ALFALFA SEED

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ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION UP 16 PERCENT

The 1977 alfalfa seed crop is forecast at 91.8 million pounds, up 16 percent from last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Rains have hampered harvest activities in the mid-west States, Oregon and Washington.

Acreage forecast for harvest this year is 365,500 acres, up 6 percent from 1976. Yields are expected to average 251 pounds per acre, up 23 pounds from last year.

CARRYOVER AND SUPPLY

The total U.S. supply of alfalfa seed for the 1977 season is indicated at 117.8 million pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Farmer owned carryover was down 43 percent and dealer owned inventories decreased 20 percent. Imports for the year ending June 30, 1977 totaled 159,500 pounds compared with 110,500 pounds a year earlier. Exports during the same period totaled 5,004 metric tons (11,032,000 pounds), compared with 7,557 metric tons (16,660,000 pounds) the previous year.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 1975, 1976 AND 1977

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	: 1975 :	1976 :	1977 1/:	1975	: 1976	: 1977 1/:	1975 :	1976 :	1977 17
	:	ACRES			JNDS PER	ACRE	1,0	DO POUNDS	137.1
ARIZ	2,000	2,500	1,000	180	160	150	360	400	150
CALIF	: 51,000	48,000	47,000	575	585	600	29,325	28,080	28,200
IDAHO	: 35,000	26,000	33,000	455	370	450	15,925	9,620	14,850
KAtiS	: 43,000	48,000	43,000	95	110	90	4,090	5,280	3,870
TNOM	: 12,000	24,000	28,000	80	100	100	960	2,400	2,800
NEBR	: 24,000	23,000	23,000	80	80	75	1,920	1,840	1,725
NEV	: 19,000	11,500	15,500	430	355	550	8,170	4,083	8 525
N DAK	: 5,000	15,000	8,000	40	50	45	200	750	360
OYLA	: 13,000	20,000	25,000	115	190	170	1,495	3,800	4,250
DREG	: 11,500	11,000	12,000	535	415	500	6,153	4,565	6,000
s dak	: 80,000	81,000	000,28	60	65	65	4.800	5,265	5,785
UTAH	: 13,000	11,000	13,000	280	215	250	3,640	2.365	3,250
WASH	: 35,000	25,000	28,000	425	420	430	14,875	10,500	12,040
u s	343,500	346,000	365,500	268	228	251	91,913	78,948	91,805

ALFALFA SEED SUPPLY: UNITED STATES 1975, 1976 AND 1977

ITEM	1975	1976	1977 <u>1</u> /			
	1,000 POUNDS					
PRODUCTION : FARM CARRYOVER 2/ : DEALER CARRYOVER : SUPPLY (PRODUCTION :	91,913 14,079 38,156	78,948 6,773 27,596	91,805 3,830 22,120			
PLUS CARRYOVER) :	144,148	113,317	117,755			

^{1/} INDICATED.
2/ INCLUDES GROWER-OWNED SEED STORED IN DEALER WAREHOUSES, 1976 AND EARLIER YEAR'S CROPS.