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Oil Crops Outlook

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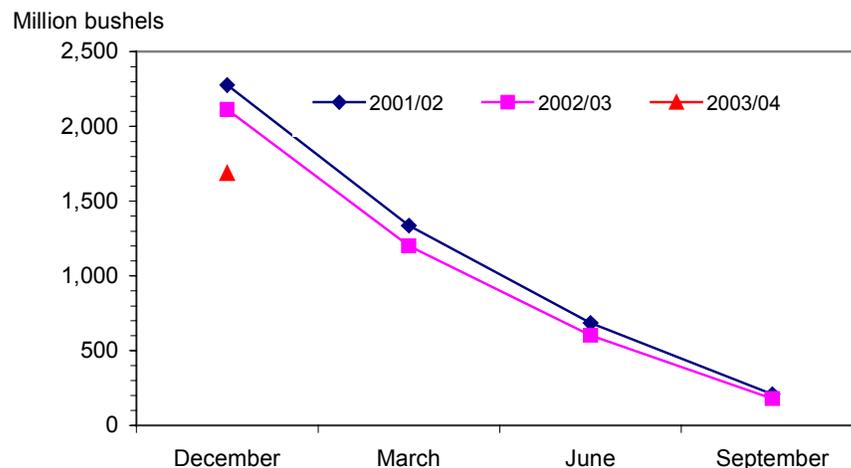
Fewer Soybeans, Buoyant Export Pace Expected To Cut 2003/04 Domestic Crushing

Downward revisions in U.S. soybean acreage and yield cut the 2003 production estimate by 34 million bushels to 2,418 million. Based on already brisk shipments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) raised the 2003/04 soybean export forecast this month from 890 million to 900 million bushels. However, a tighter December 1 stock level led to a cut in the 2003/04 domestic crush forecast from 1,485 million to 1,455 million bushels.

There was no change this month to the Argentine soybean production forecast of 36.5 million tons, although sunflowerseed output was lowered from 3.3 million to 3.0 million metric tons based on a lower yield forecast. Strong purchases raised the forecast of China's 2003/04 soybean imports from 22.0 million to 23.0 million tons this month.

Figure 1

U.S. soybean stocks drop with smaller harvest, strong fall demand



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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Feb. 13, 2004

Approved by the
World Agricultural
Outlook Board.

U.S. Soybean Stocks Plunge Following Disappointing Harvest and Steady Demand

The final 2003 estimate of U.S. soybean planted acreage was revised to 73.4 million acres (down by 181,000 from the previous estimate) while the harvested acreage was reduced to 72.3 million acres (down 217,000 acres). The primary reduction was for Illinois, where harvested area was revised down by 100,000 acres. Yields were also reduced for several States, principally Iowa, Ohio, and South Dakota. The 2003 national average soybean yield fell to 33.4 bushels per acre from the previous estimate of 33.8 bushels and 38.0 bushels in 2002. All of the changes cut the 2003 soybean production estimate by 34 million bushels to 2,418 million.

Part of the crop reduction was offset by a 9-million-bushel upward revision of September 1 soybean stocks to 178 million bushels. As of December 1, U.S. stocks had dropped to 1,686 million bushels from a year earlier because of a smaller carryover and 2003 harvest. The inventory was down 427 million bushels from 2002 and the lowest December stocks since 1993. That fact will compel a slowdown in the rate of soybean consumption, which appears to have already started about mid-December.

Through January 8, cumulative 2003/04 export inspections for soybeans have set a record pace of 528 million bushels and exceed last year's shipment by 26 million bushels. Virtually all of that acceleration in shipments is due to greater trade with China. Based on that brisk commerce, USDA raised the 2003/04 soybean export forecast this month from 890 million to 900 million bushels. However, new export sales of soybeans have stalled in recent weeks and are unlikely to regain much momentum. Given the heavy volume of deliveries already made, it will require a sharp curtailment of sales and shipments to manage the soybean supply from now on. Current soybean export sales to the European Union (the most important foreign market after China) illustrate this trend with a nearly 20-percent decline against last year.

