

Agriculture Major Factor In U.S. Trade Balance

"American farmers should take great pride in the nation's improved trade balance for the first nine months of this year—an improvement that was almost entirely the result of strength in our agricultural exports," Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz said.

"Our trade account was pulled from a \$5 billion deficit into near balance during this period, and agriculture contributed more than 85 percent to this turnaround," the Secretary said.

New trade data from the Department of Commerce shows the agricultural trade surplus rose to \$5.8 billion for the first nine months of 1973, a \$4.3 billion increase over the \$1.5 billion agriculture trade surplus for the same period last year. Mean-

while, in non-agricultural trade, the deficit was being reduced from \$6.6 billion to \$5.9 billion. These two developments shrank the overall deficit to \$144 million, or a 97 percent improvement over the same nine months of 1972.

U.S. agricultural exports during the first nine months of 1973 reached a record of \$11.9 billion, accounting for more than 20 percent of the Nation's total exports for the period. Agricultural imports during the period were \$6.1 billion. The Secretary pointed out that 35 percent of our agricultural imports are products such as bananas, coffee, tea, cocoa and others that U. S. farmers don't produce and must be supplied by foreign sources.

Cranberry V.I.P.'S

Few of the many cranberry varieties are commercially important. Early Black and Late Howe, two of the oldest, are the most significant commercially and comprise the bulk of the Massachusetts and New Jersey harvest. The Searles variety predominates in Wisconsin, while Washington and Oregon growers favor the McFarlin. Experimentation continues with the goal of developing larger berries and better keeping qualities, reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Sea Farming With High-Intensity Lamps

Basic agricultural research with high-intensity discharge lamps may someday enable man to grow vegetables in the depths of the oceans and in the far reaches of space, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agronomist.

Speaking before a meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Dr. Gerald E. Carlson, with USDA's Agricultural Research Service

USDA Puts Some Biologics Regulations in Federal Code

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently published its regulations for veterinary biologics quality control in the federal code, making them more readily available to the public.

Previously, control requirements on quality and safety of animal vaccines and other biological products were only in memoranda published administratively by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS then gave the memoranda to licensed producers and to educational and research institutions' scientists. The federal code reaches a wider audience.

In addition, APHIS published new procedures in the Code which added requirements to safeguard purity of some

ingredients derived from animals. All other requirements were in the administrative memoranda.

APHIS on June 8 proposed that the requirements go into Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations and asked for comments from interested persons. The Animal Health Institute and 18 licensees responded, suggesting changes in the proposal and these suggestions were considered, APHIS said.

The Virus-Serum-Toxin Act of 1913 authorized regulations on production, testing, and evaluation of veterinary

biological products. The law was intended to assure their quality and safety, APHIS said.

The regulations appeared in the Federal Register Oct. 29, 1973.

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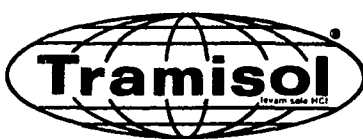
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