

1958 Soil Bank Acreage Reserve Program Announced by Government

General provisions of the Soil Bank's 1958 Acreage Reserve program, including its application to the winter wheat crop which will be planted this fall, were announced Saturday by Acting Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse following Congressional action authorizing continuance of the program for the coming year.

The Acreage Reserve is that part of the Soil Bank under which farmers agree to reduce their acreage of "basic" crops below their established acreage allotments. It was in effect on a limited basis in 1956, and for the full 1957 crop-year. The Conservation Reserve, the other Soil Bank program, calls for shifting general cropland to conservation uses under contracts running for three or more years.

Changes in Acreage Reserve provisions for 1958, as compared with previous years, include the following:

1. Establishment of a total crop acreage figure for each farm, to be based primarily on past production history and known as the "Soil Bank base," with the requirement that total harvested acreage in 1958 be held below the "base" by the equivalent of the number of acres placed in the Soil Bank. (This "Soil Bank base" provision has been in effect for the Conservation Reserve since the beginning of that program. For

1958, it will apply to farms taking part in either or both of the Soil Bank programs).

2. A limit of \$3,000 on the total of 1958 Acreage Reserve payments which can be made to any one producer, as required by legislative action.

Commenting on the announcement of the 1958 program, Acting Secretary Morse said, "The Acreage Reserve is an emergency program to encourage needed adjustments in the production of surplus crops. It provides special payments to offset loss of net profits while the adjustments are being made.

"The primary objective of the Acreage Reserve, of course, is to help cut down the accumulated surpluses which are such a load on the back of agriculture. In carrying out the program for 1958, we want to make major progress toward this goal. Based on experience of the past two years, we are making announced changes in operating procedures to increase the effectiveness of the program.

"One major problem has been the tendency to shift production from Acreage Reserve crops to other crops which contribute to over-all surpluses. The Soil Bank base provision, with its limit on total harvested crops, will help to check this undesirable diversion.

"We regret the need to impose further controls on farm production, adding limitations to make other limitations work. In the present emergency, however, we must try to make the Acreage Reserve more effective in adjusting 1958 production.

"This tightening up of the program is in line with recommendations made by the Senate and House conferees, in their report on the Department's 1958 appropriation bill."

Crops making up the "Soil Bank base" will, in general, be all crops produced for harvest on a farm, except hay crops. In addition to the six "basic" crops, they will include among others such crops as the grains, annual grasses cut for seed, oilseeds, cowpeas, potatoes, commercial vegetables, field and canning peas and beans.

The Soil Bank base for individual farms will be established by county ASC committees primarily on the basis of the average acreage of land devoted to Soil Bank base crops during the past two years — 1956 and 1957. Where a farm already has a "base" established under the Conservation Reserve program, that base will apply

In the Acreage Reserve agreement, participating farmers will agree to limit their harvest of Soil Bank base crops. The limit, called the "permitted acreage," will be determined by subtracting the number of acres in the Acreage Reserve from the total in the Soil Bank base. (Provisions of the Conservation Reserve program also call for reductions below the Soil Bank base. If both programs are in effect on a farm, the required reduction in harvested acres, below the Soil Bank base, will be the total of the acres in the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve for that year).

Harvesting more total acreage from a farm than the "permitted acreage" will make the producer subject to a civil penalty, in addition to the loss of Acreage Reserve payment. The civil penalty is 50 per cent of the payment which would have been made for compliance with all provisions of the program. (This is the same civil penalty which applies if the producer permits grazing of the Acreage Reserve, take a crop from it that year, or harvests more acres of the "Acreage Reserve" crop than the difference between the farm allotment and the Acreage Reserve).

In accordance with legislative provision, not more than \$3,000 in Acreage Reserve payments for 1958 can be made to any one producer. If acreage of two or more eligible basic commodities is put into the Acreage Reserve, the \$3,000 limit applies to the total of all Acreage Reserve payments.

This limit does not include payments under the Conservation Reserve program. There is a separate limit of \$5,000 in the total of Conservation Reserve annual payments which can be made in any one year if a producer puts acreage from the farm in both the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve, he could be eligible for payments up to \$3,000 and \$5,000, respectively — or a total of \$8,000 for the year.

Individual payment rates for the 1958 Acreage Reserve will be determined primarily on the basis of average per-acre rates. For each reserve crop except tobacco, there will be a "national" average rate of payment per acre. Then state and county rates will be established. These will vary in accordance with productivity and other factors, but in total will reflect the "national" rate. For tobacco, individual rates will be determined on the same basis as for 1957 — the established unit rate per pound multiplied by the yield figure for the farm.

