

## U.S. Soybean Crop Seen Down 7.6 pct.

U. S. soybean plantings are projected to total 52.9 million acres in 1974, 7.6 percent less than a year ago, according to an American Soybean Assn. (ASA) planting intentions survey conducted in late February.

If the projected decline materializes, it would be the first drop in soybean acreage since 1959. The survey sampled soybean producers in 24 soybean producing states.

A breakdown of the projected plantings shows:

Eastern Corn Belt growers—Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin—will plant 4.5 percent fewer beans;

Western Corn Belt growers—Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas—will plant 11.8 percent fewer beans;

Southern producers—Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama—will plant 8.5 percent fewer beans;

East Coast producers—Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia—will plant 1.5 percent more beans. The East Coast is the only area where projections indicate a possible increase in soybean acreage.

The 7.6 percent projected decrease in soybean plantings is smaller than the 10.1 percent projected decrease predicted by a similar ASA survey made in December.

In January the U. S. Department of Agriculture forecast there would be 3.3 percent fewer soybean acres in 1974. The USDA, who set 1973 plantings at 57.3 million acres, plans to release another planting intentions report Thursday.

A jump in doublecropped soybeans was also indicated by soybean growers participating in the survey. The increase will apparently be about the same as the growers' increase in wheat acreage, which is up approximately 75 percent from

1973. Soybean producers involved in the survey also indicated that they will plant about 15 percent more corn in the Corn Belt states and 27 percent more cotton and 28 percent more rice in the Southern states.

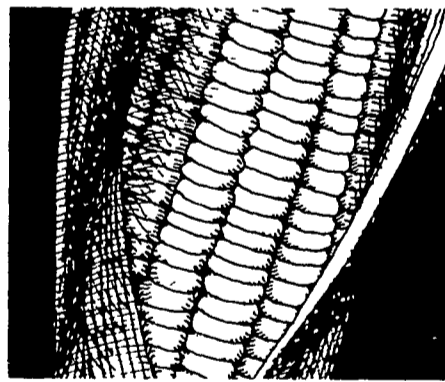
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