

# Soybean scarcity

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pressures. Prices of beans on the Chicago Futures' Market have jumped 92 cents a bushel since March 25, reflecting a rise in meal prices of more than \$30 per ton since that date.

"UEP feed grains chairman Mike Hirth this week voiced concern that the Red China sale might be the first of many other offers to buy U.S. soybeans. He said reaction to the deal in Western Europe has been one of fear which has prompted almost panic

buying. Additional export sales would seriously affect the already short supply.

"In a telegram to Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland this week, UEP stated: "The egg industry is greatly concerned over soybean meal situation. We urge the Department to take whatever steps necessary to assure domestic livestock and poultry producers of adequate supplies. There's no good protein substitute for soybean meal in chicken feed. Current supply is dangerously low and world demand is skyrocketing price. We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you on this problem."

"According to John Pedersen, former UEP economist, January 1 inventory of soybeans was 18

per cent less than the inventory of the preceding year. He noted that during the first quarter (of the soybean crop-year, September through December) usage was 8 million bushels greater than the previous year. He said indications are that usage did not decline during the second quarter just ended but figures are not yet available.

"The soybean supply is very, very tight right now and could get worse before the new crop begins to arrive," Pedersen said. "The egg industry, and other users, should cut back as much as possible in order to conserve the current supply."

"In Washington, speculation on the possibility of an export embargo is overly optimistic, according to James Fleming. It is most unlikely that President Carter would approve such a proposal even if Secretary Bergland was to recommend it, he said. He based his opinion on the Administration's strong criticism of similar programs by former President Ford and former Secretary Butz. Meanwhile, UEP is seeking an audience with the Secretary to fully apprise him of its members' concern.

The American Soybean Association reports that farmers are turning to other sources of protein as a result of the high prices. Also, farmers are planning on planting more acres into

beans this season with hopes of cashing in on the new price levels.

The phenomenon going on now - which causes some farmers to turn to other soybean sources, and keeps some buyers away altogether - is known as price rationing. Only those who can afford to buy are active in the market. According to USDA Secretary Bob Bergland, it's an effective way of controlling supplies and demand. The same concept was held up by former USDA Secretary Earl Butz.

Soybean handlers and feed dealers in Lancaster Farming's coverage area confirm that a price rationing system has taken effect due to the high costs of beans. One Lebanon County handler noted that his soybean meal sales have dropped by 60 per cent. "Prices are so high that soybean use is being tempered pretty sharply," said Mark Hershey. Prices of soybean meal per hundredweight are running between \$16 and \$17.

A primary reason for the current developments on the soybean market is that soybean prices were too low a year earlier. Farmers responded by cutting back in their acreage. That brought on short supplies and spiraling prices. According to Hershey, it has "upset the balance of things."

"Most beans are in strong hands now, there aren't many on the farm anymore," Hershey continued. Exporters and processors are in control. Speculators have the market.

Attempts by Lancaster

## Sale of building lot must include sewage statement

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Potential homeowners purchasing lots for new homes, as well as land owners should be aware of a recent law relating to on-lot sewage disposal.

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 5376 amended by Act 280 became effective January 31, 1977. It relates specifically to land sales contracts for lots on which septic tanks or other on-lot sewage disposal facilities are contemplated. Basically, any agreement of sale for a lot that will not be served by a community sewage disposal system, must include a statement

indicating that a sewage disposal permit must be obtained from the local municipal agency having jurisdiction. The contract must also advise the buyer that he should contact the local agency for specific information concerning the sewage disposal permit before he signs the contract.

The law indicates that any sales contract that does not conform to these provisions cannot be enforced by the seller against the buyer.

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Staley also markets a molasses-salt-mineral block with Rabon. Rabon, developed by Shell Chemical Co., controls all four major flies-face, horn, house, and stable- by preventing the hatching of larvae in the manure of dairy and beef cattle.

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