County ASC committees will determine per-acre rates for individual farms. These will be based on the county "average" rate for all crops except tobacco, but they will vary among farms primarily according to relative productivity.

The individual farm per-acre rates will be available before Acreage Reserve agreements are signed. There will be provision for appeals to county and State ASC offices if a producer is not satisfied with the per-acre rate — or with the "Soil Bank base" established for his farm.

Farmers who took part in the 1957 Acreage Reserve program will be paid a 10 per cent premium, above the 1958 compensation rates, if they put the identical land in the Acreage Reserve program for 1958.

In addition to the provision that noxious weeds must be controlled on Acreage Reserve land, participants in the 1958 program may also be required to control erosion. Otherwise, the land designated for the Acreage Reserve may be left idle, or a soil or water conservation practice may be carried out on it. It is possible for participating farmers to qualify for Agricultural Conservation (ACP) cost-sharing practices on land in the Acreage Reserve.

After the deadline for signing agreements covering a particular crop under the Acreage Reserve for 1958, participating farmers will not be permitted to withdraw from the program, except in some cases involving "new" commercial corn counties.

The 1958 Acreage Reserve program will be available first for winter wheat, to be seeded this fall for harvest next year. Details of the program for spring-seeded crops (spring wheat and the other

"basic" crops which are eligible for the program) will be announced before their sign-up period next spring.

The information needed by ASC county committees in determining individual farm rates of payment under the 1958 wheat Acreage Reserve program and completing other preliminary work, was sent from Washington through State committees in advance. County committees in general will be in position next week to start notifying farmers regarding these payment rates, and also helping to determine the Soil Bank base which must be established for each farm before the signing of agreements. With this information available, wheat farmers will be able to make plans for their Acreage Reserve participation.

The sign-up period for winter wheat is scheduled to open on Aug. 26 and close Oct. 4 this year. During this period, all farmers who have an "old farm" wheat acreage allotment for 1958, and who normally grow winter wheat, will be eligible to sign an Acreage Reserve agreement with their county ASC committee.

Before the signing of an agreement, however, a "farm Soil Bank base" must be established for the farm. Each producer is responsible for furnishing the county ASC committee the production history and other information needed to establish this base. This information should be supplied at least 15 days before the end of the sign-up period.

The "national" average rate for the 1958 Acreage Reserve will be \$20.88 per acre — with available wheat price supports averaging \$17.8 a bushel. This rate will be translated into varying state, county, and individual farm per-acre rates. For the 1957 wheat Acreage Reserve, the average rate of payment per acre available to producers on a national basis was approximately \$20.04 per acre — with wheat price supports averaging \$2.00 a bushel. The average payment for those who actually signed agreements for 1957 was about \$18, reflecting the fact that the land put in the reserve was of less than average yield.

Except for the legislative limitation of \$3,000 on the total of Acreage Reserve payments to any one producer, no limits are placed on the number of acres which

Lampeter Fair To Receive Funds From Barbeque

A poultry barbeque is being held tomorrow at the Lampeter Community Center to raise funds for the Lampeter Community Fair.

The barbeque is scheduled for 4 to 8 p.m., rain or shine.

Roy B. Herr is chairman of the barbeque committee and Wayne B. Rentschler is chairman of the publicity committee.

Other committee chairmen are Harold Rohrer, purchasing, B. Snively Garber and LeRoy Andrews, grounds; J. Lloyd Rohrer, barbeque pit, Issac Herr, parking; Mrs. LeRoy Andrews, serving line, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rowe, table service.

may be offered for the 1958 program.

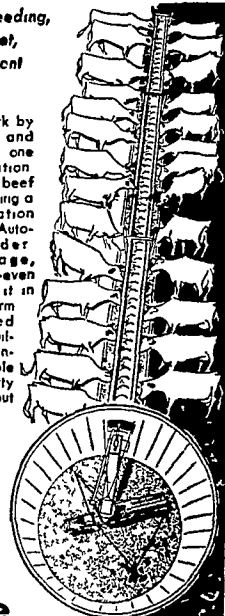
Of the \$500 million authorized by Congress for the 1958 Acreage Reserve, \$178 million will be allocated to the wheat Acreage Reserve — for both spring and winter wheat.

In acceptance of agreements, preference will be given to those farmers who first sign agreements, in the event more acreage is offered than can be accepted, within the money available for the wheat Acreage Reserve program.

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