

Acreage Reserve Soil Bank Gets Underway; Basic Rates Itemized

(Continued from page one)

next year's crops are planted, however—including fall seeding of wheat this year, we will have an opportunity to plan and develop a more comprehensive program.

"The Soil Bank makes available beginning especially in 1957 a way to reduce our farm surpluses, to safeguard our soil and water resources, to give a lift to farm prices."

Under the 1956 Acreage Reserve, farmers who are eligible to take part in the program may earn payments in connection with one or more of the commodities specified in the law. In Pennsylvania these commodities are corn, wheat and most types of tobacco—by reducing their acreage of the crop below the farm's established allotment (or base acreage in the case of corn).

Under the basic rules of eligibility established in keeping with the law, acreage designated for the Acreage Reserve must (1) Be representative of the land used for the crop, (2) result in the harvesting of an acreage of the basic crop less than the farm allotment or corn base acreage, and (3) not be grazed, cut for hay, or cropped for the entire 1956 calendar year. Noxious weeds must also be controlled on the "reserved" acreage.

In order to participate in the Acreage Reserve, a farmer must comply with all acreage allotments or corn base established for the farm.

The 1956 program, as provided by the law, contains special provisions and payments which enable farmers to participate this year. Any farmer who otherwise complies with the provisions of the Acreage Reserve will be eligible for payment if

- 1 He has underplanted his Soil Bank corn base or his allotment for tobacco, or wheat (when planted to spring wheat) and he certifies that he underplanted (a) in anticipation of complying with the 1956 Acreage Reserve or (b) because of adverse weather conditions, or
- 2 He has underplanted his 1956 allotment for winter wheat and certifies that this was done because of adverse weather conditions, or
- 3 He has complied with his Soil Bank corn base or his farm allotment for a particular crop, but an acreage of the crop was not harvested because of destruction by natural causes, or
- 4 The farmer is in an area where an established final date set for the basic commodity for his area is subsequent to May 28 and he plows or otherwise physically incorporates the crop into the soil, or clips, mows or cuts the crop after May 28 and prior to June 30 or the established final date, whichever is later. The final date in Pennsylvania on which the acreage of 1956 wheat may be adjusted in order to bring it into compliance with the acreage allotment was June 13 in most western and northern counties, the deadline date in southeastern counties was June 1st. The deadline date on corn is August 15, 1956.

Maximum and minimum acreages of the basic crops which may be placed in the Acreage Reserve have been established as follows (except that where the allotment is less than the specified acreage minimum or maximum, the total allotment

shall be considered as the minimum or the maximum):

For corn, the maximum is the larger of half the corn base acreage or 50 acres. The minimum is the larger of 10 percent of the base acreage or 5 acres.

For wheat, the maximum is the larger of half the wheat allotment or 50 acres. The minimum is the larger of 10 percent of the allotment or 5 acres.

For tobacco, the maximum is the larger of half the allotment or 5 acres. The minimum is the larger of 10 percent of the allotment or 1 acre.

The payment which a farmer may earn for participating in the Acreage Reserve will be determined by multiplying a base unit rate by a yield factor. The national average rates for 1956 crops are: Corn, 90 cents per bushel; wheat, \$1.20 per bushel, and tobacco, varying rates per pound for different types.

The payments will be determined as follows:

For underplanting the corn base or the allotment for tobacco, or wheat (when planted to spring wheat), the payment rate will be based on the normal yield for the designated acreage.

For underplanting 1956 winter wheat, because of adverse weather, the payment will be \$4 per acre.

For destruction due to natural causes or for plowing or otherwise physically incorporating the crop into the soil, or for clipping, mowing, or cutting the crop, the payment will be based on the smaller of an appraised yield for the field or the normal yield for the farm, but will not be less than \$6 per acre.

