

der early or otherwise destroy disease infected stubble, straw or chaff on which the disease organisms have over-wintered. Similarly avoid sowing flax on land cropped to flax

the preceding year or adjacent to last year's diseased flax field.

A firm seed bed, relatively free of weed seeds, and early sowing is usually preferable for flax.

THE FATS AND OILS SITUATION

A Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture summary says in part: New information provided by the December crop production summary and the Pig Crop Report points to a somewhat smaller production of fats and oils in the current crop marketing year than was indicated earlier. Output of domestic edible oils—cottonseed, soybean, corn and peanut—is now placed at about 2.9 billion pounds compared with 3 billion pounds indicated a month ago and 2.8 billion pounds produced last season. With a 29 percent reduction in the 1944 pig crop and a probable decreased yield of lard per hog as a result of a lighter trim of fat, production of lard and rendered pork fat in the year beginning October 1 will be at least 1 billion pounds less than the record output of 3,460 million pounds in 1943-44. Output of linseed oil from domestic flaxseed will be slightly under earlier expectations with the 1944 flaxseed crop now reported to be 55 percent smaller than the record-breaking crop in 1943.

Total production of fats and oils from domestic materials in 1944-45 probably will be slightly less than 10 billion pounds. This would compare with 11.2 billion pounds in 1943-44. Imports apparently will be about the same as or somewhat less than those of last season, depending partly on how much flaxseed may be obtained from foreign sources. Factory and warehouse stocks of fats and oils on October 1 were about 2400 million pounds larger than a year earlier. Nevertheless, total supplies of fats and oils in the current crop year are likely to be at least 800 million pounds less than in 1943-44. Demand, on the other hand, continues strong. Prices of most fats and oils probably will remain at ceiling levels through the present crop year. Total exports of fats and oils in 1945 may be as large as in 1944. The strong European demand for fats and oils to be supplied by the U.S. in 1945 parallels a similar demand in 1919, when exports of leading fats and oils rose to over 1 billion pounds, approximately 40 percent more than the 1910-14 average. Exports of U.S. lard and soybeans are likely to be fairly large for several years after 1945, but only if prices are permitted to adjust to international levels.

(A News Release from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Jan. 9, 1945.)