

ASCS Announces Summary of Activities

The Lancaster County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, as an instrumentality of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which carries out various farm action programs in the general fields of production adjustment, conservation assistance and price, market and farm income stabilization

Principal ASCS activities include

(1) Conservation assistance through sharing with individual farmers the cost of installing needed soil, water, woodland, and wildlife conserving practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program and

through practice payments under the Cropland Adjustment and Cropland Conservation Programs

(2) Production adjustment to balance supply and demand through acreage allotment commodity acreage diversions, the Cropland Adjustment Program, Cropland Conversion Program and the Conservation Reserve

(3) Price-support through commodity loans to farmers or through direct purchases of commodities from farmers and processors, and through wheat marketing certificates wool payments, and price support payments on feed grains (corn and grain sorghum). Purpose: To

stabilize market prices and to protect farm income in the interest of the national welfare

(4) Disaster and defense activities to augment feed supplies for farmers in area where natural disasters have reduced feed, to provide emergency conservation assistance in restoring farmland seriously damaged by widespread flood or drought, and to assist in preparedness planning for civil defense.

These programs are administered through local county and community committeemen who are elected annually by the farmers of the county. It is the County Committee's responsibility to see that the programs are carried out fairly and in full accordance with official regulations. The county office manager is responsible to see

that day to day operations are effectively and efficiently performed

Payments under Farm Commodity Programs described above help narrow the income gap between farm and city income.

These programs—by helping farm income in the county—have a broad, fanning effect on the economy of the area. Obviously, a healthy farm and rural economy is an essential base for the development of the county as a whole

The income programs are, therefore, beneficial far beyond the man who takes out a price-support loan or who signs up for ACP. They work for the survival and revitalization of the community and for an end to rural poverty. The business activity of small towns and cities is directly tied to conditions in agriculture. There is a rule of thumb, which says that we lose one main street business every time six farm families move out.

Farm programs are basically directed to preserving the family farm and keeping life long farmers in the only way of life they have known—and to help them achieve parity of income. Farm as of December, 1968, was at adjusted parity level of 78% with city people

The following is a report of program participation and payments made in Lancaster County in 1968:

Wheat Program

Under the 1968 Wheat Program, 831 farmers participated and earned additional wheat income of \$236,285 through certificate payments on 4,074 acres of wheat.

Feed Grain Program

Payments were made on 339 farms under the Feed Grain Program. Diversion payment of \$151,597 was made for diverting 3,850 acres from corn and 12 acres from grain sorghum. Price support payments of \$25,283 were paid for 1,109 acres of feed grain grown

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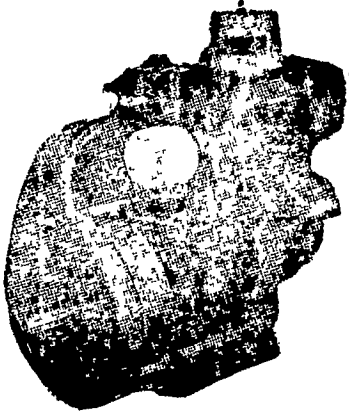
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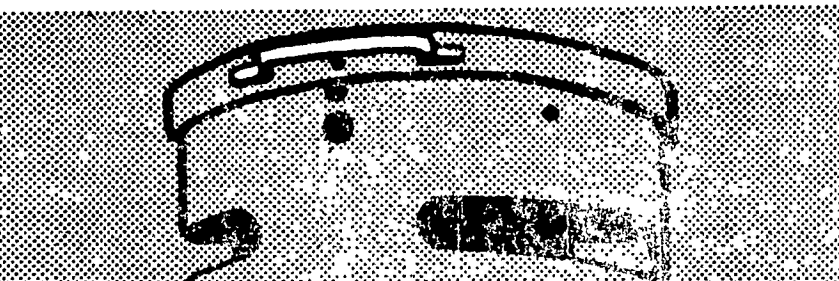
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