Domestic processors have also contributed to the reduction of soybean stocks. Their margins benefited from contracting forward sales of soybeans last summer at comparatively modest prices and the

strong current values for soybean meal and soybean oil. For the first quarter of 2003/04, crushing was up slightly (by 2 million bushels) over the previous year. But, the already steep decline of domestic stocks and upward march of soybean prices since last summer will make it impossible for processors to sustain such a pace during the remaining three quarters. This month, the 2003/04 domestic crush forecast was cut from 1,485 million to 1,455 million bushels.

Despite the smaller supply and larger expected soybean exports, the decreases in the crush and residual forecasts left the 2003/04 ending stocks forecast unchanged at a minimal 125 million bushels. The current forecast range for the U.S. average farm price was narrowed to \$6.90-\$7.60 per bushel from \$6.85-\$7.65 last month. Although recent prices in central Illinois have been around \$7.85 per bushel and are headed higher, a majority of U.S. soybeans have already been marketed at lower prices.

Looming Scarcity of Domestic Supplies To Strengthen Soybean Meal and Oil Prices

The anticipated reduction of the crushing pace will squeeze domestic output for both the soybean meal and soybean oil markets. The tightness for both commodities by next September should encourage a quick and strong crushing recovery in that month that would help support end-of-season supplies for meal and oil. Yet, a necessary foundation for domestic needs could form the poorest trade outlook for soybean meal in three decades. U.S. soybean meal exports are seen plunging to 4.25 million tons in 2003/04 from 6.0 million in 2002/03. In fact, a record volume of soybean meal imports (forecast up this month to 475,000 short tons) is likely to be needed by next summer. Even then, the lack of supply should strengthen prices, favor feeding of alternate protein sources, and ultimately curb the domestic use of soybean meal. A sharp rise in the season-average soybean meal price to \$225-\$245 per short ton (from the 2002/03 average of \$182 per ton) is forecast. Comparatively expensive prices could trim the domestic disappearance of soybean meal by more than 4 percent to 31.0 million tons.

Because of a smaller carryover and output of soybean oil in 2003/04, U.S. exports of that product will suffer a similar fate as soybean meal. Foreign shipments of

soybean oil are seen sliding to 850 million pounds, which would be the smallest volume since 1990/91. In addition, carryout stocks are likely to decline to a minimally acceptable level near 1,006 million pounds. Despite these reductions, domestic disappearance of soybean oil could also fall to 16,250 million pounds from 17,091 million in 2002/03.

The tight supply outlook for soybean oil has pushed its price to the highest level in 9 years, averaging 29.5 cents per pound in December. The 2003/04 average price was forecast up this month to 27.5-29.5 cents per pound from 26.0-29.0 cents last month.

The rising value of soybean oil is making the possibility of significantly larger imports more realistic. This month, USDA increased the 2003/04 soybean oil import forecast from 85 million to 235 million pounds. If realized, this would be a record for U.S. imports of soybean oil, eclipsing the previous peak of 194 million in 1987/88. Although it would take a substantial discount for South American soybean oil prices to overcome the United States' 19.1-percent general import duty, such a gap could be possible by next summer.

A more likely avenue for soybean oil imports this year is through application of the U.S. drawback system (Temporary Importation Under Bond). This trade program enables importers to bring in an unfinished commodity duty-free if they post a bond to guarantee that it will be processed and subsequently re-exported as a finished product. If a value-added product is not re-exported within a specified time, the importer forfeits the bond that is usually worth twice the value of the applicable duty. The bond period lasts for a minimum of one year and is subject to extension. Soybean oil could qualify for the duty exemption, as crude oil could be imported for processing as long as an equivalent volume of refined oil was later exported. In a typical year, approximately one-fourth of U.S. soybean oil exports have undergone some degree of added refining. By essentially borrowing from next season's supply, this tactic could give soybean oil processors the means to stretch the current domestic supply. A presumably larger 2004 crop would enable them to boost output and sell the same amount of the refined oil abroad during 2004/05 without unduly impinging on domestic needs next year.