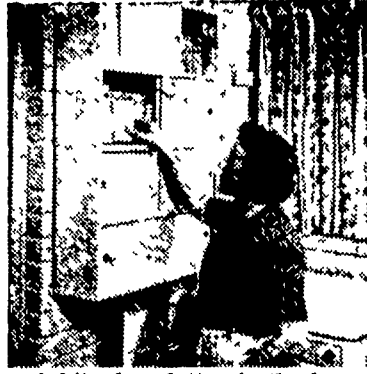
Provisions of the Conservation Reserve part of the Soil Bank will be announced as soon as practical. Under this part of the program, a farmer will be able to earn two types of payment—an annual payment to help compensate for income which he would have received if the "reserved" land had been in crop, and a payment representing a percentage of the cost of establishing conservation practices on such land.

The same acreage on a farm may not be included under both the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve parts of the Soil Bank.

Farmers in the areas where crops are not too far advanced will be able to earn payments under the Soil Bank Program in connection with their 1956 crops of corn, wheat, and most types of tobacco, Chairman Edward J. Fleming, Sr. of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee said today. While all details of the program have not yet been determined, producers in general can qualify for the payments by putting land into the Acreage Reserve, and thus reducing their acreage of the crop below the farm's established allotment or base acreage in the case of corn, for the farm.

Mr. Fleming cautions farmers not to take any action to participate in the Soil Bank until they have checked with their local county ASC committee, and entered into agreements with the committee regarding the practices to be carried out.

The county committee will receive full instructions as soon as the regulation can be completed. Mr. Fleming assures farmers that, despite the lateness of the season, the Department of Agriculture is moving with all possible speed to make the Soil Bank available to farmers this year. The program to meet this immediate need will in a sense be an emergency for



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this year only. Before next year's crops are planted, including fall seeding of grain this year, the whole program will be reviewed and desirable changes will be made and announced before the 1957 program is started.

Payments which farmers can earn for going into the Soil Bank Acreage Reserve will be determined by multiplying a base unit "rate" by a yield factor to be determined. The national average rates of the 1956 crops are: corn, 90 cents per bushel, and wheat, \$1.20 per bushel.

Regulations are being completed for the Conservation Reserve but are not ready for re-

lease.

Rules For 1956 Corn Price Support Explained

Conditions of eligibility for 1956-crop corn price support as set out by the recently enacted Agricultural Act of 1956 were outlined today by Chairman Edward J. Fleming, Sr., of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Chairman Fleming said that the 1956 support rate for corn for the 29 commercial corn counties in Pennsylvania will be announced shortly. However, the National maximum price support for corn is \$1.50 a bushel which compares with \$1.58 for 1955. Farmers in the commercial area may become eligible for this maximum support level by: (1) Complying with their corn acreage allotments (2) Complying with the new Soil Bank price-support requirements for corn price support.

Chairman Fleming explained that to qualify for the maximum corn price support in commercial areas under the Soil Bank requirements, a farmer must put an acreage of his cropland equal to 15 percent of his corn "base acreage" (provided for under the new farm legislation) into either the corn Acreage Reserve or the Conservation Reserve.

