



ILLINOIS FARM AND FOOD OUTLOOK

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Urbana, Illinois 61801

January 26, 1977

MAXIMUM ACREAGE INDICATED

THE PRELIMINARY PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR CORN show a total of 84.5 million acres. This is an increase of 0.5 percent from the amount actually planted in 1976, but it is up 4 million acres, or 4.6 percent, from the total farmers intended to plant in January of 1976. Typically, about 86 percent of the planted acreage is harvested for grain. This suggests a potential of 72.8 million acres for harvest--compared to 71.8 million in 1976, up 2.4 percent. Yields will, of course, depend on the weather; but a normal yield of 90 bushels per acre would produce 6.5 to 6.6 billion bushels, compared to 6.2 billion in 1976.

Illinois farmers indicated that they intend to plant 11.7 million acres, down 2 percent from the 12 million acres planted in 1976 but up slightly from their intentions of a year ago. The figure for Iowa farmers is up 100,000 acres; those of Indiana farmers, up 200,000 acres.

Soybeans planting intentions are up 5.5 percent, at 53.1 million acres nationally. About 98 percent of the planted acreage is usually harvested, suggesting a figure of 52.3 million acres. At a normal yield of 28 bushels per acre, the crop would be 1.46 billion bushels, compared to 1.27 billion in 1976, a substantial increase. However, the carryover will be down about 150 million bushels, leaving the availability for use in 1977-78 at about the same level as during the current year. The preliminary planting intentions do not indicate relief from the current shortage.

Illinois farmers intend to plant 8.1 million acres of soybeans, compared to 7.5 million in 1976. Planting intentions in Iowa are up 1 percent; those in Indiana, up 7 percent.

For feed grains, the total planting intentions are 130.2 million acres, compared to 129.6 million planted in 1976. An expected decrease of 10 percent in grain sorghums is more than offset by increases in corn, oats, and barley. For grain sorghums, planting intentions are down by 1.8 million acres. A million of the decrease is in Texas, where planting intentions for upland cotton are up 700,000 acres. The recent high price of cotton has resulted in an increase of 10 percent in planting intentions.

Acreage intentions for the principal spring-planted crops are 217.9 million acres, compared to 216.6 million actually planted last year.

What are the implications? Preliminary planting intentions indicate an all-out production effort in 1977. The primary emphasis is on greater production of feed such as corn and other feed grain, and on soybean meal from soybeans. If the weather is favorable, there will be more feed stuffs than in recent years; and prices will probably be lower relative to livestock prices.

The prospective planting report is intended as a guide to farmers in finalizing their plans. The report may result in changes in price relationships that could change some planting intentions. The next report of planting intentions will be issued on April 14.

T.A. Hieronymus

T.A. Hieronymus, Extension Economist, Outlook and Sales Management

Cooperative Extension Service
United States Department of Agriculture
University of Illinois
At Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Official Business
Penalty for private use, \$300

FIRST CLASS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AGR 101