Domestic Use of Sunflowerseed, Canola, and Cottonseed To Rise

U.S. sunflowerseed production increased to 2,665 million pounds in 2003, up 46 million from the previous estimate and 176 million from 2002. Although sunflower acreage planted declined 236,000 acres in 2003 to 2.3 million, the proportion harvested improved, edging 2003 harvested acreage up 17,000 acres to 2.2 million. But, the major reason that the crop increased was from an improvement in the national average sunflowerseed yield to 1,213 pounds per acre versus 1,142 pounds last year. Acreage and yields improved in every State except for North Dakota, where an acreage decline of 150,000 acres and a marginal yield increase partly offset larger crops elsewhere.

Nearly all of the higher 2003 output in the other States was of oil-type sunflowerseed. A shortfall in supply of confection-types could lower its domestic use. In contrast, that recovery in the oil-type sunflowerseed supply is expected to boost 2003/04 domestic crushing to 1,335 million pounds compared with 703 million the previous year. As the price premium for sunflowerseed oil over soybean oil is likely to narrow, a strong domestic market is expected to take nearly 400 million pounds of the sunflowerseed oil supply. A moderate rebound in sunflowerseed oil exports (from 114 million to 200 million pounds) is also anticipated.

In spite of a solid recovery in 2003 yields for canola seed, a 26-percent decline in planted acreage (to 1.1 million acres) prevented an increase in domestic production. The 2003 canola harvest dropped to a 4-year low of 1,512 million pounds. However, strong domestic demand for oil and meal and a much larger Canadian canola crop should create a substantial demand for seed imports to crush. USDA forecasts 2003/04 canola seed imports at 639 million pounds, up from 434 million the previous year. There is a limit on domestic crushing of canola seed, however, so relatively large import volumes for canola oil and canola meal are likely in 2003/04. Imports of canola oil are forecast at 1,311 million pounds, which would push domestic disappearance up to a record 1,834 million pounds. Similarly, U.S. canola meal imports could approach 1.3 million short tons and expand domestic use to a record 1.8 million tons.

U.S. cottonseed output increased to 6.7 million short tons in 2003, 0.5 million more than the previous year. Despite lower acreage and yields in the Southwest, acreage and yield gains in the Southeast provided the additional supply. With impending shortages of soybean meal, there should be a robust expansion of cottonseed use this year by both oil processors and cattle feeders. Domestic cottonseed oil consumption is expected to revive toward 731 million pounds in 2003/04 from last year's historically low 639 million pounds.

Larger 2003/04 Peanut Supply Anticipated To Benefit Domestic Food Use

USDA's *Crop Production—2003 Summary* report places 2003/04 peanut production at 4,144 million pounds, a slight upward revision of 1 percent from November's production forecast, and a rebound of 25 percent from the previous year's crop of 3,320 million pounds. The upward revision from the November forecast reflects an increase in harvested acres of 35,000 acres. National average yields were revised down 49 pounds per acre to 3,159 pounds per acre—but still achieved a record yield. Compared with 2002/03, harvested acres were up 15,000 acres despite a small decline in plantings, and yields were up 598 pounds per acre. Record-high yields were set in Georgia and South Carolina, and Oklahoma tied their record-high yield. Production climbed 45 percent in the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) and by 26 percent in Virginia-North Carolina, but dropped 12 percent in the Southwest (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas).

With relatively low 2003/04 carry-in stocks of 875 million pounds (compared with 1,476 million pounds in 2002), overall supplies in 2003/04 are up only 212 million pounds from 2002/03 despite the 824-million-pound gain in production.

The increased supply is projected to support a third consecutive year of increased food use, climbing 4 percent (90 million pounds) from 2002/03 to 2,318 million pounds, and the highest level in more than 30 years. Crush use is projected to fall to 718 million pounds from 857 million the previous year. As a result, ending stocks are projected to climb by 255 million pounds to 1,130 million.