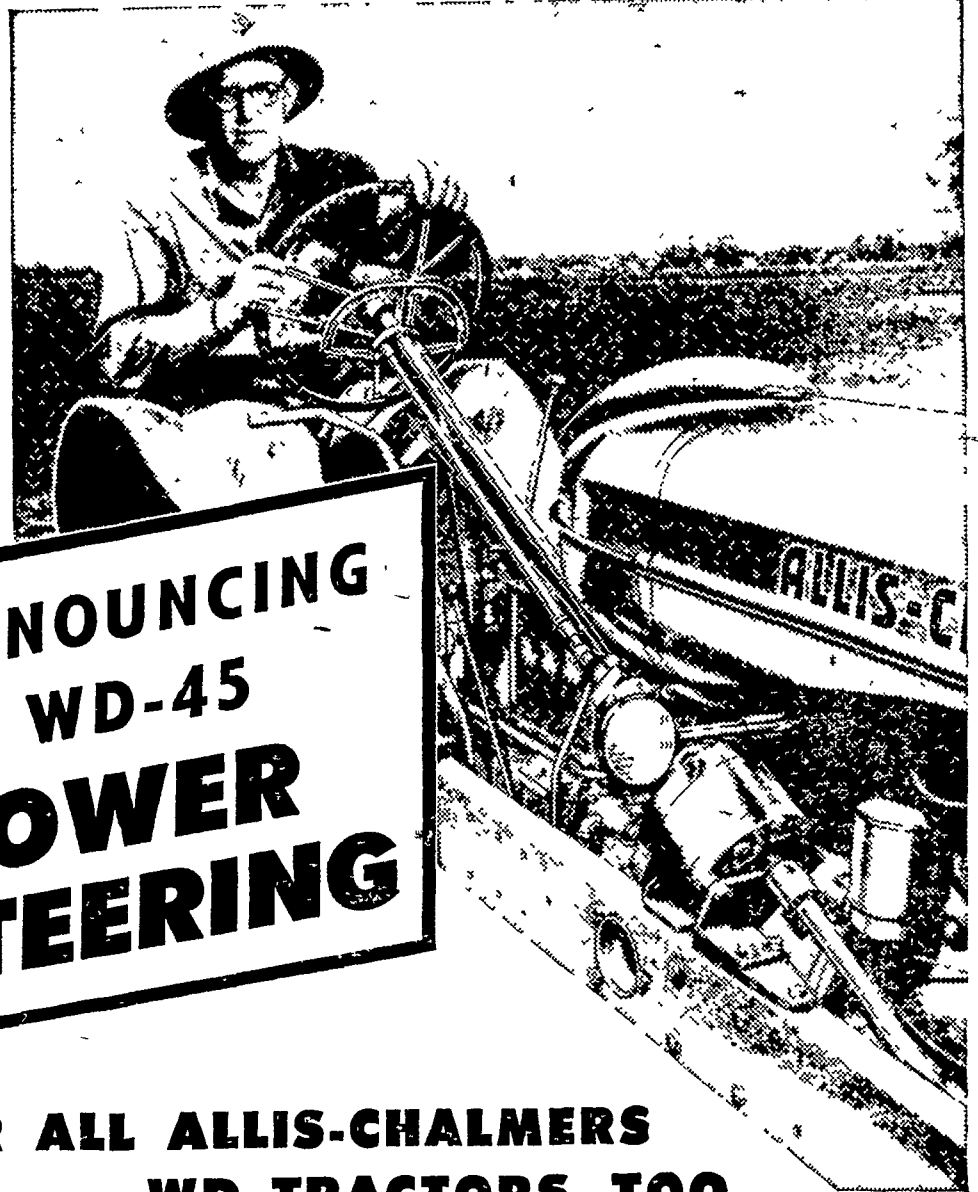
To qualify through the corn Acreage Reserve a farmer must not have a corn acreage in excess of 85 per cent of his corn base acreage, and he must designate an acreage equal to 15

per cent of his corn base acreage from which he has not and will not harvest a crop, cut hay, or graze in 1956.

To obtain price support in commercial areas through participation in the Conservation Reserve, a farmer must not exceed his corn base acreage and he must designate an acreage of general cropland equal to 15 percent of his corn base acreage which he will contract to devote to specified conservation uses, and from which he has not or will not harvest a crop, cut hay, or graze for the life of the contract. The contract may run from 3 to 15 years.

Farmers in the commercial corn area who comply neither with their corn acreage allotments nor with the provisions of the Soil Bank will be eligible for the non-compliance rate of support—on the basis of a national average of \$1.25 a bushel, as previously announced.

Farmers in the non-commercial corn area, which includes all counties not designated as commercial, will be eligible for price support at 82½ percent of the commercial area maximum rate, as determined with the usual county differentials. The commercial corn counties in Pennsylvania are: Adams, Berks, Blair, Bucks, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union, York.



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