

Wheat exports

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retain soil moisture, they are experimenting with snow management in which straw or stubble are left on the fields to catch snow. When the snow melts, moisture is retained in the soil, Goodloe explains.

Canada's ability to expand planted area, combined with improved soil management practices and better wheat varieties, means more export competition for U.S. wheat farmers. Goodloe believes Canadian exports will probably continue to increase slowly but steadily through the next 10 years. Also

available to Canadian farmers is their centralized selling agency, the Canadian Wheat Board, which will continue to try and make long-term sales arrangements to ensure farmers a constant export market.

Europe: Aiming for High Production

The European Community (EC) has experienced consistent growth in production and exports for over 20 years. This season is no exception. Recordbreaking 1984 production reached nearly 2.8 billion bushels, with about 995 million bushels available for export.

EC wheat—produced mostly in France, the United Kingdom, West Germany and Italy—is an example of high-intensity farming where

inputs are poured on to deliver the best yield of all major wheat exporters—about 80 bushels per acre, more than double the U.S. yield. "EC wheat farmers may fertilize their crop up to five times a year," says Ron Trostle, another USDA economist. And, to top it off, the EC can generally count on good weather for growing wheat.

Trostle points out that high yields and the EC's place as the second largest exporter are only side effects of a domestically oriented agricultural policy. "The EC provides high prices to support the incomes of the typical small-sized farms. In response to the high prices, farms produce more wheat than Europe consumes, and this leads to exports," he says.

"But the exports are only incidental to their agricultural policy."

Even if EC exports are merely the end result of income support policy, they still cause problems, and competition, for U.S. farmers. "Unless there's an unforeseeable change in the world wheat market, yields will continue to rise about two percent per year in the EC. Because population growth is only three-tenths of 1 percent per year and wheat is already used heavily as livestock feed, the demand within the EC cannot be expected to grow. Thus, increasing yields will probably mean increasing exports," Trostle says.

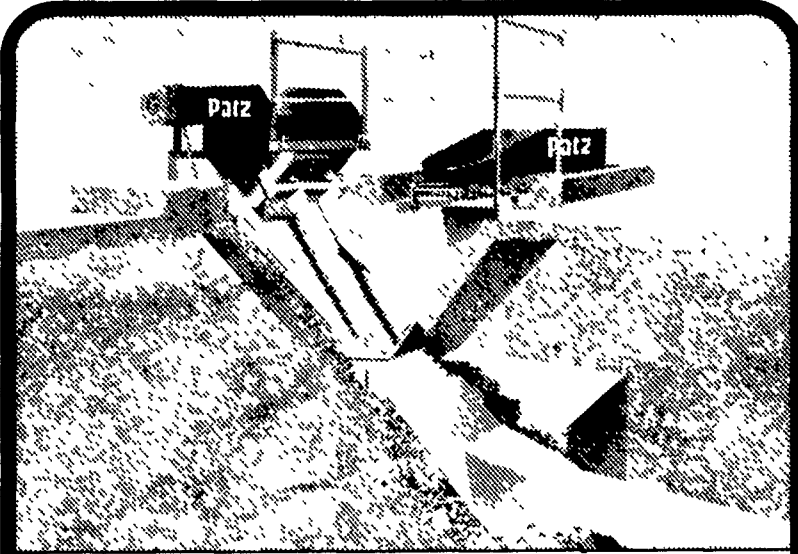
And more export competition for U.S. farmers.

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Tons of hazardous pesticides, paints, cleaners and solvents stored in basements and garages may be the country's biggest hidden pollution problem, says International Wildlife magazine. A regional government agency in Seattle estimates there are more than 100,000 pounds of the banned pesticide DDT stored in the Seattle suburbs alone. Some 25 states are setting up toxic waste collection points to help combat this problem

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Where you place birdseed for wild birds can be just as important as what you place in the feeder, says National Wildlife magazine. Cardinals, for instance, seem to prefer a tabletop on which to eat sunflower seeds in the shell, while mourning doves fancy eating sunflower seeds off the ground.



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