

Grain Situation More Serious

USDA's report on undelivered export commitments provides egg producers and other livestock feeders with a greater measure of concern about the feed grain supply, according to John Pedersen,

Director of Marketing and Statistical Analysis, United Egg Producers. "If USDA figures issued Thursday are even close to being correct," Pedersen said, "the livestock feeding industries in the U. S. will be in serious

trouble during the coming year. Thursday's report indicated export commitments exceeding every USDA maximum forecast for the coming year."

According to the report, export commitments for corn through August 18 amounted to 952.9 million bushels of which 684.3 million bushels are to known destinations. USDA's export forecast for corn during the coming year ranged from 750 to 900 million bushels, Pedersen said.

Similar reports were also made for soybeans and soybean meal. Undelivered commitments through August 18 for soybeans totaled 549.1 million bushels and for soybean meal, 7,898,000 metric tons. USDA's maximum estimates of export commitments for the coming year totaled 535 million bushels of soybeans and 5.5 million tons of soybean meal.

"These figures illustrate ample reason why our government should take immediate steps to assure domestic livestock feeders of an adequate supply of feed grains with which to produce meat, dairy products and eggs for the consumers of the U. S. during the coming year," Pedersen said.

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"We cannot afford to assume that a substantial amount of these undelivered exports are speculative

buying and thus will be available at a price sometime in the future," Pedersen warned. "It will be disastrous for the domestic livestock, dairy, poultry and egg producers if assumption is wrong. In the end it will be disastrous to the American consumer and the economy."

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Increased Fish Activity Indicates Polluted Water

Increased activity by fish can indicate water pollution, according to biologists with the Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at The Pennsylvania State University. Studying this activity, Fishery Research Unit personnel have developed an inexpensive method for analyzing pollution of lakes and streams, says Dr. Robert L. Butler, leader of the unit.

Dr. Butler and associates have found that fish in polluted waters increase their movements away from normal cover such as rock ledges and other natural shelters. They observed, for example, that smallmouth bass nearly doubled the amount of time away from cover when oxygen content of water was lower than normal, a form of pollution. Not only was cover neglected by the bass, but general movement from one part of the stream to another more than doubled.

Stress from pollution was also reflected in increased activity by rainbow trout, the experiments showed. In this case, the pollution was caused by low concentrations of manganous sulfate. This chemical is a metallic salt, coming primarily from strip mining for coal. Lethal con-

centrations of this salt range from 50 to 5,500 parts per million, due to differences in experimental conditions.

The experiments have shown that an increase of manganous sulfate from 5 to 10 parts per million depressed significantly the use of cover by 3 and 4-week old rainbow trout.

"We have also shown that present standards for pollution levels are inadequate to protect some fish life," Dr. Butler stated.

He explained that recommended lower limits for oxygen needed by fish have been set at 5 parts per million. Nonetheless, the experiments have demonstrated that a drop of as little as 2 parts per million in oxygen can cause a significant decrease in use of cover and increased activity by fish.

Weiner Ways

Weiners are a handy meat to have on hand. Kept in the freezer until needed, they thaw quickly and cook in minutes. Steamed in water or beer or just browned, they are delicious and waste-free meat item. Score frankfurters and pose them atop hot sauerkraut for a hearty meal. Or, for a winner, spoon canned chili over steamed weiners on fresh buns.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK

DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

The British defeated the French on the Plains of Abraham near the city of Quebec during the French and Indian War on September 13, 1759.

Francis Scott Key wrote the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on September 14, 1814.

William Howard Taft, 26th President of the United States, was born on September 15, 1857.

The Japanese surrendered the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong on September 16, 1945.

The United States Constitution was completed and adopted on September 17, 1787.

The first issue of "The New York Times" was printed on September 18, 1851.

On September 19, 1777, American forces won the first battle of Saratoga, New York, during the Revolutionary War.

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