

*Agriculture analysis***Soybean supplies high**

Soybean supplies will be record large in 1975-76 while utilization may increase only moderately. Consequently, this supply-demand situation will result in a buildup in carryover stocks come next August.

Soybean prices in recent weeks have been feeling the downward push of this year's bumper crop being harvested at a rapid pace. Prices in mid-November for No. 1 yellow soybeans at Chicago were being quoted at about \$4.65 per bushel, compared with around \$5 a month earlier. A year ago, beans were going for around \$7.50 a bushel. Soybean prices received by farmers in 1975-76 are likely to average well below the \$6.50 per bushel received for the 1974 crop.

Large carryin stocks this year and the second largest crop on record are boosting 1975-76 soybean supplies to 1.7 billion bushels, almost a fifth above last year and slightly above the previous high set in 1973-74.

With these larger supplies and significantly lower prices, soybean use probably will increase around a tenth to some 1.3 billion bushels in 1975-76. This would still be below the 1973-74 record of 1.4 billion. A pickup in soybean oil and meal demand may boost crushings to about 750 to 800 million bushels, up from the 701 million of the previous year. As economic conditions improve around the world, soybean exports are expected to increase to about 450 to 500 million bushels, up from the 421 million of last year. This would leave carryover stocks next August somewhere in the 325 to 425 million-bushel range.

With stepped up soybean crushings, both soybean oil and soybean meal supplies are expected to increase. Soybean oil supplies

likely will approach 9 billion pounds, compared with 8.2 billion last year. Domestic disappearance may increase some 5 to 10 percent. Lower soybean oil prices and smaller lard and cottonseed oil supplies should encourage soybean oil use. Exports in 1975-76 may total under last year's 1 billion pounds. Increasing production of foreign commodities, such as Brazilian soybeans and Malaysian palm oil, are expected to provide keen competition for U.S. soybean oil exports.

Soybean oil prices (crude, Decatur) have declined from about 21 cents per pound a month ago to around 19 cents in mid-November. For the 1975-76 season they are expected to average below the 30 cents per pound average of the previous year.

Soybean meal supplies this marketing year are expected to total between 18 and 19 million tons, up from the 17 million of 1974-75. Domestic disappearance may pick up around a tenth. Higher livestock prices have improved feeding margins, encouraging an increase in livestock output and feeding rates. Broiler producers are expanding output and dairy farmers have stepped up grain feeding. Both industries are important users of soybean meal. Meal exports may total only slightly above last season's 4.3 million tons. Brazilian soybeans available in the last half of the current marketing year will be competing in world markets with U.S. soybean meal.

Prices for 44-percent protein soybean meal at Decatur have declined from around \$130 per ton in mid-October to some \$115 by mid-November. Prices for 1975-76 may average near the \$130 per ton of last season. (Stanley H. Gazelle).

**Tobacco stocks increase**

The largest tobacco crop since 1964 is likely to more than replace tobacco used during 1975-76. The marketing year began with carryin stocks in the hands of manufacturers, dealers, and under loan up 2 percent from the 27-year low of a year earlier. The 10 percent larger 1975 crop resulted from 13 percent larger acreage and slightly lower yields. Overall supply is up 5 percent. This season's larger consumption of tobacco for cigarettes is offset by declining exports and increasing imports.

Most of the expansion in tobacco production has been flue-cured, which accounts for over half our domestic consumption and four-fifths of our exports. Flue-cured auction sales closed November 25 and farmers received an average of \$100 per pound, 5 cents less than last year's record.

The burley crop may exceed use this year. However, supplies are still tight and the demand for burley remained strong when auction markets opened on November 24. Burley prices are expected to average

near last season's record of \$1.14 per pound.

The current mixed trend in the use of tobacco products is expected to continue through the first quarter of 1976. The key trends to watch in the next few months are our imports and exports of unmanufactured tobacco. Domestic leaf tobacco prices are high relative to foreign prices. The price support on flue-cured, burley, and other types under support will go up about 13 percent in 1976. However, USDA has reduced by 15 percent the marketing quota for the 1976 flue-cured crop. The burley quota will be announced in January.

Manufacturers of two-thirds of domestic cigarettes increased wholesale prices by 1 to 1½ cents per pack, around 5 percent, in early November.

With the distribution markup, prices may rise 2 to 3 cents per pack for smokers. A similar price rise in November 1974 had little effect on the sale of cigarettes (Richard Hall).

Information from USDA Economic Research Service

**GOD'S NO. 1 FOE**

Lesson for January 11, 1976

**Background Scripture:** Matthew 6:19 through 7:29.  
**Devotional Reading:** Romans 12:9-21.

In the early days of the Federal Bureau of Investigation there was published periodically a list of most-wanted criminals (a practice that still survives in a somewhat modified form). The desperado at the top of the list was designated "Public Enemy No. 1." There was always a sense of great accomplishment whenever this criminal was brought to justice and removed from the list.

