

# World Fishmeal and Oil Output Recouping from '72-'73 Shortfall

By ROSS L. PACKARD  
Foreign Commodity Analysis,  
Oilseeds and Products  
Foreign Agricultural Service

**R**ESUMPTION OF anchovy fishing in Peru is bringing recovery in world supplies of fishmeal and oil from the resounding shortfalls of 1973.

World production of each commodity in 1974 is pegged to rise about one-fourth above last year's, and 1975 will witness further expansion, provided conditions are favorable in anchovy fisheries off the coast of Peru. Trade in fishmeal and oil should thus recoup from the reduced levels of the past two seasons, negating some the world supply problems linked to that decline.

The decline was caused by shifting of the Peru (Humboldt) current in 1972-73 and its replacement with unusually warm waters; these discouraged plankton growth needed to sustain the vast anchovy population that normally frequents Peruvian coastal waters. As a result, anchovy fishing in Peru plunged more than 50 percent in 1972 and another 40 percent in 1973. This nearly halted the country's fish oil and meal production, which in previous years had accounted for about a third of world output. The result was a nosedive in exports and further aggravation to last year's soaring prices for these and other sources of meal and to a lesser extent, oil.

**Fishmeal.** If the fall fishing season in

Peru is reasonably successful, world production of fishmeal this year should climb 25 percent above the reduced 1973 level to 4.4 million tons. Additional growth in 1975 could bring the total to 5 million tons, or not far off the record 5.3 million produced in 1970. By contrast, the output in 1973 was only 3.5 million tons, the lowest since 1965.

As in the past, most of the output will come from six major producer-exporters—Peru, Norway, South Africa, Chile, Denmark, and Iceland—which together are expected to produce 2.26 million metric tons in 1974. At 51 percent of world production, however, this share is well below the 62-63 percent held at the first of this decade, reflecting Peru's still diminished importance. If Peruvian production increases as expected, their share will probably be back up to around 57 percent next year.

World exports of fishmeal are estimated at over 2.2 million tons for a nearly 49 percent gain from last year's 1.5 million tons. That was the lowest export level since 1961 and had marked bearing on the high world prices for feed ingredients. Exports in 1975 may be as large as 2.7 million tons.

The six producer-exporters shipped almost 80 percent of the world total in 1973 and will likely expand this share to 85 percent in 1974. In earlier years, they accounted for an even greater proportion of world trade.

**E**VEN WITH its much reduced output, Peru in 1973 held the lead position among these countries, with a fishmeal production of 423,000 metric tons and exports of 351,000. During the first 5 months of 1974, Peru managed to surpass its full-year 1973 level, with a fish catch of 2.45 million tons and a fishmeal output of 540,000.

Assuming favorable conditions in the fall—when fishing resumes following the traditional summer halt or "Veda"—the final tally for Peru's 1974 production could be around 1.2 million tons. And with further improvement in the situation, a 1975 output of 1.7 million tons seems reasonable.

Such expansion would lead to fishmeal exports of around 1.1 million tons in 1974 and 1.5 million in 1975.

Regarding fishing conditions, the Peruvian Institute of the Sea recently released results of its May study. These recommended continued care in management of the resource and estimated

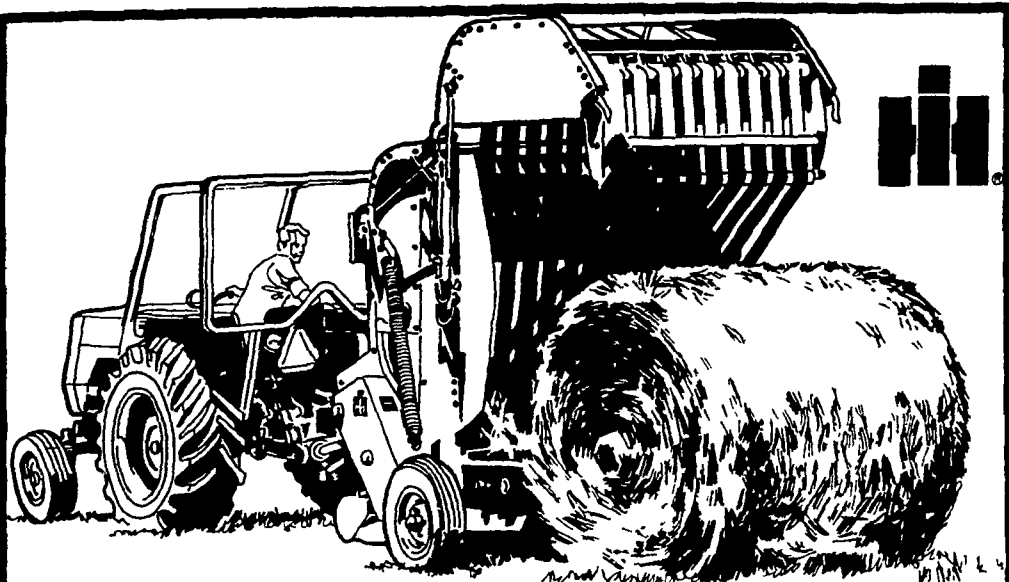
the anchovy stock in the coastal waters at 5 million to 7 million tons—about the same as in November 1973. However, this study follows a 2.45 million-ton harvest, whereas there had been virtually no fishing prior to the November 1973 survey.

