

Ears tuned to U.S. corn crop

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "On June 30 and July 12, world attention from such diverse locations as Tokyo, Brussels, London, New Delhi and most certainly Moscow will focus on Washington. The focus will not be because the United States plans to make major foreign policy announcements on those dates - but none of which I am not aware," said Asst.

Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Bell, recently.

"But rather, the focus will be on the Crop Reporting Board of the U.S. Department of Agriculture," he continued. "On June 30, the Board will issue its first reports on the acreage of corn planted in the United States this year. On July 12, the Board will issue its first

official forecast of the 1976 U.S. corn crop.

"Corn has always been the dominant crop in the United States, and during the past several years U.S. corn has also become extremely important to many people living elsewhere in the world.

"The United States will export a record 42 million metric tons - 1.65 billion

bushels - of corn during the current 1975-76 corn marketing year ending next September 30. This will be equivalent to nearly 30 per cent of the record 1975 U.S. corn crop. As a result of the record exports and a 12.5 million metric ton increase in domestic use of corn, the entire 1975 record U.S. corn crop will be utilized during the 1975-76 marketing year.

"We will export about one-third more corn in 1975-76 than we will wheat. Few people are aware of the fact, but this will be the fifth successive year in which the United States has exported more corn than wheat. U.S. wheat and flour exports in 1975-76 are expected to be nearly 33 million metric tons or about 1.2 billion bushels. "The value of U.S. corn

exports in 1975-76 - currently estimated at \$5 billion - will be about the same as the value of our wheat exports and will exceed the export value of our soybeans and soybean products. Together, the export value of our grains and oilseeds and oilseed products amounts to nearly \$15 billion a year.

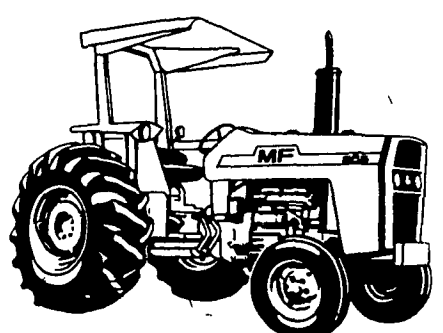
"These three commodities - corn, wheat and soybeans - are three of the United States' greatest foreign exchange earners. The foreign exchange they earn is used to purchase the imports - petroleum, television sets, cameras, small foreign cars, minerals and other raw materials and manufactures - which permit our high standard of living in the United States.

"When it comes to producing and exporting corn, the United States has no peer. We account for about 45 per cent of the world's corn production and over 70 per cent of its corn exports.

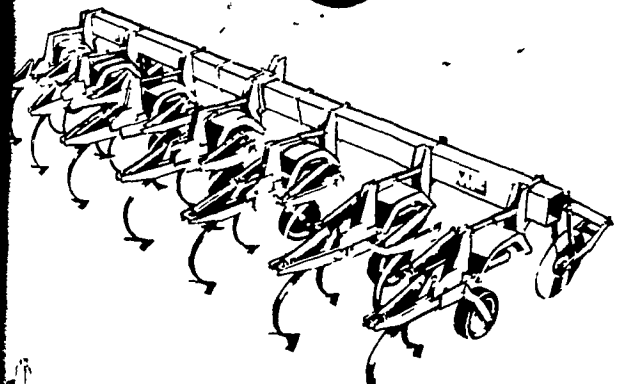
"Last year's record U.S. corn crop of 5.8 billion bushels was equivalent to 146 million metric tons. World corn production in the 1975-76 marketing year was about 319 million metric tons.

"About 58 million metric tons of corn will enter international trade during the 1975-76 marketing year and 42 million tons of it will be from the United States. U.S. corn exports will account for about one-fourth of world trade in all grain - wheat and coarse grains - in 1975-76.

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Peach crop way down

ANNAPOLIS - Maryland's 1976 peach crop is estimated to be some 13 million pounds according to the Crop Reporting Service a cooperating agency with the State Department of Agriculture.

The crop, which was badly damaged by freezing weather in April and May and hail storms in late May and June, will be some 10 million pounds under the 1975 harvest of 23 million pounds. This would make it the smallest since 1972 and the fourth smallest since 1944.

Condition of the crop was surveyed June 1st by the Crop Reporting Service in preparing this year's forecast.

Normally, Maryland's peach crop runs approximately 22 million pounds. Production figures for recent years are: 1975-23 million pounds; 1974 - 22 million pounds; 1973 - 15 million pounds; 1972 - 12½ million pounds; 1971 - 23 million pounds; 1970 - 23 million pounds; 1969 - 22 million pounds.

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