

Ag exports projected at \$40 billion this year

LANCASTER — With U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1980 now expected to hit \$40 billion, the agricultural trade surplus will increase by over 40 percent from last year to over \$22 billion.

This price strength in export markets will carry over into fiscal 1981; and with export volume likely to hold firm, the export value may reach \$40 to \$45 billion. With imports of \$17 to \$19 billion, the agricultural trade surplus will almost

certainly approach \$25 billion.

Fiscal 1981 export volume may be marginally above this year's 162 million tons. Feed grain shipments are expected to about equal the this year's 71 million tons and wheat shipments may increase nearly two million to over 39 million tons.

Small grains are forecast for rice and tobacco. Soybean, cotton, and vegetable oil exports may decline.

Although it is still early to forecast fiscal 1981 exports precisely, a number of factors are critical in this assessment:

Weather developments that will heavily influence not only the maturing Northern Hemisphere crops, but the as yet unplanted crops in the Southern Hemisphere.

Reduced supplies from most major competing grain exporters in 1980-81.

A ½ percent expansion in livestock production in our feedstuffs markets, requiring increased imports.

Slow economic growth in most major markets that may limit the growth in demand for U.S. farm products for most of fiscal 1981.

Relatively little growth in agricultural production in the lower income developing countries.

As of August 1, U.S. crops are sharply below last year's level because of drought, and export supplies appear relatively tight, especially for cotton and feed grains. During the first nine

months (October through June) of fiscal 1980, the value of U.S. farm exports increased 30 percent over a year earlier to \$31 billion.

Exports are now expected to reach \$40 billion this year, up \$8 billion from fiscal 1979. This figure is \$2 billion above the May estimate as a result of the continued record pace of grain, soybean, and cotton shipments throughout the third quarter, and the expectation of continued seasonal strength in these commodities through year's end.

Export volume is expected to increase 19 percent with export price increases,

adding an additional six percent to the total value.

The value of agricultural imports for fiscal 1980 shows significant increases over last year for wines, vegetables, sugar, and coffee. Imports of cocoa beans are down sharply. Meat imports are also down substantially.

The value of fiscal 1981 imports is expected to increase only slightly from the current year's forecast of \$17.5 billion. The increase will be concentrated in meats, fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Imports of sugar and coffee will likely remain close to this year's levels.



Clyde Watts, first vice president of the Baron Stiegel Lions Club presents check to FFA members to help cover judging trip expenses. From left are Dean Long, Steve Smith, Marvin Horst, Judy Zimmerman, Curtis Martin and Tim High. Donald Good, also honored, was not present at the meeting.

Lions Club celebrates annual farmers night

BRICKERVILLE — The Baron Stiegel Lions Club celebrated their annual Farmers Night last Thursday evening at the Brickerville Fire Hall.

Guests of honor included Warwick and Ephrata FFA

members who won out of state judging trips this year.

The Clay and Elizabeth Townships Lions treated the seven outstanding FFA members to a family style dinner and a check to help cover some of their state judging trip expenses.

The recipients were: Tim High, R2 Ephrata; Marvin Horst, Akron Rd., Ephrata; Steve Smith, R2 Denver; Judy Zimmerman, R1 Ephrata; Curtis Martin, R1 Ephrata; Donald Good, R2 Ephrata, all of Ephrata High School; and Warwick's Dean Long, Lititz.

Other guests included Miss Sonia Shaner, Vo-ag teacher at Warwick High School and Rick Pfautz, President of the Ephrata Area Adult Farmers Association.

Other farmer guests and the newly formed Lions Club were also in attendance.

Zone Chairman John Buchter introduced District Governor of 14D, Thomas Parry who presented a message on "Motivation". Past President Clyde Watts was in charge of the dinner meeting and made the presentation.

Penn National Horse Show opens October 18

HARRISBURG — The 35th annual Pennsylvania National Horse Show opens Saturday, October 18 and runs through Saturday, October 25 at the State Farm Show Arena.

According to Pennsylvania National Horse Show Association President James W. Hagar, this is one of the largest horse shows in North America. More than 1000 horses and riders from throughout the country are expected to compete for over \$60,000 in prize money and trophies.

Headlining this year's exhibition will be daily performances of the Fort Sill Field Artillery Half Section. This unique attraction consists of a World War I vintage cannon, caisson and team.

Many other special show features are scheduled, too. These included jousting, a polo exhibition, ladies barrel racing, the U.S. Park Police "Musical Ride" and a carriage obstacle course race.

Jumping competition will

be held nightly, with the Grand Prix de Penn National set for closing Saturday, October 25. Several national riding championships will also be decided during the show.

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show is a benefit for the Kiwanis Youth Foundation, Inc. Tickets are available by calling 1-800-932-0793 or, in the Harrisburg area, 233-1335.

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