

China sees soybeans in new light

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The People's Republic of China is seeing soybeans in a new light as it updates its food industries. After 30 years of isolation, China is learning new technology for soybeans, a food source centuries old.

China needs a nutritional, adequate food supply to support its population. More than one-fifth of the world's people call China home, and more than one-third of those people are under age 15. With a high birth rate and long life expectancy, China's population of one billion is projected to grow by 400 million by the year 2000.

China was one of the first countries to discover the soybean. Centuries ago, China began using soybeans as food. While China isolated itself, technicians and researchers in other countries discovered the soybean and developed new processing techniques and food uses for it.

Dr. Joseph Rakosky sheds light on modern soybean use. He is a soy protein consultant for the American Soybean Association (ASA). ASA builds farmer profits by developing markets for soybeans.

Rakosky traveled to China recently for ASA to relate U.S. soybean developments to the Chinese. "It is in our best interest

to work with the Chinese to increase soy use in foods," Rakosky says. "China is a country with a land problem; tillable land on which to grow food for so many people is scarce. Agriculture claims almost 249 million acres, or about a quarter of an acre per person. Japan has more than twice as much cultivated land per capita, India three-and-a-half times as much and even Bangladesh and Indonesia are marginally better off. China buys only limited quantities of U.S. soybeans now, but land limitations mean it will have to import more soybeans to meet future demand."

He adds, "China sees soy as a food solution. Processors want to use it as protein in infant and baby foods, in foods for the elderly, and in snack, convenience and frozen foods."

"They have a lot of interest in soymilk. China has a short supply of cow's milk. The government gives it only to very young children and people who medically need it. China has some soymilk production, but soymilk lacks consumer popularity. Processors need modern flavoring and processing techniques to mass produce and appealing product."

During Rakosky's three-week trip he held technical seminars on

soybean processing, soy protein and soy foods. He toured and answered questions at processing plants in Beijing, Harbin, Shanghai, and Wuxi.

"Overall, the Chinese have a lot of catching up to do," says Rakosky. "Typical of developing countries, they want to make everything themselves. I tell them they don't need to make their own mistakes to learn. The U.S. soybean industry can supply them with raw soybeans and protein products. It is to both of our advantages."

HE observes that China's soy processing industries need better communication between each other and with government ministries.

"Sometimes the right hand doesn't know what the left hand needs," Rakosky says. "Suppliers and users don't have the same quality specifications for product materials. Some users manufacture their own raw supplies because what the suppliers give to them isn't good enough to make their product."

Rakosky recommends aggressive marketing of new products. "The Chinese make new products and put them on the grocery shelf... and that's it.

Consumers must take all initiative in trying them. Many soy products would fare better if people knew they were buying high protein nutritious food."

Rakosky gives China high marks for industry improvement. "The Chinese want their soy industry to grow," he says. "They are very proud of quality and recognize soy food value. The Chinese food

processors are learning very fast and building model plants.

"China is not looking for a handout. They will pay for this technical exchange one way or another," predicts Rakosky. "We may not have orders for U.S. soybeans yet, but China is going to outgrow its soybean supply; and U.S. soybean farmers will be there to fill the soybean void."

Welsh family

(Continued from Page E24)

Swiss to dot the Welsh's Holstein herd with brown, but the first as well to go to Farm Show competition under the Ponderosa sign.

Since Abigail's acquisition, the family's collection of Swiss has steadily grown through breeding and additional purchases.

But tragedy struck in March 1982, when a fire swept through part of the dairy replacement raising area, killing ten calves, most of them offspring of 4-H cattle families. Among the ten lost to the flames were four top Brown Swiss.

A large percentage of heifer calves born this past year has helped to compensate for the tragic loss and swelled Mike's own herd of Swiss to 18.

"Someday I'd like to merchandise them," says the veteran dairy exhibitor, a sophomore at the York County Vo-Technical school, pursuing studies in woodworking and cabinetry.

In the ten years since the Welsh family has been increasing their Swiss entries in Farm Show competition, they've seen the breed grow in popularity.

"There's a lot more competition in this breed now than there was when we first began showing them," says Emilie.

Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association president Don Trumble confirms that view.

"The most dramatic increase has been in the last couple of years," affirms the Quarryville Swiss leader. "Dairy farmers are adding them to their herds to boost butterfat and protein, and there are a few more showing."

Trimble figures the trend toward colored breeds in general will continue, boosted by industry moves toward replacing the butterfat pricing standard with one of component or protein pricing.

There are currently about 300 Brown Swiss organization members in Pennsylvania, according to state secretary Audrey Queitzsch of Mifflintown.

"In 1982, there were about 60 new Brown Swiss breeders in Pennsylvania," she says. "Our goal for 1984 is to sign up those new breeders as association members."

Most of those are dairymen adding Swiss to their herds of Holsteins, with the goal of boosting their protein, solids and butterfat. Pennsylvania, Iowa and Wisconsin now are the three predominant centers of Brown Swiss, according to the secretary.

So the trend toward increasing numbers of Swiss, like the outstanding herd being bred by Mike Welsh, can bode only good news for the merchandisers of these gentle, big, brown cows.

Order 4 reg changed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has suspended certain provisions of the Middle Atlantic federal milk

marketing order for December 1983 through February 1984.

Edward T. Coughlin, dairy official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the action suspends the requirement that limits diversions of milk directly from dairy farms to nonpool plants. He said Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative requested the suspension.

Basis for the action is the anticipated change from pool to nonpool status of three distributing plants associated with the market. These plants, which are outlets for a significant proportion of Inter-

State's milk supply, have increased their Class II uses of milk while their Class I sales have remained constant or declined.

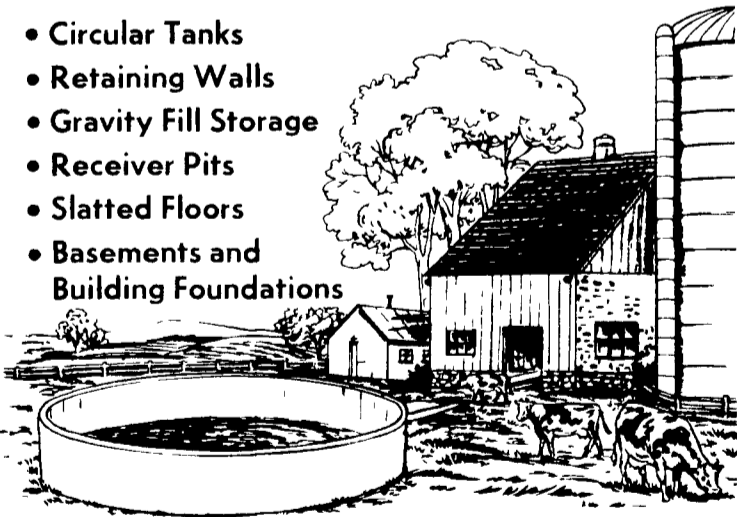
Coughlin said that this situation could result in increasing Inter-State's diversions above the limits of the order. No comments opposing the suspension were received by AMS during a recently ended public comment period and two other cooperative associations expressed support for it.



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