

Co. Farmers Divert 7,000 Acres in '70

Lancaster County farmers have taken more than 7,000 acres out of production in 1970 in response to the feed grain and wheat programs, according to Miss Dorothy Neel, ASCS executive director.

The diverted acreage on feed grain is 4,495. The total for wheat is 2,829 including 2,038 acres to meet the mandatory 30 per cent crop reduction required to enter the program. An additional 791 acres was retired voluntarily by farmers for extra benefits.

The larger acreage diversion on feed grain was achieved by 356 farmers compared to 742 in wheat.

Miss Neel previously reported that county participation in the diversion programs was down 15 per cent this year from last year.

in terms of number of farms participating and she estimated the number of acres involved dropped at about the same rate. The drop was attributed to higher diversion requirements for wheat.

Miss Neel reminded program participants that no crop may be harvested from the diverted acres and pasturing is not permitted until after September 1.

Certify Acreage

Farmers must certify acreage for wheat and barley by June 7 and for corn and grain sorghum by August 1. Failure to certify will result in loss of payment.

Acre certification is completed within 15 per cent of the spot-checked by a farm visit. If

measured acreage shows incorrect certification by the farmer, he could lose all or part of the payments otherwise earned.

Any farmer who is not sure of crop or diverted acreage, should request low cost measurement service from the county office.

A double post card is being mailed to all wheat farmers, asking that they report the acreage of wheat for harvest in 1970.

The acreage will be used in computation of future allotments and it is very important that the card be completed and returned to the ASCS office.

If the card is not returned, the acreage will be recorded in ASCS records as "zero." Since allotment history will be reduced on any farm that does not harvest at least 75 per cent of the allotment in one of the past three years, failure to report acreage could result in loss of history and reduce future wheat allotments for the farm.

Sheep Payments

Payments of \$6,027,400 were made this week to 89 farmers

who sold wool or unshorn lambs in 1969.

Payments are made under the National Wool Program and represent the difference between the incentive price of 69 cents and the national average price received by growers in 1969.

Shorn wool payments were computed at the rate of 65.1 per cent of net sales proceeds and unshorn lambs at \$1.09 per hundred pound live weight of lambs sold.

Commodity Credit loans in 1969 wheat and barley will mature April 30. Farmers may liquidate loans through repayment or delivery, or may request a seal or extension of the loan through April 30, 1971.

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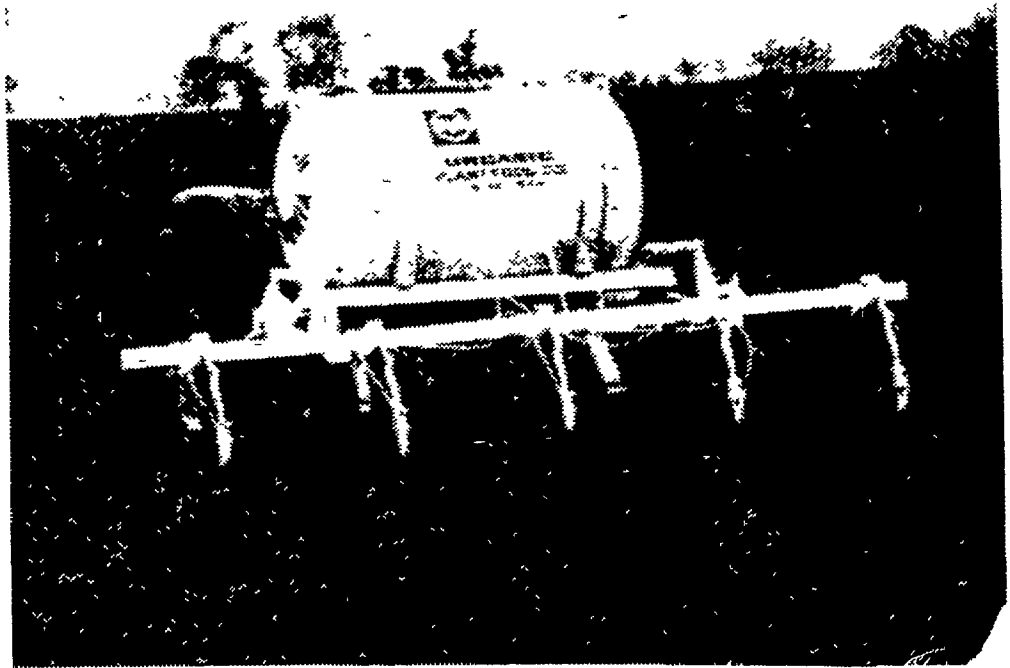
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