

Demand needed, not production soybean group says

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Soybean Association has asked Congress to help create expanded demand for soybeans rather than accept supply proposals that could artificially stimulate soybean production.

"The short-term outlook for soybeans is not as bright as it has been but we strongly believe the free market forces must continue to be the prime determinant of U.S. soybean production and demand," ASA First Vice President Frank Ray, a Baker, Florida, soybean grower, testified at Monday's Senate Agriculture Committee hearing.

"We believe the federal government should expand its market development assistance to help in ASA's efforts to expand world demand for soybeans and soybean products. We feel Congress should avoid 'quick cures' which in the long run will damage the soybean industry and cost taxpayers millions of dollars."

The Senate hearing was called to determine possible

changes in the U.S. farm program as a result of President Carter's embargo of shipments of grain and soybeans to the Soviet Union.

In an effort to boost soybean demand to replace the Soviet market, ASA urged Congress to appropriate an additional \$2 million for USDA funding of soybean market development efforts.

"While the additional \$2 million is no small amount, it is much less than the \$35 million that USDA seems determined to spend on storage payments for a soybean reserve that growers do not want," Ray testified.

"This additional \$2 million combined with the current \$2.8 million simply means that the government will match the \$4.8 million growers invest. Expanded international markets for soybeans and soybean products are the best insurance against price declines in the future and we urge USDA to increase its assistance in developing those markets."

ASA also requested Congress to expand direct Commodity Credit Corporation export credits program beyond the \$800 million authorized in the current fiscal year.

"The direct CCC export credit program has been an important tool in expanding foreign markets without any net cost to U.S. taxpayers," Ray said.

"Yet, no additional direct loans have been authorized in the current fiscal year and the president's FY1981 budget calls for the elimination of such loans in lieu of a less effective loan guarantee program. It makes little sense to soybean growers for the federal government to cut back funding for a money-making loan program at a time when the need to expand foreign markets is greatest."

In its testimony, ASA asked Congress to determine why the administration had failed to implement intermediate-term credit provisions authorized by the Agricultural Trade Expansion Act of 1978.

These loans would be used in key importing countries for construction of facilities that would enhance agricultural imports.

ASA's Ray said the organization supports Senator Herman Talmadge's resolution that would allow soybean producers not complying with the 1979 feed grain set-aside to be eligible to participate in the soybean loan program.

"ASA in January asked Secretary Bergland to eliminate this cross-compliance provision," Ray said.

"To date, however, the Department of Agriculture has not chosen to take this step in providing soybean producers with an important marketing tool.

"ASA believes removal of the cross-compliance provision is justified because soybean producers should not be penalized by overproduction in the feed grain sector. Removal of this provision would allow thousands of soybean growers to obtain needed financing while maintaining marketing control over their soybeans."

The soybean association repeated its opposition to both a federally-financed soybean reserve program and a high soybean loan rate.

"ASA strongly opposed the establishment of a soybean reserve program similar to those in effect for feed grains and wheats," Ray told the Senators.

"ASA is convinced such a reserve program is neither justified by current market conditions nor would it provide any long-term benefits to soybean producers. In fact, we believe a reserve program would distort normal soybean production and marketing and result in increased soybean production in the U.S. and around the world.

"We also oppose any increase in the soybean loan rate. We feel the current \$4.50 level is sufficient to provide soybean producers with sufficient capital to cover the current out-of-pocket expenses for their 1980 crop. A higher loan rate, as proposed by Senator McGovern, would stimulate overproduction and allow our foreign competitors to undersell U.S. soybeans."

Window shades cut energy costs

MEDIA — The U.S. Department of Energy claims that windows are the second worst squanderers of energy in the home, says Greta C. Vairo, Extension Home Economist with the Penn State Extension Service.

Air infiltrates homes through cracks in loose-fitting windows. Caulking and weatherstripping helps, but glass is an excellent conductor of heat, so warm air is easily transmitted through windowpanes.

Tests have demonstrated that window shades, properly installed and used, can slash energy consumption and fuel costs, they add a handsome decorative touch while cutting heat loss in winter and shutting out hot sun in summer. Window shades available today are attractive as well as practical and can be used as an alternative to draperies.

Window shade fabrics vary widely in texture, from sheer to translucent to opaque. Colors and patterns are almost unlimited.

If you want window shades to match draperies or wallpaper, they can be laminated with the same fabric or paper. There are also shades that are color-coordinated with paint. Roman or bamboo shades add to variety. The type of window and the desired decorating effect will determine the shade and mounting you choose.

Brackets are available to pull window shades down from the back of the roller, or from the front. There are also ceiling brackets and brackets that can be installed at the floor or sill level and operate on pulley cords. These would provide privacy and control sunlight and fresh air as needed.

For maximum energy-

saving performance, window shades should be installed properly. The shades should be inside the window frame and about one inch from the glass. This forms an effective barrier between the glass and the shade.

To get the tightest seal and to create the best blocking deflection, the gap between the vertical edge and the window frame should be very narrow.



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