

Record German Grain Crop Seen Cutting Country's Import Needs

Favorable weather and ample producer incentives have propelled West German grain production this year to another record, tentatively forecast 4 to 7 percent above the record 1973 crop. This large output is seen lessening German needs for imported U.S. grains in 1974-75 - although the country will remain a major market - and reinstating more typical trade patterns following some dramatic changes last year.

Based on a computerized weather and soil moisture data collation system, the West German Government has officially forecast the country's grain production at 22.7 million metric tons for a 7.2-percent gain from the record 21.2 million tons of 1973-74. Most trade sources, however, look for a more modest increase of about 3.7 percent to 22 million tons. Growth is expected in all crops except winter mixed grains.

Grain harvesting this year has been delayed by frequent rains, but so far abnormal damage has neither been reported nor observed.

Because of these bumper crops - plus good crops in other countries of the European Community - West Germany is not expected to need the record amounts of non-EC feedgrains that it imported in fiscal 1974. It will, on the other hand, be importing more wheat than last year's small purchases.

Current trade forecasts for fiscal 1975 point to total German imports of 2 million tons wheat (compared with 2.3 million in fiscal 1974), 3.2 million of corn (3.3 million), 1.6 million of barley (1.5 million), and 500,000 of oats (490,000).

Imports of wheat from the United States are expected to rise some 20 percent from the low fiscal 1974 level to 300,000 tons, while those of U.S. corn may ease by 17 percent to around 1.9 million tons - this, of course, also depending on U.S. supplies available for export and prices in relation to other grains. In addition, purchase of U.S. barley and oats are forecast at 100,000 tons each, for declines of a half and two-thirds, respectively, from the fiscal 1974 levels.

These changes indicate some normalization of trade patterns following dramatic shifts in German grain sources.

Fiscal 1974 began with extreme worry about availability of U.S. grains and the possibility of quotas, such as those then in effect on soybeans, being placed on U.S. grain exports. This concern - underlined by Germany's dependence on the United States to supply over a third of its feedgrain imports and by the shortage then of corn from France, the other major supplier - helped boost German imports of U.S. feedgrains more than 20 percent in fiscal 1974 to an all-time high of 2.3 million tons. Other factors were favorable U.S. prices at the time relative to prices of other suppliers, increased German livestock numbers, and more efficient feeding practices.

In any case, the United States last year ended up with 45 percent of West Germany's coarse grain market, compared with 37 percent for the EC-9. In fiscal 1973, by contrast, the shares had been about equal at 38 percent for the United States and 39 percent for the EC-9.

At the same time, an unusually high quality EC wheat crop allowed West Germany to fill most of its fiscal 1974 wheat requirements with EC grain, while imports of U.S. wheat plummeted by more than a half to 250,000 tons. The result was that in fiscal 1974 the EC-9 (mainly France) accounted for 73 percent of West German grain imports, compared with 58 percent the previous year. U.S. share, on the other hand, dropped to about 12 percent from over 25 percent the year before.

But the situation continues to change, and fiscal 1975 is witnessing some rather dramatic reversals of conditions that prevailed in fiscal 1974.

The Midwestern drought and resulting 12 percent drop in U.S. corn production, for instance, has reduced availability and upped prices of U.S. corn, while 1974 crops in the EC - including the important French production - have been quite large. These larger crops, plus last year's heavy feedgrain imports, are boosting German stocks - including both Government and privately held stocks.

At the same time, West Germany faces feeding adjustments resulting from the current EC beef and broiler oversupply and from efforts being undertaken to alleviate this problem.

In addition because of the high world price for corn, certain qualities of wheat and other common feed ingredients may become increasingly competitive with corn as a livestock feed. As in fiscal 1974, West

Germany continues vulnerable to the turmoil caused by high world prices of grains and feeds. With these prices above even the normally high ones that prevail in the Community - which generally insulate members from changes in the world market - the marketing year in Germany could be judged almost as well from the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade as from Brussels or Bonn.

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6:00 P.M.

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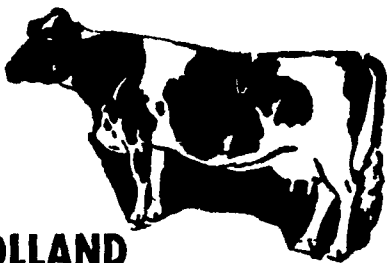
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FRI. NITE OCT. 18 - 7 30 Sale for Alpheus Ruth from Fleetwood, Pa of Registered Holsteins Catalogs nite of sale

SPECIAL NOTICE — Oct 30 New Holland Sales Stables, Inc Annual Show and Sale, 250 Head of Cows will be sold Judging at 10 A M

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1974

AT 1:00 P.M.

Sale will be held on the farm located 4 miles Northeast of Millersburg, Dauphin County, Pa 3/4 mile North of the Village of Killingar, Route 25

Herd consists of 46 Holsteins and 2 Guernsey Milk Cows, many of which are in heavy production at present time, some to freshen in September and October some close by sale time.

13 HOLSTEIN HEIFERS
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