**A dubious repute**

The Bible also often reads like a "most-wanted" list of "public enemies." Different enemies occupied the number-one spot from time to time and it would be difficult to determine which of these was the most formidable of God's foes. In the early chapters of Genesis the serpent seems to occupy top-billing in the Bible's "Hall of Infamy." For a while it is the Pharaoh, then the Philistines, followed by the Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians in succession.

In Jesus's day the number-one enemy seems to be the Romans, but a close examination of the Gospels reveals that Jesus was much more concerned about other more subtle and insidious foes. The legalism of the Pharisees was identified as one of God's greatest of all enemies. Jesus attacked the legalistic approach to God, not as a minor distortion of the Hebrew faith, but as a principal alternative to the worship and service of God. The Law had become more important than God himself for many people.

There was, however, another foe whom Jesus attacked with equal vigour and determination. This enemy also had seemed to have become for many people an alternative to religious faith, a substitute for God. Jesus drew the line distinctly in Matthew 6 when he proclaims: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (6:24).

**A matter of priority**

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus calls God's enemy "mammon." Today we would call this same enemy by the name of "materialism." A punster has dubbed this alternative religion "Moneytheism" - the belief in money and material goods as the highest values in life. Jesus was unequivocal: you can't give your life to the pursuit of material things and still maintain that God is first in your life.

Yet, the problem is not that material things are evil - as some religious people have maintained - but that they must always be secondary to spiritual values. We can have both so long as we realize and acknowledge that the

**NOW IS THE TIME...**

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**To Be Careful With Heat Lamps**

Cold weather increases the danger of farm fires because of many additional kinds of supplementary heat units. The portable heat lamp is a very popular source of additional heat in barns, workshops, and maternity quarters. These lamps can be a definite fire hazard if they are not securely fastened and out of the reach of all farm animals. In the past some fires have been traced to the heat lamp being knocked down into the bedding and starting the fire. Also, there is danger of animals being electrocuted if they are able to chew the wires. Be sure the heat lamp is a safe source of extra heat.

**To Manage Livestock Waste**

The proper storage and handling of livestock and poultry manure can result in need for less commercial fertilizer next spring. The fertilizer content of manure will vary depending upon the animal or bird, and on how it has been stored or handled. We urge producers to protect their manure from the weather so that fertilizer elements are not washed into public streams where they may cause more trouble. Water-tight pits for outside storage are worth the investment. Outside manure piles exposed to the weather, without proper holding equipment, means the loss of fertilizer elements and the possibility of stream pollution.

**To Provide Salt and Minerals**

Many herds and flocks are not being given the chance of free access to salt and minerals at all times. We are aware of the ingredients being mixed into the grain ration and in some herds and with some animals this could be sufficient. However, to many others it may not be enough to meet their needs. The placing of loose salt before the animals is strongly recommended; block salt is commonly used, but we are informed by livestock experts that some animals will develop sore tongues before they can get enough salt. Liberal salt consumption increases water consumption that is desirable for efficient milk production or weight gains. Either commercial mineral mixtures or home-mixed minerals can be used to supply calcium and

spiritual is more to be desired than the material: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (6:33).

In the lives of many people, God's number one foe has been and continues to be the subtle, seductive false god of materialism.

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phosphorus. All salt and mineral containers should be inside, or protected from the weather.

**To Observe New Animals Closely**

In this part of the country there is constant traffic of animals to and from farms; some of these may be from sales, shows, or other herds in the area. Regardless of the source, these animals should be segregated from the herd for at least 30 days and observed closely. The "Eye of the Master" is still very important in detecting illness or infection. Prompt treatment will save 90 percent of the cases, while carelessness or delayed treatment could result in severe losses. Every new animal should be regarded as a potential source of infection into the home herd. Extreme care and strict sanitation is suggested.

**xxx**

Two old-timers were having a rather heated discussion in an old folks home. One, however, seemed to be doing most of the talking. This went on for several minutes while the second man waited patiently for an opening to present his side of the argument.

Just when it appeared the first man was about to run down and the second could get in a few words, the one who was talking summed up his argument vehemently, then promptly turned off his hearing aid.

**xxx**

There's nothing like a little experience to upset a theory.

**Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man.**

DANIEL WEBSTER

**Farm Calendar**

**Monday, January 12**  
Manheim Young Farmers meeting at the Manheim Central High School 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 13**  
Ephrata Young farmers meeting on dairy herd management 7:45 p.m. Ephrata High School.

Dairy milking school continues through the 14th - Farm and Home Center 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday, January 14**  
Milking school at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.