

Economist warns conference

More food necessary

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Agriculture production will have to operate at capacity during the 1980s to meet global food needs, the Agricultural Department's chief economist said Tuesday.

Hjort addressed the department's annual outlook conference for 1980, warning that "the prospect of a severely full production for the major crops does not necessarily imply that it will be well with respect to net returns to producers of agricultural products in the 1980s."

He said production costs will continue to increase and "farm product prices will have to rise to prevent an unbearable squeeze on net returns to producers."

An increasing demand for meat and the world will mean additional livestock consumption of grain and oilseed meal.

Hjort forecast that the demand for animal feeds will generate the steepest upward price pressure on agricultural product prices in the next decade because of an expected surge in consumption in the communities of the Middle East, East Africa, the Middle East, East Africa and much of Latin America.

Because world agriculture production will be running close to capacity in the next decade, there is a possibility of highly unstable prices affected by such variables as weather and sufficient transportation facilities, Hjort said.

He insisted that the U.S. grain reserve program must be strengthened to become an even more integral part of the nation's agricultural policy. The reserve holds grain from the market to maintain adequate grain prices for farmers and also acts as an emergency supply times of need for consumers, livestock producers and export customers.

"It is essential," Hjort said, "that reserve policies be maintained and strengthened. The lack of interest in sharing reserve obligations with others in the world community makes even greater importance to our reserve policies."

Hjort said the department will continue to encourage the Comptroller to establish the policy that food commitments will be met from the food security reserve, even when prices are high and supplies short.

He said the department soon will release public comment on the rules

Soybean pill judged safe contraceptive

United Press International
STOCKHOLM — The soybean, commended as inexpensive, protein-rich food, also may help curb the population's spiraling population.

A research scientist at Sweden's Lund University has developed a birth control pill based on soybean isoflavones and he says safer — birth control pill based on soybean isoflavones.

Prof. Birger Astedt said research indicates that estradiol does not cause the type of blood clotting complications that have been associated with synthetic estrogens used in standard oral contraceptives. He said the synthetic estrogens interfere with blood coagulation and increase the risk of thrombosis, or blood clots.

Astedt said that while the new pill is safer in this regard, it still produces some other common side effects such as headaches and weight gain associated with oral contraceptives.

Estradiol had been known for some time to be safe in regard to blood clotting, Astedt said, but its effectiveness in helping to prevent pregnancy was unproven.

Astedt and his team tested the new pill on 200 women in the southern Swedish cities of Malmo and Lund during a two-year period ending last year.

None became pregnant. Astedt believes the soybean-based pill's effectiveness is now proven.

The results of Astedt's tests are scheduled to be published in the British Journal of Gynecology.

Dr. Gabriel Bialy, head of contraceptive development for the United States' National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Md., said estradiol dosage is an important issue because previous studies have indicated that very large doses of the hormone might be needed.

Besides raising costs, Bialy said in Washington large doses might cause adverse side effects.

Bialy said the NIH is expected to begin studies soon on the substitution of estradiol for synthetic hormones used in contraceptives.

"I feel the studies should be done," he said. "The issue is not efficiency. It's safety. If we can present a combination that is safer, it is our obligation to do so."

Estradiol is currently being extracted from soybeans on a commercial basis by drug companies, but the process is expensive. Astedt said it will be at least two years before anyone can make the new pill available to the general public.

Ku Klux Klan leader sought for gun threat

United Press International
ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — A man identified as a Ku Klux Klan leader Tuesday pulled a gun on a radio talk show host, threatened his life and then fled.

Police said two employees at station KWBZ identified the man as Fred Wilkins, Colorado organizer for the Klan. Wilkins had not been apprehended as of late Tuesday.

Alan Berg, host of an afternoon talk show, said the man burst into

the studio about 1:15 p.m., while Berg was talking on the air with a telephone caller, and pointed a gun at him. A tape recording of the incident showed that the man said, "I'm Fred Wilkins. You're going to die."

Berg said the man then turned and ran out of the building.

"I was in a shock situation, still trying to run the show," he said. "I was putting the caller on hold and trying to apologize to him. I guess it's overtraining. I wasn't

scared at the time."

Don Bishop, operations manager at the station, said a producer who had interviewed Wilkins last week and a receptionist who had seen him at that time both identified the gunman as Wilkins.

Bishop speculated that the threat might have resulted from Berg's on-the-air condemnation of the Klan last week, following Wilkins' statement that he would file a lawsuit against Denver District Attorney Dale Tooley.

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