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Meet the Staff: Jackie Garreau

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per bushel of soybeans in August-September, $0.77 higher than the price last year.

U.S. SOYBEANS

The USDA October 11 Crop Production report forecasted soybean production at 2.65 billion bushels, 8 percent below the level in 2001. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37 bushels per acre, down 7 percent from last year’s yields. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999. Expected harvested acreage is forecast at 71.8 million acres, 2 percent below that of last year. According to the September Grain Stocks report, the total old-crop soybean stock was recorded at 208 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year’s stock. The ratio of off-farm to on-farm storage was 2.3 compared to 1.96 last year. On the demand side, the USDA October 11 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report puts U.S. soybean exports at 850 million bushels, 20 percent less than exports a year ago. In spite of a large drop in U.S. soybean exports to the European Union and Korea, so far U.S. exports exceed last year’s levels. Soybean shipments to China are expected to remain strong until the end of the year, when pending genetically modified organism (GMO) labeling regulations by the Chinese government may go into effect. Summer consumption of soybeans totaled 477 million bushels, up 4 percent from that of a year ago.

IOWA HOGS AND PIGS

After August’s one-third cut in hog prices, the USDA September 27 Hogs and Pigs report brought a bit of good news for pork producers, indicating smaller supplies in the coming months. The report estimated the inventory of hogs on U.S. farms at 60.2 million hogs and the inventory of market hogs at 54.2 million; both numbers are 1 percent above last year’s levels. There were 6.05 million breeding hogs, 2 percent fewer than last year. The initial market reaction was positive, as these inventories were below trade expectations. Even though the reduction in the breeding herd points to the beginning of a liquidation phase, a reduction in hog slaughter is expected in the spring quarter of 2003. In September, Iowa farms had 15.4 million hogs and pigs. This is 2 percent higher than levels a year ago, but nearly 1 percent lower than the June 1 inventory. The Iowa June-August pig crop this year was counted at 3.65 million head, on a par with last year. A total of 420,000 sows farrowed, with an average litter size of 8.7 pigs per litter. As of September 1, Iowa producers planned to farrow 440,000 head of sows and gilts in the September-November quarter, down 2 percent from last year’s number. The estimated farrowing intentions for the December-February 2003 period of 440,000 head of sows are 5 percent above the number of sows farrowed during the same period in 2001. Analysts expect that pork producers will continue to market hogs at a loss for most of the coming winter and spring. Break-even prices for producers are projected to appear by summer of 2003.

Meet the Staff: Jackie Garreau

The friendly voice that has greeted callers and visitors to CARD for the past five years belongs to Jackie Garreau. Jackie is the CARD receptionist and secretary for Assistant Director Keith Heffernan and for Professors GianCarlo Moschini and David Hennessy. Jackie worked at Guthrie County Hospital in her hometown of Guthrie Center, Iowa, for twelve years as a medical transcriptionist, medical records coder, chart reviewer, and records clerk before she and her husband, Leo, moved to Ames in the spring of 1997. Jackie joined CARD in August of that year.

Besides her other secretarial and administrative support duties, Jackie is in charge of communicating employee news through CARD’s two bi-weekly e-mail posts: InsideCARD and CARDEvents. She also handles the paper work for personnel matters—with its wide variety and complexity of forms and checklists—and makes sure that every detail is attended to. She can often be seen making a dash to the dean’s office in Curtiss Hall to get a signature or push a form through to make a deadline.

Serving at the front line for contacts seeking information or trying to make a connection to the faculty and staff at CARD is one thing Jackie says she appreciates about her role within the organization. “I enjoy handling calls, and getting to meet people from various organizations and other countries,” she says.

Jackie can be found helping wherever there is a need. She often works at CARD-sponsored conferences such as the Ag Forum, assisting with registration. She also regularly helps staff with their travel plans, creates mailing lists for publicizing special events, inputs data about CARD publications for an online database, and helps with the hosting duties when CARD receives special guests.

At home, Jackie looks forward to time spent with her husband of 29 years, her two daughters and sons-in-law, and her two grandsons. “I enjoy being with my grandsons and family and, occasionally, traveling.” A third grandson was welcomed to the family October 8. Jackie also likes to sew and shop in her spare time.