

Economist Looks At Soybean Market

NEWARK, Del. — Last season, soybean producers had to be vigilant to make a profit on their crops, according to Carl German, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension grain marketing specialist. Next year promises to be no different.

"Marketing the upcoming 1993-94 soybean crop presents the challenge of the decade for Delaware producers," said German. "The seed isn't even in the ground yet, but making a profit will depend on planning today and watchful calculation throughout the season."

Since contract trading for the 1993 crop began, the new-crop soybean futures prices has fluctuated from a low of \$5.55 to a high of \$6.20 per bushel. The soybean marketing year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.

"Soybean price highs for the current marketing year have been short-lived and occurred before last fall's U.S. soybean yields firmed up at 2.197 billion bushels," German said. "When the

total harvest was confirmed, both old-crop and new-crop futures dropped to life-of-contract lows. Prices are currently finding support at \$5.80 to \$5.85 a bushel."

The marketing specialist sees several similarities between the 1992-1993 and the projected 1993-1994 marketing years. Production levels are likely to be the same, barring major shortfalls because of weather or pest infestations, with only slight shifts between corn and soybean acres planted nationally.

"Current demand levels are not expected to fluctuate much for the remainder of 1992-1993," said German, "but there is a rumor that China may be buying soybeans from the United States. This could cause upward movement in the price. Any increase in demand should prove price-positive."

Production cost estimates for the coming years are also comparable to last year's. The average variable production cost per acre of soybeans is estimated at \$115; the typical per-acre fixed production cost is \$200. Based on an average yield of 30 bushels per acre, producers will have to achieve a minimum sales price of \$3.83 just to cover variable expenses. A maximum sales price of \$6.67 a bushel is required to meet both variable and fixed costs before producers can make a profit.

"Considering the similarities between last year and the current marketing year, Delaware producers would be wise to book initial new crop sales at the \$6 futures price level or better," German said. "Old-crop beans still in storage should be kept until summer."

Lebanon Ag Land Board Purchases Rights

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.)—The Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved a North Annville farm forever.

The 201 acre farm is owned by Anna E. Bomgardner. Administered by the Lebanon County Conservation District, the program has now preserved 429.69 acres of farmland in the county.

Total purchase price for the Bomgardner conservation easement was \$206,000, for which 76.99 percent was provided by the state and 23.01 percent by Lebanon County. The Bomgardner farm is a crop and dairy operation.

Two other farms representing 227.6 acres have accepted the


Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board's offer. Their preservation is pending approval from the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

Applicants interested in preserving farmland are invited to make an appointment with the Lebanon County Conservation District, 2120 Cornwall Road, Suite 5, Lebanon 17042-9788 or call 272-3377.

Applications received before April 30, 1993 will be considered by the board for acceptance at its May 20, 1993 public meeting.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Lebanon Valley Agricultural Center, 2120 Cornwall Road, Rooms 2A, B and C.

Pennsylvania PRV HEADLINES



A bi-weekly communication from PA Pseudorabies Committee and Penn State Extension to alert you to developments in PRV and its control

CLEANING UP PSEUDORABIES

**Amy J. Nesselrodt, DVM
USDA, APHIS
Veterinary Services**

Once a herd is diagnosed with Pseudorabies Virus (PRV), it is quarantined to monitor movement of hogs with this highly contagious disease.

The first logical step in the process of eliminating PRV from the herd and getting off quarantine is to develop what is known as a clean-up plan. This is simply the producers individual road map detailing how he plans to eliminate the disease from his herd.

A secondary and perhaps a more important benefit of removing PRV is that the producer will develop a healthier and more profitable herd in the process. A herd plan is a team effort between the producer, his private practitioner, and the federal veterinarian.

The process usually begins with a meeting between the producer and federal veterinarian. The producer will be asked questions concerning his current management and biosecurity practices, his herd health program and herd health status, his facilities, and his concerns. By putting all these pieces of information together, a plan can be developed which will not only remove PRV from the herd but will work best with the producers current goals and management scheme.

Adjustments in the management, which help to eliminate PRV and other diseases or stresses, will be suggested. The herd plan will have information on the type of herd, a projected start and end date,

the vaccination program, the testing schedule, and any biosecurity measures used to prevent spread of disease.

There are several basic types of herd plans to choose from, according to the Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI) system of classification. They are immediate test and removal (with or without vaccination), phased test and removal (with or without vaccination), and immediate or delayed offspring segregation (again, with or without vaccination). Choice of plan will depend on the individual situation, and the generic plan will be adapted accordingly.

A form of phased test and removal with vaccination is the type of herd plan most often selected in Pennsylvania because it creates minimal disruption to the animal flow. The idea behind all herd plans is to develop and maintain a negative population of hogs and use these negative animals to gradually turn the herd.

Once the herd plan is written, it must be signed by all three team players (producer, herd veterinarian, and federal veterinarian) before it is approved and considered official. After the herd plan is approved, the producer qualifies for testing, which will be done by his practitioner and paid for by the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council (contact a federal veterinarian for more details on this).

The herd plan is dynamic and is

constantly being updated in response to changes within the herd. These changes are also part of the team effort. The progress of a herd plan is best determined by monitoring the disease prevalence of the herd by blood testing. If the prevalence is steadily declining, then progress is being made toward the goal of a clean herd. The herd plan should be reevaluated if the number of positives in the herd does not decline.

A successful herd plan depends on a combination of flexibility, realism, good management, and adaptability. A dash of optimism is also helpful! Herd plans can and do work because they serve to remind us of the importance of biosecurity and other general disease prevention techniques. Herd plans are well worth the effort, because the end result is a healthier and more profitable herd.

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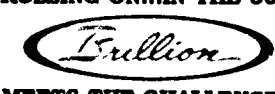
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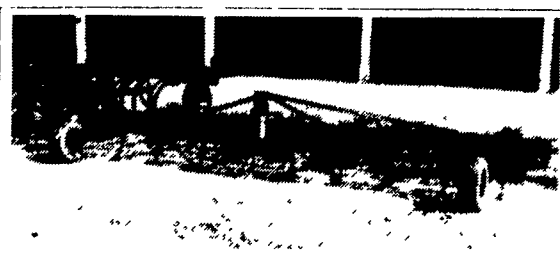
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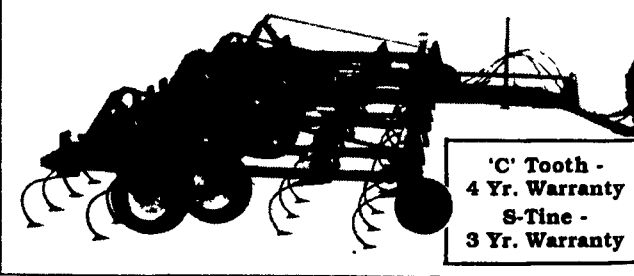


Brillion 3 PT. BASKET HARROWS



Brillion has designed a 3 pt. S-Tine field cultivator with a larger, aggressively angled 12" diameter rolling basket, a 4-bar frame that allows for either 4" or 6" tooth spacing and an adjustable leveler bar in 12', 15' and 18' sizes. The distance between the four bars has been increased for the best trash flow in the industry. Gauge wheels are optional.

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The "heart" of any field cultivator is the shank pivot point. A "bulked up" shank bracket made of cast ductile iron instead of the usual formed steel bracket, incorporated a hardened steel bushing AND a zerk grease fitting to lubricate the pivot point to reduce wear. The result is thousands of acres of extended life of the shanks.

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