

Liberalized Food Stamp Program Begins April 1

Pennsylvania's low income families may purchase more food for less money under the liberalized Federal food stamp program, effective April 1. State Secretary of Public Welfare Stanley A. Miller said recently.

Under the new system, the total monthly amount of food stamps purchased by low income families will be of uniform value within each household size and will no longer vary with income.

A Federal-State local cooperative effort in the Commonwealth, the food stamp program is currently in effect in 61 counties. The State Department of Public Welfare, through the county boards of assistance, determines the eligibility of families to participate.

"Changes in the food stamp income basis of issuance will give low income families enough coupons to purchase the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 'economy diet' and will help

carry out President Nixon's commitment to put an end to hunger in the United States," Miller stated in commenting on the revisions.

For a family of four (the "typical example" of food and income statistics) the new total allotment of food stamps will be fixed at \$106 a month — an 83 per cent boost over the previous minimum of \$58 a month. The four person family with an income of \$90 a month will pay \$22 for the coupons while the family of four with an income of \$230 a month will pay \$66 for the fixed \$106 allotment.

At present, a four-member family with a monthly income of \$90 purchases \$76 worth of food stamps, at a cost of \$40. The same size family with an income of \$320 pays \$72 for stamps worth \$96.

The new policy fixes food stamp allotments at \$28 a month for one person living alone, \$56 for two person household, \$84

a month for a three-person household and \$126 for a five-person household.

Since May 1961, when the food stamp plan was initiated in Pennsylvania, through October 1969, a total of \$235 million in food stamps have been issued in the State. Recipients paid \$160 million for the stamps for a savings of \$75 million in food purchases. There were 71,328 households in the 61 participating counties enrolled in the program as of October 1969. Several non-participating counties will be eligible for the food stamp program within the next few months.

The program is designed to increase the food purchasing power, and therefore the food consumption, of persons with low incomes. The State and counties participating in the food stamp program share administrative costs on a 50-50 matching basis. Counties that do not have the program pay all the cost of distributing surplus food.

Improvements to the food stamp program have been made possible by a \$610 million appropriation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for operation of the program this 1970 fiscal year.

Weather Forecast

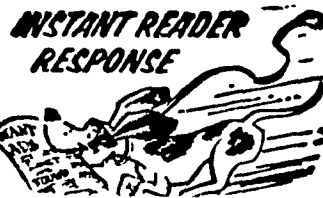
The weather will be fair and mild for the weekend with cooler temperatures early next week, according to the Philadelphia Weather Bureau.

Temperatures will be in the middle 50's Saturday.

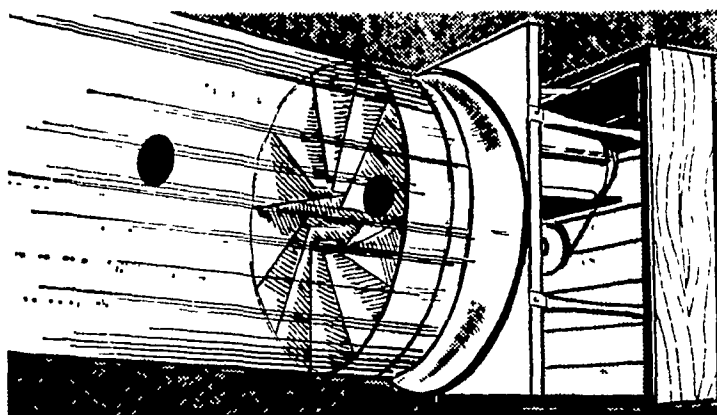
There will be a chance of rain

Sunday or early Monday, but the remainder of Monday and Tuesday should be fair.

Temperatures will range below normal for Monday and Tuesday however, with highs in the 40's and lows in the 30's.



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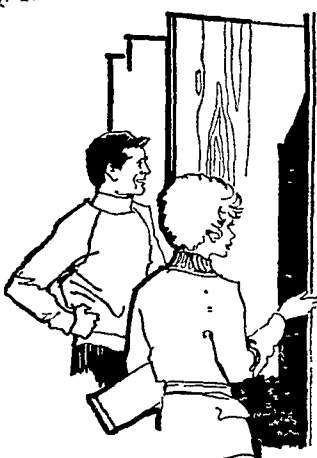
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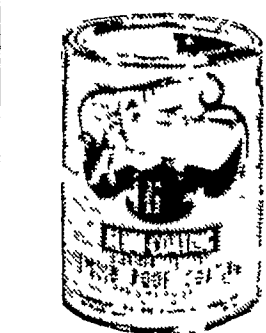
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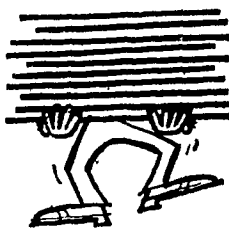
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