U.S. peanut exports are projected to rise slightly from 2002/03 levels, up 10 million pounds to 500 million pounds, but well below the 700 million pounds achieved in 2001/02. U.S. producers have faced increasing competition from China—the world's leading peanut producer and exporter—in recent years, but U.S. export prospects could benefit from declining production in Argentina the past 2 years. Argentina (typically the third leading exporter in global markets) has suffered from drought during its summer planting season, and 2003/04 production is now forecast at 215,000 metric tons, down 28 percent from the November forecast, and slightly below the previous year's 220,000 ton crop. Argentine peanut production was 430,000 tons in 2001/02. U.S. peanut imports are projected at 65 million pounds, down from 75 million pounds the previous year and 203 million pounds in 2001/02. Imports are expected to remain well below the U.S. tariff-rate quota level as domestic peanut prices have adjusted downward following passage of the 2002 Farm Act, which eliminated the supply-limiting marketing quota system. The season-average farm price for peanuts for 2003/04 could be up slightly from 18.2 cents per pound in 2002/03.

Current Argentine Soybean Crop is Starting Off Well but Sunflowers Have Struggled More

USDA cut the 2003/04 forecast of Argentine sunflowerseed output from 3.3 million to 3.0 million metric tons based on a lower yield forecast. Despite better soil moisture conditions recently, prior dryness hurt emergence and root formation of the crop in southern Cordoba and northern La Pampa. These areas normally account for about one-third of Argentine sunflowerseed production. Most of that reduction is anticipated being shouldered by an even smaller rate of domestic crush. Argentine sunflowerseed crushing is now expected at 2.9 million tons, the lowest volume in 11 years. Consequently, Argentine exports of sunflowerseed meal and sunflowerseed oil are forecast falling to similar lows.

In contrast, improved rainfall since mid-December in the country has substantially improved prospects for the recently sown soybean crop. Yet, the delayed planting of the crop means that rainfall during March and April will be more critical for its development this year. For Argentina, precipitation early in the year tends to be more favorable than during these months. There was no change this month to the Argentine soybean production forecast of 36.5 million tons. Soybean production for Brazil in 2003/04 was also unchanged this month, although Brazilian exports were expected up from 26.2 million to 26.6 million tons.

China's Soybean Processors Load Up

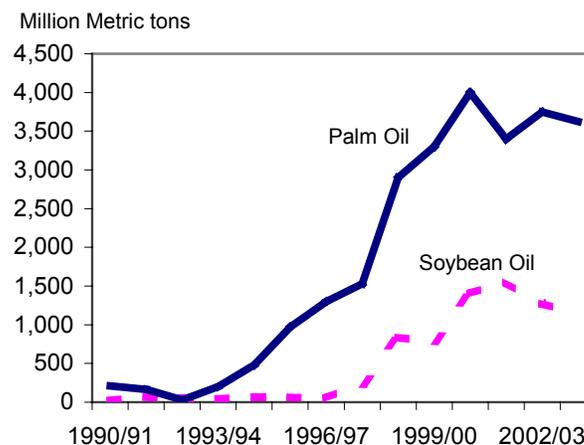
Arrivals of soybean imports in China slowed in October and November because of prior problems in obtaining inspection certificates. Since then, a surge of buying by importers has refilled the supply pipeline to the country. Importers from China have bought 8.7 million tons of soybeans from the United States, which are up 65 percent over a year ago. Of these purchases, 5.8 million tons have already been shipped. USDA raised the forecast of China's 2003/04 soybean imports from 22.0 million to 23.0 million tons this month.

Buyers from China are likely to soon switch to South American origins for completing their import requirements.

Comparatively Higher Import Costs Likely To Trim Indian 2003/04 Vegetable Oil Imports

In India, the oil crushing industry uses about three-fourths of the country's peanut production and provides the largest domestic source of vegetable oil. A poor monsoon slashed India's peanut production to 5.2 million tons in 2002, but output recovered in 2003 following excellent rains. The estimate of the Indian peanut crop was revised up this month from 7.5 million to 7.7 million tons. The improved domestic oilseed crops and higher costs for foreign supplies should reduce India's dependence on vegetable oil imports later this year. Consequently, Indian soybean oil imports for 2003/04 were forecast 100,000 tons lower this month to 1.15 million. Palm oil imports are also expected to moderate at 3.6 million tons versus 3.75 million in 2002/03.

