

How To Export 50 Billion Corn Bushels

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Plymouth colonists quickly learned from the Native Americans to communicate about the value of corn, setting the stage for domestic trade.

"...Plymouth settlers began to praise corn as more precious than silver, and those that had some to spare began to trade with another for small things by the quarts, etc., for money they had none... By 1624 they had enough surplus to sail a shalop (small ship) loaded

with corn North to the Kennebec River Settlement of Maine, where they traded the cargo for seven hundred pounds of beaver furs." (Hardeman, 1981)

Exports Short Colonists

Once domestic trade was firmly established, exporting corn began in earnest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began record keeping in 1867, and it is likely that the first recorded exports went to Caribbean countries and English colonies. It took 22

years to export the first billion bushels of corn; the 10-billion bushel mark was reached in 1967. Since the U.S. Feed Grains Council was formed in 1960, over 43.4-billion bushels of corn have been exported.

Corn As A Feed Grain Export

Although the council was not established until 1960, the concept of developing export markets for corn as a feed grain may have been imagined much earlier.

"Though corn was by far



CORN TALK NEWS

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the greater crop (than wheat), most of it was marketed in the form of animals and dairy products. Old World peoples did not appreciate the value of corn as a food for human beings, and they grew most of their own food crops for livestock. Therefore, corn did not enter into the exports from America in such large proportions... as did wheat.

"As the statistician for the Commissioner of Agriculture said in 1868, the farmer exported only ten bushels of corn out of a thousand he grew, got two dollars for it (the 10 bushels), and the cost of shipping it from the Prairies to Europe was the price of thirty bushels. Consequently, a crop so exhausting to the soil ought to be kept at home." (Shannon,

1945)

Today, USDA figures indicate that corn exports are about 28 percent of the crop, with value-added products using 2.5 percent more. The United States has become the world's dominant exporter of corn, a success that has come through production and market development. The council has enhanced these successes and is pleased to host the 50-Billionth Bushel Jubilee as a modern-day effort to educate others about the importance of the export market.

For more information about the 50-Billionth Bushel Jubilee, contact the U.S. Feed Grains Council, 1400 K St., NW, Suite 1200, Washington, D.C., 20005, (202) 789-0789.

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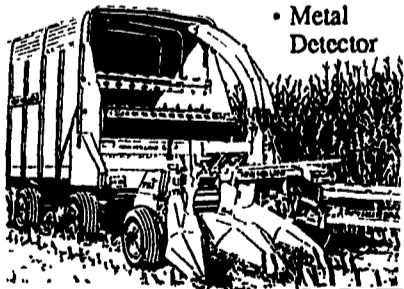
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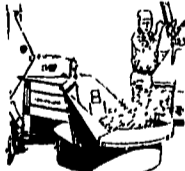
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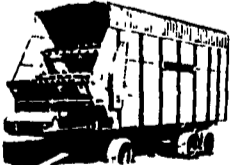
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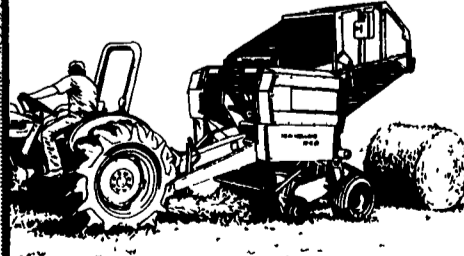


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