

## Price Support Levels Announced For Corn Under 1957 Alternates

WASHINGTON — (USDA) — Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson Nov 14 announced price support levels and related determinations which would apply under alternate corn programs for 1957 production

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced on Friday, November 9, that corn growers would vote in a referendum Dec 11 to determine whether Soil Bank corn base acreages or corn acreage allotments would be used in the 1957 program.

If two-thirds or more of the farmers who vote in the referendum favor base acreages, they will be in effect next year. If more than one-third favor acreage allotments, they will be in effect.

The Department also announced on Friday that the national corn acreage allotment for the 894 designated commercial corn-producing counties would be 37,288,889 acres, if allotments are used. The corn base acreage for the same commercial counties, as set by the controlling legislature, would be 51 million acres

The further determinations

announced today are

1 If the base acreage program is approved, 51 million acres, price support will be available in the commercial counties at a "national" average of \$1.31 per bushel.

2 If the acreage allotment program is approved, 37,288,889 acres, price support will be available in the commercial counties at a "national" average of \$1.36 per bushel. This price support level is determined by the formula of the law which applies when acreage allotments for corn are in effect

3 There are no plans to offer price support for 1957 corn production which is not in compliance with acreage allotments or Soil Bank provisions. Such "non-compliance" price supports were available in 1956 because of special conditions

4 The unit rate for determining payments under the corn Acreage Reserve program of the Soil Bank in 1957 will be 90 cents per bushel, the same as for this year.

"With the determinations which have now been announced," Secretary Benson said, "farmers will have all the essential information before voting in the December 11 referendum. This will be an important decision. It will determine the sort of corn program which will be available in 1957 and later years.

"The corn supply available for 1956-57 has reached an all-time record level of 4,579,000,000 bushels. A near-record 1956 crop, estimated at 3,413,000,000 bushels, was added to a record carryover of 1,166,000,000 bushels of corn produced in former years. This huge supply is directly responsible for the further drop in the national corn acreage allotment and the 'allotment' price

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the 1956 Eastern National. Here is Herschel Allen, president of the Eastern National, and George Becher of the California firm.

support levels which have been determined by the formula of the law.

"The corn programs have not worked out well in the past. Because such a large proportion of the crop is either fed on the farm where produced or marketed in the immediate area, the kind of marketing quotas which are used for other basic crops have not proved feasible for corn. Corn marketing quotas are not authorized by present legislation.

"Even more important, corn acreage allotments have not been effective — either as a way for individual farmers to qualify for price support, or as a means to secure production adjustments

"The national corn acreage allotment has dropped sharply in recent years. There is no 'minimum' level — no floor under the corn allotment — no matter how big the supply becomes

"The corn allotment for commercial counties was 49.8 million acres in 1955. With a bigger total supply of corn that year, the allotment dropped to 43.3 million acres in 1956. Next year, if allotments are in effect, the total allotment under the formula of the law can be only 37.3 million acres — and this will have to be spread over 894 commercial counties, 54 more than in 1956.

"With the cut-back in total allotments, the share for each individual farmer has also had to be reduced — to the point where many farmers have found that it was not practicable to comply with them. Even in 1955, with a relatively high total allotment, only about 51 per cent of the corn produced in commercial counties was grown in compliance with allotments. Compliance would undoubtedly have been much less this year if the lower allotment had remained in effect. It was replaced by the 51 million base acreage provided in the Soil Bank legislation.

"With an even smaller allotment to cover more counties in 1957, it is obvious that most farmers would find that limiting corn production to their allotted acres would not fit in with sound farm management. Relatively few would be able to comply.

"When acreage allotments are operative, eligibility for price support depends on compliance with the established farm allotments. As allotments have been reduced, increasing numbers of farmers in commercial counties have in effect been bar-

red from price support

"This is the basic situation which underlies the Legislative provision which Congress provided for a referendum this December on alternate corn programs. Farmers have the choice of continuing the base acreage which has been in effect this year, or going back to an acreage allotment. Under base acreages, they will have a higher level from which to measure both price support eligibility and Soil Bank participation.

"If the base acreages are in effect, the price support level will be determined each year on the basis of the general situation — as it was this year when the available support for 1957 production was set at an average of \$1.31 per bushel. Eligibility for price support will depend on producing within the individual farm base acreage, and taking part in the Soil Bank to the extent required.

"If acreage allotments are in effect, the price support will be determined each year as provided by law within a mandatory

range of 75 to 90 per cent of parity. Eligibility will depend upon compliance with the farm allotment, whether or not the farmer participates in the Soil Bank

"There have been questions about the possibility of 'non-compliance' corn price support again in 1957. Corn in commercial counties which was not produced in compliance with acreage allotment or Soil Bank provisions this year was made eligible for price support at an average of \$1.25 a bushel, as compared with the full support of \$1.50 a bushel.

"When Soil Bank and related legislation was delayed, several steps were taken to help strengthen and stabilize current farm income. One of these special steps was raising the average corn price supports to \$1.50 a bushel, from the previously announced \$1.40 for commercial counties. Another was the pro-

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