Figure 2
Indian vegetable oil imports may be trimmed by a larger domestic output



Source: Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA

U.S. food and agriculture: Today and beyond

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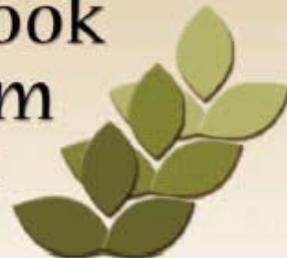
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Data

Monthly tables from *Oil Crops Outlook* are available in Excel (.xls) spreadsheets at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/soybeansoilcrops/Data/data.htm>. These tables contain the latest data on the production, use, imports, exports, prices, and textile trade of cotton and other fibers.

Reports from the Economic Research Service

Size and Distribution of Market Benefits from Adopting Biotech Crops estimates the size and distribution of market benefits from adopting *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton, herbicide-tolerant cotton, and herbicide-tolerant soybeans in 1997. Impacts on U.S. farmers, U.S. consumers, biotechnology developers, germplasm suppliers, and producers and consumers in other countries are assessed. This report is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/tb1906/>.

India's Edible Oil Sector: Imports Fill Rising Demand examines factors underlying India's emergence as the world's leading importer of edible oils and evaluates U.S. export prospects. Income and population growth, trade policy reforms, and domestic agricultural policies affecting the productivity of India's oilseed farmers and processing sector have contributed to increased consumption and import demand. This report is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/OCS/nov03/ocs090301/>.

Related Websites

WASDE, <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/wasde/latest.pdf>
Oilseed Circular, http://www.fas.usda.gov/oilseeds_arc.html
Soybean and Oil Crops Briefing Room, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/soybeansoilcrops/>

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Table 1--Soybeans: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Sept. 1	Area		Yield	Supply				Disappearance				Ending stocks
	Planted	Harvested		Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Crush	Exports	Seed, feed, residual	Total	
	Million acres		Bu./acre				Million bushels					
2001/02	74.1	73.0	39.6	248	2,891	2	3,141	1,700	1,064	169	2,933	208
2002/03	73.9	72.4	38.0	208	2,749	5	2,962	1,615	1,045	123	2,784	178
2003/04 2/	73.4	72.3	33.4	178	2,418	8	2,604	1,455	900	124	2,479	125
2002/03												
September						0.1		122.3	30.9			
October						0.8		149.5	136.7			
November						0.5		145.7	152.8			
Sep-Nov				208.0	2,749.3	1.4	2,958.8	417.5	320.4	107.2	845.1	2,113.6
December						0.3		150.2	114.7			
January						0.3		142.7	157.0			
February						0.5		129.2	154.0			
Dec-Feb				2,113.6	---	1.1	2,114.7	422.0	425.7	66.0	913.7	1,201.0
March						0.3		142.7	91.5			
April						0.4		127.0	66.4			
May						0.5		130.5	38.6			
Mar-May				1,201.0	---	1.2	1,202.3	400.2	196.4	3.3	599.9	602.4
June						0.5		121.2	30.8			
July						0.3		129.3	39.0			
August						0.1		125.1	32.7			
Jun-Aug				602.4	---	0.9	603.3	375.6	102.5	(53.1)	424.9	178.3
Total						4.7	2,962.0	1,615.3	1,045.0	176.5	2,358.7	
2003/04												
September						0.2		127.6	36.6			
October						1.0		146.2	166.8			
November						NA		145.6	NA			
Sep-Nov				178.3	2,417.6	1.3	2,597.1	419.4	203.4	NA	910.8	1,686.4

1/ Estimated, 2/ Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau.

