

# Soybean Assoc. Says Planting Intentions Up

U. S. soybean plantings will be up 19.8 percent this year and production will total 1,512,000,000 bushels, according to projections based on an extensive American Soybean Assn. survey conducted in mid-June.

The acreage increase, largest in history, will result in total soybean plantings of 56,332,000 acres compared to 47,003,000 planted in 1972. The production increase, based on USDA's final 1972 figure of 1,283,000,000 bushels, is slightly lower—17.8 percent—than the acreage increase because growers expect the national average yield to be down from last year's record. Both acreage and production figures are about in line with stated goals of USDA, which makes its first official acreage report on July 10.

Growers in a number of major soybean states say they'll increase plantings by over 20 percent this year compared to a year ago with the entire Midwest

indicating a boost of 22.8 percent. There could still be some adjustment from the survey figures, however, since the late planting season was still not complete in a number of areas at the time of the survey.

ASA surveys earlier in the year had indicated a 4.3 percent increase in intentions in January and a 12.8 percent hike in March, close to USDA's forecasts of 4.8 percent and 14.5 percent increases in similar reports. The big surge in acreage since those reports is the result of several major program changes, high soybean prices and the late, wet spring in some areas.

Midwest farmers are least optimistic about the yield outlook while a number of growers are expecting higher yields than a year ago in the South, particularly in the Southeast and East Coast where Hurricane Agnes in June and then a drought in late summer hurt yield last year.

Calculating yields based on growers' thinking at this early point in the season, the national average yield would be down 2.6 percent to the 5-year average yield of 27.3 bushels per acre compared to the final figure of 28 bushels per acre last year. Late planting and poorer seedbed preparation are reasons mentioned most often by growers for lower expectations. Where harvesting was late and losses high last year, such as in Indiana and the South, more growers expect to do better this time around, however.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the survey was the small increase in corn acreage the ASA members planned—only a 5.1 percent increase in the Midwest and a 6.3 percent boost for the U. S. That would put corn plantings at only 71 million acres, well below USDA's target. Cotton acreage would be down 13.8 percent, the survey indicates, a bigger drop than what the USDA survey is expected to show.

# NEMA Aims Plan for Stabilizing Egg Market

Don Turnbull of Poultry and Egg Institute of America presented his organization's proposal for egg market stabilization to Northeastern producers at a Northeast Egg Marketing Association board meeting recently in Syracuse, New York.

The PEIA proposal calls for creation of an Egg Producers Association to establish policies relative to expanding and contracting the size of the nation's laying flocks. All owners of facilities for and/or flocks of commercial market egg birds of 3,000 or more layers would be members of the organization.

All producers with 3,000 layers or more would be required to obtain licenses from the proposed Association each time a flock is to be replaced to stabilize the size of the national laying flock. Charge for the licenses would be about 2 cents per pullet, with charges for recycled layers estimated at 1 cent per hen.

The Egg Producers Association's policies would be subject to review by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Turnbull emphasized that

PEIA's proposal is not a finished plan, but that formal enabling legislation will be out shortly. The program could be activated by new legislation, or by an amendment to the 1937 Agricultural Agreements Act.

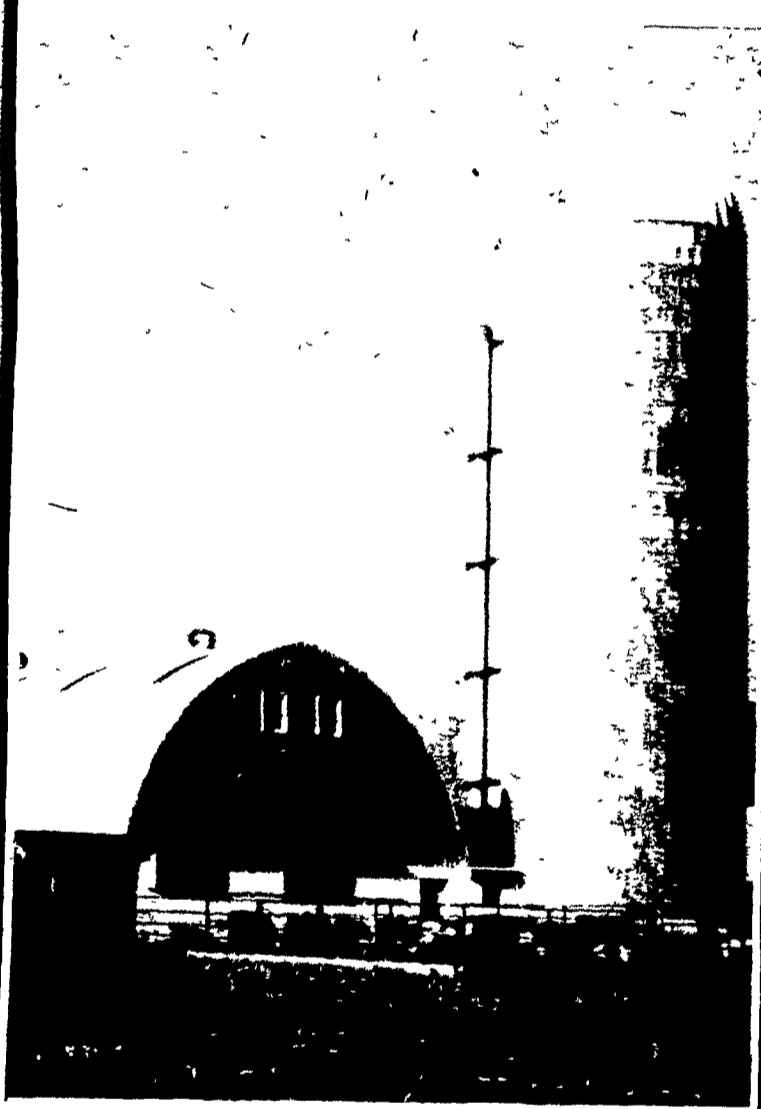
Nema producers, after hearing Turnbull's presentation, unanimously passed a motion "to support the Poultry and Egg Institute of America in its study and efforts to draft an egg stabilization program to be presented for the approval of the egg production industry."

## Book Cow Cited

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