

1958 Corn Supports "Unchanged"

The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced that price support rates for 1958-crop corn will be unchanged from the "advance" minimum rates announced earlier this year.

Following are the rates available for corn produced in 1958:

1. Corn produced in compliance with acreage allotments in the commercial corn-producing area will be eligible for support at a national average price of \$1.36 a bushel, the same as the minimum announced last spring.

2. Corn produced in noncommercial areas will be supported at 75 per cent of the level of price support to cooperators in the commercial corn area.

3. Corn produced in the commercial area, but not in compliance with acreage allotments, will be eligible for support at a national average rate of \$1.06 per bushel as announced Sept. 26.

In accordance with legislation, the Department on March 31 established the \$1.36 minimum average support level for 1958-crop corn produced by cooperators in the commercial corn-producing area. It represented 77 per cent of the April 1958 parity price for corn.

Under law, the minimum average support rate announced last spring could not be decreased.

Udder Congestion Unaffected By Grain Feeding

Recent research at several institutions shows that the amount of grain fed does not appreciably influence udder congestion at calving time. In an attempt to control udder swelling, some dairymen have withheld or limited grain feeding of dry cows and cows that have recently calved.

Richard Adams, Extension Dairy Specialist, warns that such practice can be harmful to the health of the cow as well as milk production.

In Cornell studies, the feeding of as much as 15 lbs. of grain per head daily during the dry period did not significantly increase udder congestion.

Research conducted at Maryland and Ohio suggests that heavy grain feeding immediately after calving, as well as during the dry period, does not affect udder congestion.

These findings have been confirmed by Illinois workers, who found no difference in amount or incidence of udder congestion when the feeding of six and one-half to nine lbs. of grain per head daily was compared to no grain feeding during the dry period.

Dr. Adams says there is also considerable evidence that bulky, laxative feeds are not superior to the usual grain mix in preventing udder congestion. Good feeding practices demand that cows receive sufficient grain during the dry period to place them in good, working flesh.

Avoid over-conditioning as well as under-conditioning. The grain mix fed to the milk herd should be entirely adequate if the dry cows are being fed comparable roughage.

Approximately seven to 10 days before expected calving, cows of the small and large breeds should be receiving 8-10 lbs. of grain respectively. Do not reduce the amount of grain fed at freshening unless the cow is a finicky eater.

Maintain this level of feeding for about one week after calving, then increase grain feeding according to production needs and appetite. This method of dry and fresh cow feeding, can help eliminate stress on the cow and increase milk production during lactation.

acreage allotments in the commercial corn-producing area was \$1.40 per bushel reflecting 77 per cent of the October 1957 parity price.

Corn grown in the noncommercial areas in 1957 was supported at a national average of \$1.27 per bushel, reflecting 70 per cent of parity as required by laws in effect for the 1957 corn crop. Non-compliance corn produced in the commercial area in 1957 was supported at a national average rate of \$1.10 per bushel.

Price support programs for the 1958 corn crop will be carried out through Commodity Credit Corporation loans and purchase agreements, as in the past. These will be available from harvest time through May 31, 1959, in most areas, and will mature on July 31, 1959. Rates by counties for loans and purchase agreements are available at State and County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) offices.

A total of 932 counties in 26 states are included in the 1958 commercial corn area.

Potato Sacks Marked U. S. Extra No. 1 May be Used; Grade is Discontinued

Potato sacks marked "U. S. Extra No. 1" may be used within limits that were announced today by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This grade was dropped from the U. S. Standards for Potatoes which became effective July 15. Normally, any produce marked with a non-existent U. S. grade is considered to be misbranded or misrepresented under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. However, because this was an officially designated grade which has now been withdrawn, the USDA has authorized the use of stocks which exist in a few states with the following limitations:

1. Potato sacks marked "U. S. Extra No. 1" which were ordered or procured prior to May 12, 1958 (the date on which

the revised standards were published) may continue to be used.

2. Federal and Federal-State inspection and certification, based on the old U. S. Extra No. 1 grade, will not be provided except for contracts entered into prior to May 12, 1958.

3. It will not be considered to constitute misbranding if potatoes packed in such sacks are officially inspected and certified as meeting at least the quality requirements of the new U. S. No. 1 grade and the size requirements of the new U. S. Fancy grade.

4. Potato shippers or packers who have an inventory of these sacks should inform their local Federal or Federal-State inspection office of the number and kind of such containers which they have on hand in order that appropriate inspection arrangements can be made.

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