Last update: 01/16/2004

Table 2--Soybean meal: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year begin. Oct. 1	Supply			Disappearance			Ending stocks		
	Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Domestic	Exports		Total	
				1,000 short tons					
2001/02	383	40,292	143	40,818	33,070	7,508	40,578	240	
2002/03 1/	240	38,213	166	38,619	32,386	6,013	38,399	220	
2003/04 2/	220	34,755	475	35,450	31,000	4,250	35,250	200	
2002/03									
October	240.0	3,499.3	41.5	3,780.8	3,150.4	345.3	3,495.6	285.2	
November	285.2	3,424.7	7.5	3,717.4	2,747.4	598.3	3,345.6	371.7	
December	371.7	3,526.8	8.7	3,907.2	2,897.2	673.0	3,570.2	337.0	
January	337.0	3,358.4	11.7	3,707.2	2,545.2	862.9	3,408.0	299.1	
February	299.1	3,048.4	12.7	3,360.3	2,552.9	547.8	3,100.7	259.5	
March	259.5	3,360.1	8.5	3,628.0	2,661.5	630.9	3,292.4	335.7	
April	335.7	2,994.7	6.2	3,336.6	2,630.1	443.0	3,073.1	263.5	
May	263.5	3,072.4	5.0	3,340.9	2,647.8	381.3	3,029.1	311.8	
June	311.8	2,873.4	4.4	3,189.6	2,519.4	398.6	2,918.0	271.6	
July	271.6	3,064.4	5.5	3,341.4	2,743.3	369.8	3,113.1	228.4	
August	228.4	2,966.6	46.4	3,241.4	2,590.6	383.8	2,974.5	266.9	
September 1/	266.9	3,023.5	8.1	3,298.6	2,700.6	378.0	3,078.6	219.9	
Total		38,212.9	166.1	38,619.0	32,386.3	6,012.7	38,399.0		
2003/04									
October	219.9	3,462.1	6.7	3,688.8	2,947.9	423.0	3,370.9	317.8	
November 1/	317.8	3,471.9	NA	3,789.8	NA	NA	3,357.4	432.4	
Total to date		6,934.0	6.7	6,940.7	2,947.9	423.0	6,728.3		

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau.

Last update: 01/16/2004

Table 3--Soybean oil: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year begin. Oct. 1	Supply				Disappearance			Ending stocks
	Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Domestic	Exports	Total	
Million pounds								
2001/02	2,767	18,898	46	21,711	16,833	2,519	19,352	2,359
2002/03 1/	2,359	18,438	46	20,843	17,091	2,261	19,352	1,491
2003/04 2/	1,491	16,380	235	18,106	16,250	850	17,100	1,006
2002/03								
October	2,358.6	1,692.6	2.8	4,054.0	1,660.3	113.6	1,773.9	2,280.1
November	2,280.1	1,631.5	3.6	3,915.1	1,394.1	194.9	1,589.0	2,326.1
December	2,326.1	1,696.0	3.9	4,026.0	1,417.8	210.2	1,628.0	2,398.0
January	2,398.0	1,612.8	3.7	4,014.5	1,323.7	295.1	1,618.8	2,395.7
February	2,395.7	1,473.6	3.2	3,872.6	1,300.9	299.8	1,600.7	2,271.9
March	2,271.9	1,633.3	3.4	3,908.6	1,387.3	276.8	1,664.1	2,244.6
April	2,244.6	1,447.5	4.8	3,696.8	1,349.9	226.8	1,576.7	2,120.2
May	2,120.2	1,491.7	4.9	3,616.8	1,453.1	109.8	1,562.9	2,053.9
June	2,053.9	1,391.0	5.0	3,449.9	1,424.6	96.7	1,521.4	1,928.5
July	1,928.5	1,482.4	3.9	3,414.7	1,386.0	234.5	1,620.5	1,794.2
August	1,794.2	1,440.4	3.4	3,238.0	1,486.8	96.8	1,583.6	1,654.4
September	1,654.4	1,445.2	3.6	3,103.1	1,506.6	105.9	1,612.5	1,490.6
Total		18,438.1	46.0	20,842.7	17,091.2	2,260.9	19,352.1	
2003/04								
October	1,490.6	1,630.8	3.3	3,124.7	1,560.3	152.5	1,712.9	1,411.8
November 1/	1,411.8	1,610.6	NA	3,022.4	NA	NA	1,485.7	1,536.7
Total to date		3,241.4	3.3	4,735.3	1,560.3	152.5	3,198.6	

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau.

