

## ASCS News

### Census Of Agriculture

Questionnaires will be mailed to all farmers in January, requesting information on agricultural activities in 1969.

This is the first time that the census will be conducted by mail. The census is required by law, and must be completed and returned to the Bureau of Census not later than February 15, 1970.

A leaflet will be mailed with the questionnaire, and should answer most of the questions farmers may have. In addition, all USDA offices will have a Census manual and will be able to answer individual questions.

### Agricultural Conservation Program

Enrollment in the 1970 Agricultural Conservation Program opened November 3rd.

The allocation for 1970 is \$121,000. Because of limited funds and increased interest in the program, farmers should

enroll early for practices they plan to complete in 1970.

**Wool Marketing Year Ends**  
Wool growers are reminded that the 1969 marketing year ends December 31st.

Producers should make sure that all details of 1969 sales are completed by this date. Applications for incentive payment on wool and unshorn lambs sold should file application at the office by January 31st, 1970.

Farmers must submit the original sales slip signed by the buyer. Those for unshorn lambs must include a signed statement by the buyer that the lambs were unshorn at time of sale.

Payments will probably be made in April, and will be based on the national average price of wool sold in 1969.

### 1970 Wheat & Feed Grain

Although details have not been received to date, it is expected that enrollment in the 1970 Wheat and Feed Grain programs will open early in 1970, probably starting in February.

Notices of allotments, bases, yields and payment rates will be mailed to all farmers before sign-up starts, with the details on both programs.

## Grange Challenges Increased Motor Vehicle Fees

A proposed increase in motor vehicle license fees, as provided in Senate Bill 1198, now before the State Legislature, was challenged this week by the Pennsylvania State Grange as "posing an inequitable and unfair burden on a large body of taxpayers least able to bear it."

A Wayne Readinger, state master of the Grange, said the proposed legislation is "contrary to established Grange policy," and that "if enacted would cause financial hardship to many persons of low income, especially those who of necessity must depend upon automobiles or small trucks for limited use in essential transportation."

In the low income category he listed retirees and many rural residents, especially farmers with small or medium sized operations. Farmers, he said, rely upon the smaller size trucks to haul produce to market and to fetch their supplies.

He pointed out that automobiles and small trucks would bear a disproportionately heavy share of the rate increase under the proposed legislation.

This, Readinger stated, would have a doubly unfair effect for many automobile owners and small truck farmers whose use of the highways is on a very limited basis.

This unfair aspect, he added, would affect also "many professional people — for example, visiting nurses, who must have an automobile for use in their work, but may have little occasion to use it otherwise."

If motor vehicle users must be taxed for new revenue, the fairest method, Readinger declared, would be "through an increase in the fuel tax whereby the burden would be distributed in direct ratio to use of the highways." This, he said, is the stand the Pennsylvania State Grange has taken as its official policy.



Eric R. Stoner

## Stoner Wins Third In Essay Contest

Eric R. Stoner of Lancaster, a 10th term agronomy major at The Pennsylvania State University, won third place recently in the 1969 American Society of Agronomy Student Essay Contest. Stoner's article, "Multispectral Remote Sensing: A New Technology for World Agriculture," earned him a bronze medal and \$80.

The ASA Student Essay Contest is conducted annually. Undergraduates in agronomy, crop science, and soil science are eligible to enter. Cash awards for the five top winners are donated by DeKalb Agricultural Research, Inc. This year, 41 essays were entered from 15 colleges.

Stoner is a native of Lancaster County. During the past year he served as vice president of the student section of the American Society of Agronomy. He is presently the president of the Agronomy Club at Penn State.

The presentation was made at the recent meetings of American Society of Agronomy held at Detroit, Mich.

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### INSTANT READER RESPONSE



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