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UMS' 1999 MARKET OUTLOOK

By Robert L. Utterback Farm Journal Outlook Editor Utterback Marketing Services, Inc. Pres./CEO AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM 99 Washington, D.C. -- February 23, 1999

CURRENT SITUATION

- CORN CARRYOVER HAS DOUBLED AND BEANS TRIPLED SINCE 1996.
- THE AVERAGE U.S. CASH CORN PRICE IS DOWN 66 CENTS AND SOYBEANS ARE DOWN \$2.15 SINCE THE 1996 HIGH.
- MOOD OF COUNTRY-- FEAR.

CORN						
SUPPLY/DEMAND						
	96/97	97/98	98/9	9		
			JAN.	FEB.	?	
AREA PLANTED	79.2	79.5	80.2	80.2		
HARVESTED	72.6	72.7	72.6	72.6		
YIELD/ACRE	127.1	126.7	134.4	134.4		
BEGINNING STOCKS	426	883	1,308	1,308		
PRODUCTION	9,233	9,207	9,761	9,761		
TOTAL SUPPLY	9,672	10,099	11,079	11,081		
FOOD	5,302	5,505	5,700	5,700	UP 50	
SEED- INDUSTRIAL	1,692	1,782	1,870	1,870		
EXPORTS	1,795	1,504	1,700	1,700		
TOTAL USE	8,789	8,791	9,270	9,295	9,345	
ENDING STOCKS	883	1,308	1,809	1,774	1,724	
U.S. AVERAGE PRICE	\$2.71	\$2.43		\$1.95		

SOURCE: USDA



UMS 1999 CORN PROJECTIONS

	DN 1.5 MIL.	DN .8 MIL.	UP .6 MIL.
PLANTED	78.7	79.4	80.8
HARVESTED	72.4	73.0	74.3
YIELD	114.2	129.4	137.8
CARRY-IN	1,736	1,736	1,736
PROD.	8,269	9,452	10,244
T. SUPPLY	10,015	11,198	11,990
DOM. USE	7,376	7,699	7,814
EXPORTS	1,587	1,776	1,863
TOTAL USE	8,963	9,475	9,650
E. STOCKS	1,052	1,723	2,340
U.S. AVG. SOURCE: UMS	\$2.50	\$1.95	\$1.50

CORN ASSUMPTIONS

- ✓ EXPECT UNPRICED OWNERSHIP INTO SUMMER.
- ✓ TRY TO STARVE THE MARKET THIS SPRING.
- ✓ ELEVATORS WILL OFFER FREE DEFERRED PRICING.
- ✓ EXPECT RESUMPTION OF BEAR TREND BY MID-MAY.
- ✓ WEATHER IF IT DEVELOPS, IT WILL BE LATE IN THE GROWING SEASON.
- ✓ LDP WILL BE A CRITICAL PART OF 1999 PROFIT.
- ✓ MUST DEFEND LDP AGAINST PRE-HARVEST LOW.
- ✓ FEED BUYERS SHOULD BUY FALL LOWS.
- ✓ OVERALL CORN IS NEGATIVE, BUT NOT AS BAD AS IT COULD BE IF ACRES WOULD INCREASE DRASTICALLY.

SOYBEANS SUPPLY/DEMAND

		1997/98	1998/19	99
			JANUARY	FEBRUARY
PLANTED	64.2	70.0	72.4	72.4
HARVESTED	63.3	69.1	70.8	70.8
YIELD	37.6	38.9	38.9	38.9
BEGINNING ST	OCKS 183	132	200	200
PRODUCTION	2,380	2,689	2,757	2,757
IMPORTS	9	5	6	6
SUPPLY, TOTAL	2,573	2,826	2,963	2,963
CRUSHING	1,436	1,597	1,595	1,590
EXPORTS	882	870	830	810
SEED	82	86	87	88
RESIDUAL	41	72	61	65
TOTAL USE	2,441	2,626	2,573	2,553
ENDING STOCK	KS 132	200	390	410
FARM PRICE	\$7.35	\$6.45	\$5.35	\$5.20
SOURCE: USDA				

UMS 1999 SOYBEAN PROJECTIONS				
	CHANGED	UP 1.75 MIL.	UP 2.75 MIL.	
PLANTED	72.4	74.2	75.2	
HARVESTED	71.2	73.0	74.0	
YIELD	32.7	38.5	39.5	
CARRY-IN	410	410	410	
PRODUCTION	2,340	2,810	2,921	
SUPPLY	2,758	3,228	3,339	
CRUSH	1,637	1,670	1,675	
EXPORTS	850	880	910	
USE	2,609	2,673	2,735	
STOCKS	144	555	604	
PRICE SOURCE: UMS	\$6.75	\$4.48	\$4.20	

UMS SOYBEAN ASSUMPTIONS FOR 1999

- ACREAGE WILL GROW BY AT LEAST 1.75 MIL.
- DEMAND FAILS TO GROW AT THE PACE OF PRODUCTION.
- CARRYOVER INCREASES DRASTICALLY.
- SOYBEANS MOVE BELOW THE VARIABLE COST OF PRODUCTION.
- MANAGEMENT OF LDP IS CRITICAL TO SOYBEAN PROFITS.
- WHO QUITS FIRST -- U.S. OR S.A. PRODUCERS?
- HOW LONG WILL THE LOW LAST?

WE EXPECT

• A BIG REDUCTION IN WHEAT AND A MODEST REDUCTION IN CORN ACRES, RESULTING IN A --

- **BIG INCREASE IN SOYBEANS ACRES.**
- INCREASE IN BOTH CORN AND SOYBEAN CARRYOVER.

• NORMAL WEATHER -- YIELD.

WE BELIEVE

- OPPORTUNITIES STILL EXIST TO MINIMIZE THE BEARISH OR BULLISH IMPACT ON PRODUCERS!
- LIMITED PRODUCER ACTION DUE TO FEAR OF CASH FLOW, FEAR OF YIELD, AND FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN!
- MOST PRODUCERS WILL SELL THEIR 1999 CROP AT MARKETING LOAN - STORAGE COST +/- BASIS!
- LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENT (LDP) WILL BE CRITICAL TO PRODUCER SURVIVAL!
- U.S. POLICY TO ALLOW FREE FALL IN PRICE TO STIMULATE DEMAND AND REDUCE ACRES IS FLAWED FROM THE PRODUCER PERSPECTIVE.

WE HOPE POLICYMAKERS WILL HELP BY

- NOT INFLUENCING THE LDP PROGRAM TO REDUCE BUDGET EXPOSURE.
- REVIEWING WAYS FOR PRODUCERS TO GET A BIGGER PIECE OF THE INCOME PIE.
- HELPING IMPROVE PRODUCER UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING MARKETING PLANS TO HANDLE FUTURE MARKET VOLATILITY.
- REVIEWING POLICY FOR ALTERNATIVE SUPPLY MANAGEMENT WHEN DEMAND FAILS.

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