

NOTICE
 Effective Immediately
 The NEW Phone Number of
SHENK'S Farm Service
 RD4, Lititz, PA
 is
626-1151 or 626-5996

Vegetable Summary

Acres for harvest of 14 spring fresh market vegetables is 1 percent larger than the same quarter of 1974. Based on average yields, this would suggest a slightly reduced supply. In addition, a smaller acreage of spring melons implies moderately smaller output. During the winter quarter of this year, heavier domestic fresh vegetable

shipments did not make up for a sharp drop in imports of tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers from Mexico. Domestic shipments of all important fresh vegetables except carrots and celery were heavier with Florida tomatoes showing the greatest gain. Larger stocks of storage onions contributed to this supply, too.

Farm and retail prices for fresh vegetables likely will hold steady to slightly higher in the second quarter. Some seasonal decline is expected in third quarter 1975.

Processed vegetable supplies have been ample this season. The combination of increased packs and some reduction in demand has eased the tight supply position which prevailed for much of 1974. In response to a generally adequate supply picture, processors handling 8 major vegetable crops expect to contract for 3 percent more vegetable acreage in 1975. These 8 vegetables account for about 90 percent of all processed vegetable tonnage. This year there is further expansion of

tomato and pickle cucumber acreage. Under average yield conditions, 3 to 5 percent more vegetables for processing might be expected this coming season. A larger total canned pack is likely for 1975, but freezers may cut back moderately to avoid excessive supplies in 1975-76.

After 2 years of high prices and relatively light market supplies, this year the potato industry is working its way out of a serious oversupply situation. April 1 stocks of 73 million cwt were record large for that date. The spring crop production estimate is down a fourth, but prices to Eastern growers are expected to be generally weak well into the spring quarter. Western Russet Burbank prices have shown recent strength. Growers intend to plant 5 percent less acreage this summer and fall. The sharpest reductions are in Maine, Minnesota, and Idaho.

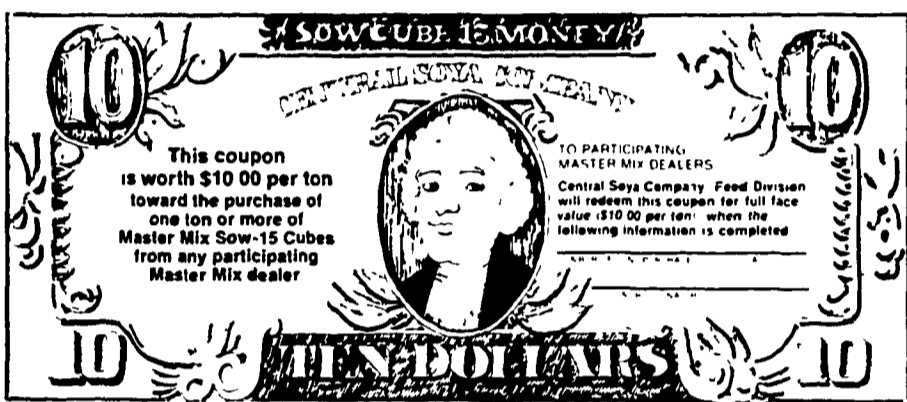
Prospective plantings reported in mid-March show that sweetpotato growers expect to plant 1 percent fewer acres this season. With heavy stocks of canned sweets now on hand,

processors are not likely to use as many this coming season.

With generous supplies of dry beans now on hand, growers' intentions are to plant 8 percent less acreage to dry beans this year. The largest cuts are to come in California where limas and blackeye peas are grown, and in Michigan, the major source of pea beans. These classes are currently in heaviest supply. An 8 percent acreage cut under average yield conditions would still provide more than adequate supplies for the coming season.

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