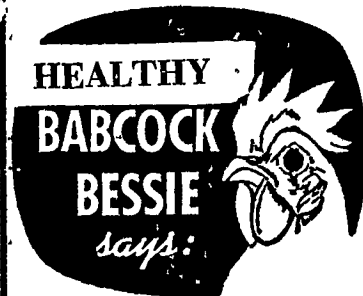


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The reason some strains have lots of blow-outs is that the breeders who have developed these strains always used specs or deaked and therefore, the birds that had a tendency to blow-outs were protected and were allowed to reproduce in the flock.

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Sec. Benson Issues Statement Lowering Estimated Budget Needs



Ezra Taft Benson

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson Thursday issued the following statement in regard to a budget amendment for the Soil Bank Program sent to the Congress by the President.

The budget amendment for the Soil Bank Program sent to the Congress by the President today represents a revised projection of costs in the fiscal years 1957 and 1958 based on substantially completed sign-up experience on the 1957 Acreage Reserve Program and what we believe to be a more accurate projection of participation in the Conservation Reserve Program. Also in connection with the cost of the 1957 Acreage Reserve Program in the fiscal year 1957, there is a change in the estimated timing of payments to be made. In no sense does the Budget Amendment reflect any "cut-back" in the Soil Bank Program. We are making and will continue to make every effort to utilize in a sound manner the funds authorized by the Soil Bank Act.

The budget amendment reduces the estimated expenditures for the Soil Bank from \$1,254 million in the fiscal year 1958 to \$1,000 million, and the estimate for the fiscal year 1957 from \$1,229 million to \$452 million. The major change in estimates is in the estimated cost of the Conservation Reserve Program. Actual participation in the 1956 Conservation Reserve Program was only a fraction of the original estimate and the projected participation in

the 1957 program is about half the original estimate. Our experience thus far indicates that farmers are taking time to give careful consideration to participation in a program which will take their land out of production for 3, 5 or 10 years, as in the case under the Conservation Reserve. As we anticipated and as was discussed with Congressional Committees, this means that it will take time for participation to develop to the point where annual payments amount to as much as \$450 million per calendar year, the limit contained in the Soil Bank.

There was less than a million dollar change in our estimate of the cost of payments under the 1957 Acreage Reserve Program (\$630 million), but on the basis that no payments will be made to a producer until it is apparent that he is in substantial compliance on all crops and all phases of the program, we have revised our estimate of the timing of Soil Bank payments. It is now estimated that the bulk of program payments will be made later in the calendar year, thus shifting payments from the fiscal year 1957 to 1958 and from the fiscal year 1958 to 1959.

For example, we originally estimated that \$413 million of the total of \$630 million of 1957 Acreage Reserve payments would be made in the fiscal year 1957 and the remainder in 1958. We now estimate, based on operating experience to date, that only \$100 million will be paid producers in the fiscal year 1957 and the remainder of the \$630 million in the fiscal year 1958 — probably mostly in the period July-September 1957.

Also based on our operating experience to date and the change in projected participation, we have revised our estimates of operating expenses downward by approximately \$32.4 million for the fiscal year 1957 and \$21.8 million for the fiscal year 1958.

LENNOX S. D., INDEPENDENT "Definition of a socialist bureaucrat, and there are plenty of them in government 'one who has nothing himself and is willing to share it with everyone else'."

Farmers in U. S. Build Record Number of Farm Ponds Last Year

Farmers built 87,430 farm ponds in 1956, more than in any previous year, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced Friday.

Previous high year was 1954 when farmers built 86,421 farm ponds. During the past six years the USDA's Soil Conservation Service has given technical assistance to farmers in building 425,521 farm ponds. In all, farmers have built 803,000 farm ponds with SCS technical help. The ponds average from one to two acres each.

Most were built as part of a basic conservation plan farmers develop for their entire farm in cooperation with the nation's 2,726 soil conservation districts, and many pond builders received cost-sharing assistance through the Department's Agricultural Conservation Program. Ponds supply water for livestock, fire protection, small-scale irrigation, for fish management, improvement of wildlife habitat, and for recreation.

