

Germany and, to a lesser extent the Netherlands, are, however, exceptions in their high usage of own-produced product. In the EC-12, around 80% of dehy is sold as to feed compounders as a protein/zanthophyll-rich commodity. And, as the secretary-general of the European Dehydrators Federation told the annual assembly in Marbella, Spain, with no stock at the end of the 1989-90 marketing year the industry continues to match increasing production with increasing consumption.

The following table outlines the production of dried forage (alfalfa and grass) in the EEC for the period 1985-1990:

EC PRODUCTION OF DRIED FORAGE (ALFALFA AND GRASS) 1985-90

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Exchange 89/90	1990 (forecast)
France	740 000	795 000	893 000	1 042 000	1 136 000	+ 9.00	1 136 000
Denmark	168 314	176 400	210 600	260 000	294 000	+13.10	320 000
Italy	155 000	179 282	205 000	244 000	347 000	+41.10	350 000
Netherlands	117 878	122 068	154 708	192 000	245 000	+27.60	245 000
W. Germany	110 145	124 531	152 237	179 750	223 000	+24.10	200 000
Spain		50 000	84 736	340 000	465 000	+36.80	505 000
UK/Ireland	59 729	60 383	67 113	69 000	70 000	+ 1.40	84 000
Belgium				5 948	6 000	+ .09	7 000
Total	1 331 066	1 507 664	1 767 394	2 334 678	2 766 000		2 847 000

EEC CONSUMPTION OF DEHY PRODUCT

Consumption in the last two years had undoubtedly been helped by the drought affecting parts of south-west France and some regions in Spain. However, prospects for a better forage crop this year will result in re-doubling marketing efforts in order to move production. Generally, low commodity prices, particularly of the main imported competing feeds e.g. soya meal corn glutton feed, and citrus pulp, made compounders reluctant to commit themselves which is driving continental dehy prices under the severest pressure for some years. This pressure is less severe in the U.K. where some dehydrators are reporting increased demand for home produced dehy. As a result of increasing farmers demand for more natural ingredients in feed mixtures. This trend, which started after the salmonella scare early in 1989, has been reinforced by a recent concern over the inclusion of