

Secretary Of Agriculture Announces 1970 Wheat Program

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin today announced a 1970 wheat program aimed at strengthening the U.S. position in world markets and at continuing the effort to bring wheat production into line with needs.

The 1970 program has five important features:

1 The national average price-support loan level will be \$1.25 per bushel. Unchanged from recent years, this level is being maintained in an effort to achieve maximum utilization of wheat through increased exports and continued large livestock feed use.

2 A diversion program at the maximum payment rate of 50 percent of county loan rates is aimed at avoiding production of 80 to 90 million bushels of unneeded wheat. This feature will allow producers to tailor their plantings by diverting up to one-half of their acreage allotments while maintaining incomes through diversion payments.

3 The national wheat acreage allotment of 45.5 million acres is designed to reduce stocks and reverse the three-year upward trend in carryover levels. This is a 12 percent reduction from the 1969 national allotment of 51.6 million acres. Pennsylvania's 1970 allotment is 470,186 acres as compared to 534,144 for 1969.

4 Wheat marketing certificates will be paid on 48 percent of the projected production on the allotted acres of participating producers. For 1969 certificates at a record \$1.52 per bushel are being paid on 43 percent of projected production. They are adding more than \$800 million to the farm value of wheat. Payments per bushel reflecting the difference between wheat parity on July 1, 1970, and the average loan rate announced today will be as high or higher for the 1970 crop.

5 The option under which a producer can substitute the planting of wheat for feed grains for wheat in any combination will be available. This increases farm efficiency by providing producers the flexibility of adjusting acreages to field sizes and to producing the more suitable crop for their particular operations.

In announcing the 1970 program, Secretary Hardin said, "There are areas of hopefulness for improved world wheat trade. Following recent sessions of the major exporters, we are moving toward recognition of our determination to maintain the U.S. share of world wheat trade. However, 1968-69 marketing year is the third consecutive one for reduced international trade putting severe pressures on the world wheat industry, with surpluses piling up in the world's major exporting nations as a result of large crops in recent years, the U.S. cannot go on producing an excessive quantity of wheat which would only lead to larger and larger acquisition and storage costs. The wheat allotment announced today meets this problem squarely."

"Our carryover on July 1 this year was around 800 million bushels. In view of the 1969 U.S. crop prospects and the world wheat over-supply situation, it is likely there will be an additional buildup of U.S. stocks by July 1, 1970."

The 1970 allotment is aimed at securing a modest reduction of our national carryover. The 1970 program is expected to produce about 1,200 million bushels of wheat," the Secretary said.

Other features of the 1970

wheat program will be much the same as those for the 1969 crop.

Farmers signing up in the voluntary program can qualify for price-support loans, domestic marketing certificates, payments for diverting acreage below their allotments, and alternative cropping options. If a farmer signs up in both the wheat and feed grain programs, one option can be substitution between wheat and feed grain acres. Another option is the overplanting of allotment acreages by one-half, with wheat from excess acres to be placed in secured storage until such time as it can be subsequently used because of underplanting or crop under production.

Whether barley will be included in the feed grain program in 1970 will be determined and announced later. However, required diversion for barley as a condition of substitution, under any circumstance, will be identical to the qualifying minimum acreage diversion required for feed grain program participation.

Small allotment farms with 1970 allotments 19.2 acres or less will be able to divert the entire allotment for payment. Payment will depend on diverted acreage being put to conserving or other specified use.

Substitution of wheat acreage for oats and rye acreage will be possible if a grower so requests and has a history of production of these crops in 1959-60. Required diversion from oats and rye will also be the same as that required under the 1970 feed grain program.

A farmer can become a 1970 wheat program cooperator in exactly the same way as in the

1969 program. He will need to sign up in the program; remain within his allotment (unless overplanting or substitution options are used); devote to conserving use an acreage equal to 30.3 percent of his 1970 allot-

ment (the approximate difference between the 1968 and 1970 allotments), as well as the acreage diverted for payment, and the acreage represented as normal conserving base. He needs (Continued on Page 23)

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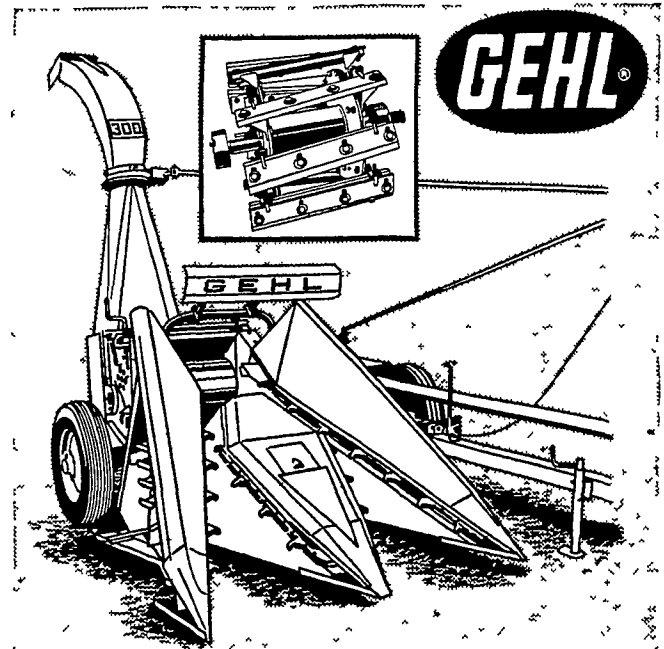
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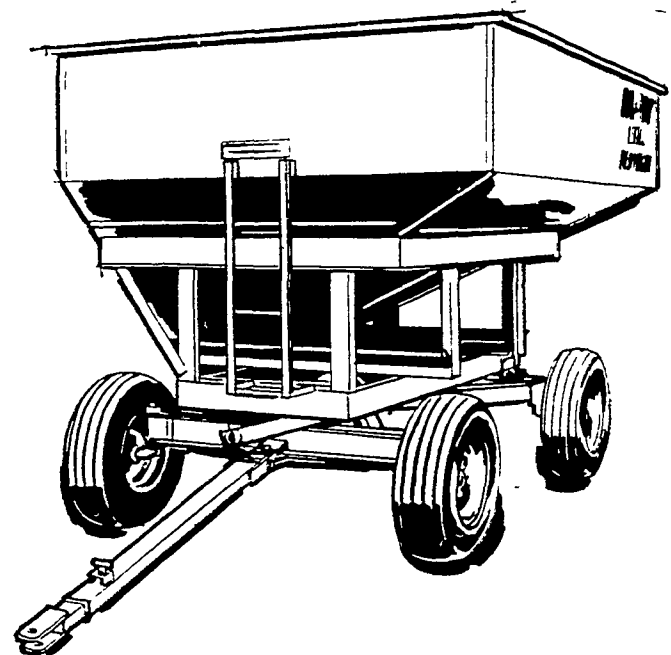
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