Farm ponds have been most popular in the southeastern, northeastern and mid-western states, according to SCS Admin-

istrators in Kentucky and Mississippi, for example have built 64,318 and 56,187 farm ponds, respectively. Farmers have built 16,256 ponds in Iowa, 11,958 in Nebraska, and 8,541 in New York.

"This indicates the interest farmers have in water storage, one of the measures that will be given added stimulus by the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank," Williams said.

The Conservation Reserve, open to sign-up by farmers this year until last Monday is designed to encourage farmers and ranchers to shift land out of cultivated crops and into grass, trees and wildlife cover, as well as water storage.

Another measure of the interest in the objectives of the Conservation Reserve is the fact that farmers and ranchers in soil conservation districts have converted more than 4,600,000 acres of their poorer cropland to grass and trees in the past three years as part of their conservation plans.

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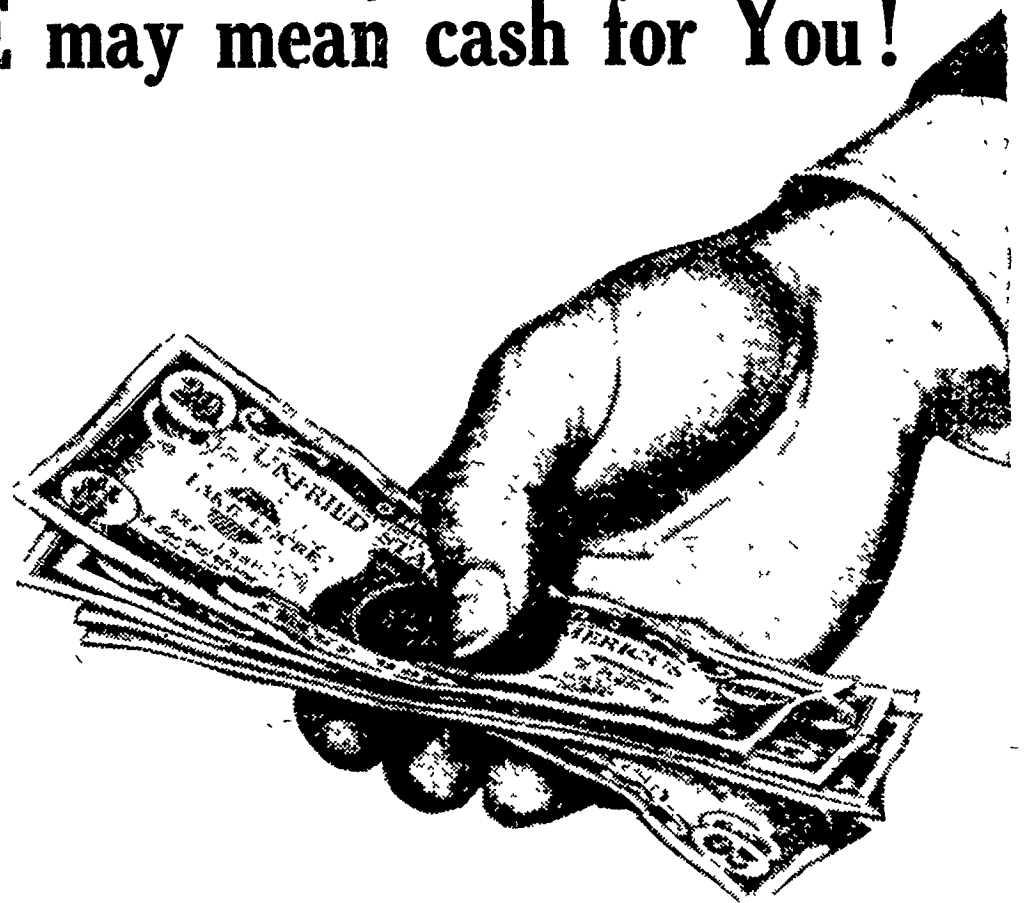
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