

## ASA attacks European trade barriers

ST. LOUIS, MO — The European Community's (EC) plans to implement restrictions on imports and consumption of U.S. soybeans and products in Spain and Portugal could eventually destroy one-fourth of the entire U.S. export market for soybeans, according to soybean farmer leaders. These restrictions are set to be imposed March 1st.

"EC representatives recently informed American Soybean Association (ASA) farmer leaders,

currently on a trade policy mission in Europe that U.S. government officials in Washington appear unconcerned about these restrictions," said George Fluegel, ASA president and LeRoy, IL, soybean farmer. "Failure by our government to act decisively now could lead to similar restrictions throughout the EC, thus jeopardizing a \$3.5 billion U.S. soybean export market."

In a telegram to President

Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Schultz, U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter, other Administration officials and various members of Congress, Fluegel and Jack Reed, chairman of the National Soybean Processors Association, strongly stressed the need for immediate U.S. action.

The planned restrictions in Portugal could limit soybean imports to about 400,000 tonnes, significantly below the 750,000 tonnes of soybeans estimated to be

imported by Portugal this year. Internal soybean oil consumption would also be restricted and would not be able to exceed 40,000 tonnes, down almost 25 pct from the 55,000 tonnes of soybean oil currently being consumed by the Portuguese.

These restrictions are being imposed by Portugal under pressure from the EC as part of the adjustments Portugal must undertake to become a member in the EC. This would make Portugal more "equal" with Spain, who already has consumption quotas on soybean oil in place. Spain is also becoming a member of the EC.

Fluegel said the EC is taking this

action without consultation with the U.S. as required by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). He said this is a blatant violation of the zero-duty binding negotiated in 1962, the largest single trade concession ever received by the U.S. through GATT.

"It is absolutely imperative that the U.S. government take strong immediate action to prevent European soybean restrictions," said Fluegel. "I urged President Reagan to tell the EC in strongest terms that retaliation is certain if they continue their present course. The future of our nation's 450,000 soybean farmers is at stake."

## Mid-Atlantic Soybean unit slates March 10 meeting

DOVER, DE. — The Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association will hold its annual meeting Monday, March 10, at the Sheraton Inn in Dover, Del. All soybean farmers in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are urged to attend.

"This meeting is a great way to stay current on issues which affect soybean farmers, and to learn how your checkoff funds support market expansion programs," says Hank Spies, president of the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association.

At the meeting, Stan Compton — American Soybean Development Foundation president and Larned, Kan., soybean farmer — will speak on how soybean checkoff funds build markets around the world.

In addition to Compton, also on the program is Dr. William Kenworthy, associate professor of agronomy at the University of Maryland. He will speak on how research on wild soybean varieties native to Australia can improve Mid-Atlantic soybean yields.

William Otto, Dean Witter associate vice president — futures, will provide an outlook on the 1986 soybean market.

The women's program will feature Dr. Deloras Dixon, a participant in the USDA Women in Agriculture Asian Study Mission, and Bobbie Hinman, who will demonstrate cooking with tofu.

That evening, there will be a banquet to recognize individuals who have made a special contribution to the Mid-Atlantic soybean industry.

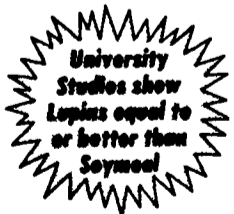
Meeting registration and industry exhibits open at 2:00 p.m. The program begins at 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration for the meeting and the banquet is encouraged, although not required. There is no registration fee for the meeting. There is a \$10.00 per person fee for the banquet.

To register for the annual meeting, or for more information, contact Jerry Kennedy, Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association, 301/742-9500.

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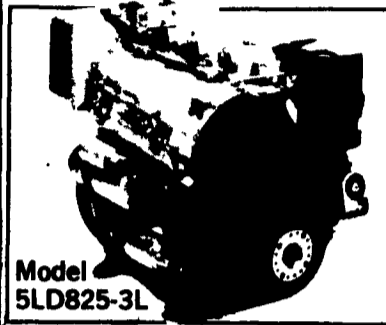
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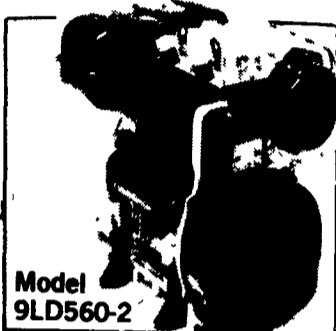


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