Offsetting some of the Peruvian recovery, Norway's fishmeal production in 1974 will fall about 20 percent from the 1973 level to an estimated 280,000 tons and probably remain there through 1975. The anticipated decline reflects increasingly stiff international and national catch restrictions on capelin (a member of the smelt family) and North Sea herring to ward against depletion of these species.

Norwegian exports of fishmeal will decline accordingly, slumping 20 percent to an estimated 260,000 tons in both 1974 and 1975.

South African production (including that of South West Africa) this year

(Continued On Page 25)



Put up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton of hay into one bale

## NEW INTERNATIONAL® 241 BIGROLL BALER

Make bales 5 feet wide, from 2-1/2 to 6 feet in diameter. Here's the way to really save time and labor. Big round bales require much less handling. They're practically weatherproof so you can store them outside with hardly any loss in quality. When you're ready, move them to your feeding area using your tractor loader or 3-pt hitch.

- Bale forming system lets you make bales with low-density centers for

- better curing, minimum spoilage.
- Weather-resistant rubberized nylon conveyor belt operates on an exclusive "tracking system" that makes it nearly impossible to damage belt from mis-alignment.
- Highly efficient 78-inch pickup with narrow teeth spacing, plus strippers, so your fields are picked up clean.
- Smooth-running rubberized nylon bale forming belts quietly roll hay into the bale size you prefer.

"Pay as you bale" financing available, along with complete after-the-sale service.

**C. B. HOOBER & SON**  
INTERCOURSE 786-8231

**R. S. HOLLINGER & SON**  
MOUNTVILLE, PA 285-4538

**MESSICK FARM EQUIP.**  
ELIZABETHTOWN 367-1319

**COPE & WEAVER CO.**  
NEW PROVIDENCE 786-7351

**INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER**  
Sales and Service  
EPHRATA, PA. 733-2283

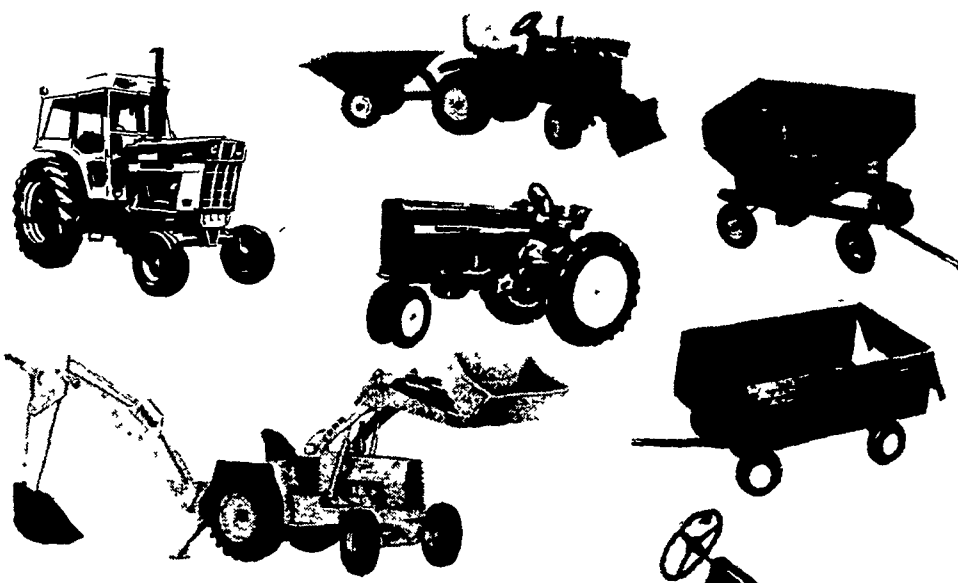
**ERB & HENRY EQUIP. INC.**  
22-26 Henry Ave., New Berlinville, Pa.  
1 Mile North of Boyertown  
Phone: 215-367-2169



## WENGER'S FARM & INDUSTRIAL

# TOY CENTER

TOYS — TOYS and More TOYS



Come In and  
See Our Display

BOYS'  
10-SPEED  
BICYCLES



PEDAL  
TRACTOR  
WITH TRAILER

International —  
John Deere — Ford

IN STOCK  
MANY COLORS \$75.00

MANY SIZES - NEW & USED  
FRONT & REAR TRACTOR TIRES

ANTI-FREEZE AVAILABLE — W-SALE OR RETAIL  
GET YOUR WINTER SUPPLY NOW!

STOP IN OR CALL LARRY - PARTS DEPT.

## WENGER'S FARM MACHINERY

South Race St.  
Myerstown Pa. Ph 717-866-2138