Last update: 01/16/2004

Table 4--Cottonseed: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Aug. 1	Supply				Disappearance				Ending stocks	
	Beginning stocks	Production	Imports	Total	Crush	Exports	Other	Total		
1,000 short tons										
2001/02	427	7,452	327	8,206	2,791	274	4,742	7,807	400	
2002/03	400	6,184	104	6,688	2,495	371	3,475	6,341	347	
2003/04 2/	347	6,694	225	7,266	2,700	300	3,931	6,931	335	

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau.

Table 5--Cottonseed meal: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Sept. 1	Supply				Disappearance			Ending stocks
	Beginning stocks	Imports	Production	Total	Domestic	Exports	Total	
1,000 short tons								
2001/02	40	0	1,294	1,334	1,160	111	1,272	62
2002/03 1/	62	0	1,114	1,176	1,092	51	1,143	33
2003/04 2/	33	0	1,215	1,249	1,163	51	1,214	35

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: Census Bureau.

Table 6--Cottonseed oil: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Sept. 1	Supply				Disappearance			Ending stocks
	Beginning stocks	Imports	Production	Total	Domestic	Exports	Total	
Million pounds								
2001/02	93	-	876	969	779	150	930	40
2002/03 1/	40	21	725	786	639	111	750	36
2003/04 2/	36	-	850	886	731	115	846	40

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: Census Bureau.

Table 7--Peanuts: U.S. supply and disappearance

Year beg. Aug. 1	Supply				Disappearance				Ending stocks	
	Beginning stocks	Imports	Production	Total	Domestic food	Crush	Seed & residual	Exports		Total
Million pounds										
2001/02	1,097	203	4,277	5,577	2,211	693	497	700	4,101	1,476
2002/03 1/	1,476	75	3,320	4,872	2,228	857	422	490	3,997	875
2003/04 2/	875	65	4,144	5,085	2,318	718	419	500	3,955	1,130

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Census Bureau.

Last update: 01/16/2004

Table 8--Oilseeds prices received by U.S. farmers

Marketing year	Soybeans \$/bu.	Cottonseed \$/ton	Sunflower \$/cwt.	Peanuts Cents/lb.	Flaxseed \$/bu.
1995/96	6.72	106.00	11.50	29.30	5.19
1996/97	7.35	126.00	11.70	28.10	6.37
1997/98	6.47	121.00	11.60	28.30	5.81
1998/99	4.93	129.00	10.60	28.40	5.05
1999/00	4.63	89.00	7.53	25.40	3.79
2000/01	4.54	105.00	6.89	27.40	3.30
2001/02	4.38	90.50	9.62	23.40	4.29
2002/03	5.53	101.00	12.10	18.20	5.77
2002/03					
September	5.39	95.00	13.10	17.90	5.57
October	5.20	100.00	12.00	17.90	5.77
November	5.46	100.00	12.00	18.00	6.04
December	5.46	101.00	12.30	17.50	5.92
January	5.51	105.00	12.10	19.10	5.71
February	5.55	110.00	12.50	19.60	6.25
March	5.59	NA	12.50	22.60	6.47
April	5.82	NA	12.30	18.40	6.57
May	6.07	NA	12.20	19.60	6.05
June	6.09	NA	12.00	17.70	6.02
July	5.82	NA	11.60	NA	6.38
August	5.68	NA	10.90	NA	5.30
2003/04					
September	6.06	100.00	10.40	18.30	5.43
October	6.61	104.00	11.40	18.50	5.77
November	7.05	121.00	11.60	18.40	6.06
December 1/	7.29	127.00	12.00	18.90	5.97

1/ Preliminary. NA = Not available.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Last update: 01/16/2004

