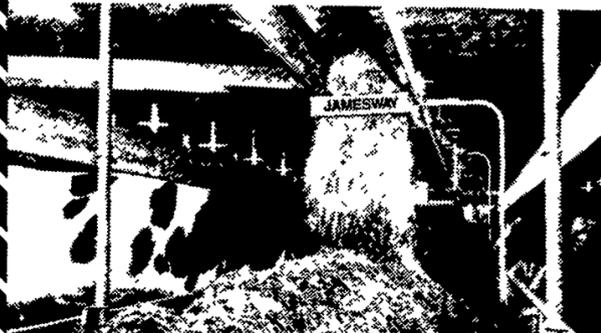
scheduled for an expansion of 855,000 tons by January 1975. Phosphoric acid capacity is to be expanded 1,250,000 tons of P₂O₅ by January 1975.

Exports of N, P₂O₅, and K₂O are expected to be 22 to 36 percent more than last year. Phosphate rock exports were up 6 percent over last year which means export of about 14.4 million tons if the trend continues.

U.S. exports of plant nutrients going to countries with AID agricultural programs were up 37 percent over last year. About 57 percent of all plant nutrients exported (excluding phosphate rock) went to these countries in 1971-72 compared with 45 percent a year earlier. These countries received 54 percent of the N, 65 percent of the P₂O₅, and 48 percent of the K₂O. However, AID did not finance all these shipments. Brazil received 44 percent of the plant nutrients going to AID countries, but none of them were financed by AID.

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PSEA Head Asks 'Mature Approach' by Local Boards

Robert C. Baldis, new president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) called on local school boards to "reverse their negative attitudes" and "take a mature approach to solving today's educational problems" during the PSEA teacher-delegate convention recently in Pittsburgh.

During the convention, delegates went on record as opposing any merger of teacher organizations that would require affiliation with AFL-CIO. Earlier, PSEA outgoing president, Richard A. deBethizy had called for a merger of "all rival teacher organizations into one stronger, independent, autonomous group."

DeBethizy, however, stressed that such a merger should result in an independent and autonomous group that would be devoid of affiliation of any

requirement that teachers adhere to the policies and actions of other organizations when they are not in the best interest of education and the teaching profession.

"We have formed local IPD Councils because teachers have said time and time again that they are tired of being the butt of criticism about education," he stated.

"We call on local school boards to reverse their negative attitudes, to take a mature approach to solving today's educational problems, and to recognize the expertise of their professional staffs," he said.

"This country is where it is because of the public school system and what teachers have done to prepare youth for a productive role in society. It's time the public recognizes this achievement."

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