

1957 Soil Bank Reserve Rules Are Set by Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON — (USDA) — Regulations covering the Acreage Reserve program of the Soil Bank for 1957 — the first full year of operation for this new agricultural legislation — were announced today by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

"The new regulations embody several important changes and additions to those in effect for the emergency Acreage Reserve program of this year," Secretary Benson explained. "As will be recalled, the Soil Bank law became effective late in May 1956 — after most crops had been planted. However, the Department put the program in operation promptly, and the farmers placed slightly over 12 million acres of "basic" crops — wheat, corn, cotton, rice, peanuts, and tobacco — in the 1956 Acreage Reserve. In spite of this relatively good start, we do not consider that this year's pro-

gram was a fair trial of the surplus-reducing possibilities of the Soil Bank. We anticipate a much more successful program in 1957.

"Most of the changes that have been made are to insure producers a fair and equitable opportunity to participate in the 1957 program. County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees will begin accepting 1957 Acreage Reserve agreements for corn, cotton, rice tobacco, and spring wheat as early as possible in January. Farmers already have pledged over 10.5 million acres of winter wheat in the 1957 program for that crop."

Among the more important provisions of the new regulations are the following:

1. A national allocation of 1957 Acreage Reserve funds among the commodities to be covered in the 1957 program — wheat, corn, upland cotton, tobacco, and rice.

2. A breakdown of these commodity allocations among producing States and counties within them.

3. Establishment of maximums on the amount of acreage of a particular crop that an individual farmer can place in the Acreage Reserve, with a provision that this maximum may be exceeded if funds are still available after all farmers have had an opportunity to participate.

4. There will be no minimum acreage limitations on the amount of land that may be entered in the program except those already in effect for 1957 wheat.

National allocations of 1957 Acreage Reserve funds by commodities are: cotton, \$217,500,000; corn, \$217,500,000; rice, \$14 million; tobacco, \$34,055,000; and wheat, both winter and spring, \$267,630,000 — a total of \$750,685,000. This is \$685,000 above the \$750 million set by the Soil Bank law for any year's operation of the Acreage Reserve program. Department officials explained

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Visitors to Smokies Shatter All Records

GATLINGBURG, Tenn. — A record number of persons visited the Great Smoky Mountains National Park this year. The count through October was 2,739,079, shattering last year's all-time high of 2,581,477, according to park officials.

A total of 244,419 persons visited the park during the month of October — also a record — to view the colorful display of autumn leaves.

that this excess is to take care of "slippage" — money that may be committed, but which will not be used because not all agreements will be carried out or qualified for the full commitment.

State allocations were determined after taking into account State acreage allotments for a particular commodity, land productivity, estimated extent of participation in the program, supply and demand conditions for different classes, grades and quality of the commodity produced in the several States, distances from markets, and historic prices. The States will use similar factors in allocating funds to their counties.

Limits on extent of participation in the 1957 program provide that the acreage for any commodity placed in the Acreage Reserve by a farm shall not exceed that farm's allotment for the commodity. Within this limitation, the maximum acreages that may be originally entered for a farm are: wheat, 50 acres or 50 per cent of the farm allotment, whichever is larger; corn and rice, 20 acres or 30 per cent of the allotment, whichever is larger; cotton, 10 acres or 30 per cent of the allotment, whichever is larger; and burley, dark air-cured, fire-cured, and Virginia sun-cured tobacco, one acre or 30 per cent of the allotment, whichever is larger; and for all other tobacco, three acres or 30 per cent of the allotment, whichever is larger.

Applications for Acreage Reserve agreements are to be accepted within these limits by county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees on a "first come, first served" basis to the extent county funds are available. Farmers wishing to participate above maximum acreage limits for a particular crop must indicate this in their original agreement. If, after the sign-up for a crop has closed, funds are left over, or can be reallocated from another county or another State, these additional acres will be accepted to the extent funds are available and within instructions to be issued by the Department later.

Deadline for signing 1957 Acreage Reserve agreements will be March 1 for cotton and tobacco and March 8 for corn, spring wheat, and rice.

Only land suitable for the production of the commodity covered by an agreement will be eligible for designation as the Acreage Reserve. County ASC committees may also reject designations of tracts which are of such size, shape, or nature as to make it impracticable to determine performance of an agreement or will tend to defeat the purpose of the Soil Bank program.

County ASC committees will inspect land offered for the Acreage Reserve to determine if it is suitable for the production of the commodity involved and whether it has been properly designated in the agreement. So far as practicable, this inspection will be made prior to acceptance of the agreement.

Under the Soil Bank law, the rights of tenants and sharecroppers are protected. Regulations in effect this year and already effective for the 1957 winter wheat Acreage Reserve provide that county ASC committees may not approve an agreement if the landlord or farm operator, because of participation in the Soil Bank, reduced the number of tenants or sharecroppers on his farm. A new provision specifies that

Females Outnumber Men; Two Reasons

In its latest estimate the Census Bureau reports that females now outnumber males in the United States by about 1,381,000. The greatest disparity is in the 25 and older age groups.

The sex ratio switch is said to be due to two factors: The mortality rate is higher for men, about 200,000 more deaths occurred among males than females for each of the last six years, and immigration has declined — only about two-fifths of persons coming to live in this country now are males. Prior to 1930, about two-thirds of the immigrants were males.

Using a Lancaster Farming classified ad is both cheap and easy.

If a tenant or sharecropper leaves a farm voluntarily, or for some reason other than being forced off, the failure to replace such a tenant or sharecropper will not bar the landlord or farm operator from an Acreage Reserve agreement.

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Wadhams Initiates Egg Check-Off Plan

P. J. ("Phil") Wadhams, manager of the Farmers Cooperative Auction Association, East Hartford, Conn., has been granted a special leave of absence to temporarily assist the Poultry and Egg National Board in organizing the 1957 PENB voluntary check-off program in the Northeast, according to Leslie S. Hubbard, PENB general manager, Lancaster, Pa.

Beginning Jan. 1, Mr. Wadhams will work for a few weeks with Stephen K. Urner, manager of the Eastern Office of PENB, New York City, and Eleanor Bateman, manager of the New England Office of PENB, Boston, in getting the check-off plans for financing greater poultry products promotions off to an early start.

His headquarters while "on loan" to PENB will be RFD No. 2, East Hampton, (Marlborough), Conn.

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