Table 9--U.S. vegetable oil and fats prices

Marketing year	Soybean oil 2/	Cottonseed oil 3/	Sunflower oil 4/	Peanut oil 5/	Corn oil 6/	Lard 6/	Edible tallow 6/
Cents/lb.							
1995/96	24.70	26.53	25.40	40.30	25.24	21.70	21.56
1996/97	22.50	25.58	22.64	43.70	24.05	23.02	23.01
1997/98	25.80	28.85	27.00	49.00	28.94	19.46	20.69
1998/99	19.90	27.32	20.10	39.74	25.30	14.66	15.14
1999/00	15.60	21.52	16.68	35.39	17.81	13.64	13.21
2000/01	14.15	15.98	15.89	34.81	13.54	14.61	13.43
2001/02	16.46	17.98	23.25	32.52	19.14	13.55	13.87
2002/03 1/	22.04	37.75	33.11	46.70	28.17	18.13	17.80
2002/03							
October	20.75	26.84	29.82	NA	22.45	14.39	14.73
November	23.00	36.90	33.90	42.00	26.90	16.28	17.02
December	22.60	46.89	33.60	43.67	28.25	18.42	19.25
January	21.50	49.82	32.52	45.75	29.30	18.61	19.22
February	21.20	49.90	32.60	46.00	28.90	17.11	17.38
March	21.56	47.52	33.10	47.00	27.20	16.85	17.45
April	22.40	44.57	33.70	50.25	27.55	16.72	17.48
May	23.17	42.33	34.37	52.75	29.10	17.29	17.41
June	22.90	28.69	33.64	56.60	30.15	18.90	18.58
July	21.80	24.38	33.50	58.25	29.90	18.93	17.48
August	20.40	25.51	32.65	60.00	30.68	20.08	17.57
September	23.20	29.64	33.92	60.67	27.71	23.98	20.05
2003/04							
October	27.40	32.93	32.73	61.60	26.99	27.50	24.22
November	27.76	32.24	31.60	63.25	27.56	26.40	27.76
December 1/	29.54	33.26	31.99	64.50	28.73	25.18	29.50

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Decatur. 3/ PBSY Greenwood, MS. 4/ Minneapolis.

5/ Southeast mills 6/ Chicago.

Source: Agricultural Marketing Service.

Last update: 01/16/2004

Table 10--U.S. Oilseed meal prices

Marketing year	Soybean meal 2/	Cottonseed meal 3/	Sunflower meal 4/	Peanut meal 5/	Canola meal 6/	Linseed meal 4/
\$/Short ton						
1995/96	235.90	190.74	123.75	202.70	177.22	159.00
1996/97	262.00	192.00	110.60	232.00	192.02	158.75
1997/98	185.30	144.00	84.20	209.60	131.15	117.54
1998/99	138.50	109.55	64.20	104.94	112.28	84.49
1999/00	167.62	127.43	75.00	108.15	117.07	103.42
2000/01	173.62	142.93	90.50	121.60	139.20	121.92
2001/02	167.72	136.16	87.27	113.69	143.33	121.29
2002/03 1/	181.58	146.12	105.00	125.00	144.06	122.91
2002/03						
October	168.20	150.10	NA	NA	131.50	114.00
November	163.20	150.00	95.00	130.00	134.70	113.10
December	163.60	156.40	95.00	122.50	142.17	112.50
January	167.40	157.38	85.00	118.50	154.10	118.40
February	176.80	143.60	NA	114.25	155.80	120.10
March	175.40	142.40	NA	124.00	147.55	133.00
April	182.10	142.40	NA	125.00	145.60	126.70
May	195.40	131.75	NA	135.00	148.50	125.00
June	191.90	131.50	NA	135.00	146.95	127.25
July	187.30	143.00	NA	135.75	137.10	129.10
August	189.70	151.70	NA	130.00	135.50	130.60
September	217.95	153.20	NA	130.00	149.20	125.20
2002/03						
October	225.20	163.50	103.50	147.10	169.65	139.90
November	242.00	182.50	117.88	161.00	187.19	178.75
December 1/	231.11	183.30	112.10	163.25	181.35	163.10

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Hi-pro Decatur. 3/ 41% Memphis. 4/ Minneapolis.

5/ 50% Southeast mills 6/ 36% Pacific Northwest.

Source: Agricultural Marketing Service.

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