



Canada develops fababeans as a new source of protein

Canadian wheat has helped many people in many countries to better health. And now the fababean, a newly-developed crop, should prove of great nutritional value to those people in countries whose diets are deficient in protein.

While soybeans are currently accepted by many as an aid to health owing to their high protein content, the protein content of fababeans, which contain from 28 to 33 per cent, is even higher. This new variety of the crop that was once called the horsebean is being grown by research stations and farmers across Canada under the supervision of Dr. Lawrie Evans of the Plant Science Department, University of Manitoba.

In 1972, 1,500 acres were planted with fababeans; in 1973, 15,000 — quite an increase. Farmers, this year, are being invited to plant from two to ten acres on land which would normally lie fallow. The fababean has several planting advantages. It can be placed on top of stubble, doesn't suffer from frost as quickly as some other plants, and returns more nitrogen to the soil than it uses — a distinct saving.

The use of the crop is varied — it can be fed to all types of livestock, providing the necessary nutrients. For humans it can be used as a meat "extender" — much as soy meal in hamburger (a pound of meat and soybean meal mixed is richer in protein than meat alone).

F.G. Beaudette, a spokesman for the Department of Industry, Trade and

Commerce, indicated to delegates at the first National Fababean Conference in Winnipeg in February, that once supply could be guaranteed, Canada had buyers for fababeans.

By 1977, Dr. Evans believes there will be on the market a Canadian-bred variety that will mature early and with shatter resistance; today's varieties tend to break open easily.

The Canada Grains Council estimates a possible \$105-million market for this year's crop. Other organizations agree and, in fact, are expecting a huge potential for the 1975/76 crop.

Fababeans could well help to arrest malnutrition in countries where agricultural lands are not as productive as Canada's.



Canada Agriculture photos
Fababeans growing in Lethbridge,
Alberta.

New national price for oil

Following a two-day meeting of the Prime Minister and provincial premiers in Ottawa, agreement was announced on March 27 on the establishment of one national price for domestic and imported oil.

Under the new agreement, effective April 1 when the seven-month domestic price freeze was lifted, the price of Western Canadian crude was increased to \$6.50 a barrel from \$4. The Prime Minister stated later that the new price would be in effect for 15 months.

The Federal Government will continue to subsidize the price of oil in Eastern Canada for the high cost of imported crude.

Alberta and Saskatchewan, the oil-producing provinces, will gain by the large increase in revenues; some provinces will receive oil at prices below international levels; and others under the national revenue equalization plan will receive some \$100 million in grants from the Federal Government.

Prime Minister Trudeau, who stated that the increased domestic price for oil was "substantial", noted that it was still about \$5 a barrel less than prices on the international market.

Federal developments screened for environmental effects

Effective April 1, all Federal Government projects are being screened in the early planning stage to make sure they do the least possible damage to the environment.

In announcing Ottawa's new environmental assessment and review process, Environment Minister Jack Davis said that all federal departments, agencies and firms under federal jurisdiction would have to submit suitable *environmental impact statements*.

These statements, prepared internally or by consultants, would be reviewed by a panel of experts in Environment Canada, who would have the power to approve, reject, or call for changes in the project. The proposals must be found to be environmentally acceptable and declared to be such by the Minister before large financial commitments are made and construction begins.