

Hardin Announces Allocation Of Special Hunger Funds

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin announced today that an additional \$15 million is being specially allocated to States this fiscal year to expand and improve the Commodity Distribution Program to help to get a family food program into every county and independent city before June 30, 1970.

Secretary Hardin said the funds are being released specifically to help State and local governments to meet the costs of opening new programs for low-income families, as well as improving the operation and administration of on-going programs in their areas.

At present, 290 counties and independent cities do not have a

food assistance program nor plans for one. Many of these say a reason they have not started a program is that they could not afford to pay the administrative costs.

The special assistance funds announced today are being released through Section 32 authority. They are being made available to States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, Samoa, and the American Trust Territories.

In releasing these funds, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service defined four priority areas where the funds will be applied:

1. To start a commodity distribution program for low-income families in areas where there is neither a Commodity Distribution Program nor a Food Stamp Program.

2. To improve and expand existing Commodity Distribution Programs to better serve participating families, through such means as establishing additional distribution points close to the people, distribution at more frequent times during the month,

● Chemicals

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"Properly-managed farmlands contribute little sediment to the nation's waters. And, when compared with forested regions, they contribute little if any more nutrients to streams or underground water."

The scientist cited several factors outside agriculture which could cause increasing stream nutrient levels. For instance, he noted, nitrogen additions from the air, from livestock, soil organic matter, and from improved municipal sewage treatment. When raw sewage is dumped into streams, explained Garman, stream nitrate is kept at a low level by organic-decomposing bacteria which use the nitrogen as quickly as it becomes available. As the organic burden of effluent entering the stream is lightened by improved sewage treatment, bacteria activity subsides and the naturally-occurring nitrate level of the stream may rise.

When organic matter level of

water is high, bacteria evolve large amounts of carbon dioxide, the constituent which usually limits growth of algae. With plenty of carbon dioxide, algae grows profusely, and gives rise to what ecologists refer to as undesirable algal blooms.

Research has shown, said Garman, that when farms are managed to control erosion, little, if any, nutrients will be lost to streams or ground water beyond losses naturally occurring throughout history from forest or prairie lands. He stressed that without some nutrients from the land surfaces of the world there would be no fish or other marine life.

and better warehouse facilities to assure the continuing availability of all commodities offered.

3. To encourage low-income families, including special groups such as the aged, Indians, and migrants, to participate in the Commodity Distribution Program.

Specific regulations spelling out complete details of this program will be published in the Federal Register tomorrow, Dec. 20, and are immediately being made available to all the States.

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