

'72 Wheat Program Provisions Outlined by Secretary Hardin

Major provisions of the 1972 program for wheat were announced recently by Secretary

of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin.

The program provides for an acreage set-aside requirement equal to 83 per cent of the farm domestic allotment — the maximum provided by law. It was further announced that the program will again allow the substitution of feed grain for wheat; that soybeans will be a substitute crop next year; and that barley will be included in the 1972 feed grain program. No limit on wheat acreage will be established for 1972.

"These changes in the 1972 programs," Secretary Hardin said, "give the farmer greater freedom to plant the commodities which will earn him the best possible income, without losing program benefits. By announcing these changes at this time, producers will have the information they need to make their planting plans for the 1972 crop."

There is no change in the previously announced 1972 domestic wheat allotment of 19.7 million acres or in the loan rate of \$1.25 per bushel national average established for

the 1971 crop. Farm-stored and warehouse-stored loans and purchases are available to producers who participate in the program.

The 1972 wheat set-aside percentage is based on preliminary estimates of acreage required for next year's production to meet U.S. domestic and export needs, USDA officials said. It compares with the 1971 set-aside rate of 75 per cent of the farm's allotment.

Under the substitution provision, acreage devoted to feed grain or soybeans will be considered planted to wheat to prevent loss of allotment. Acreage devoted to wheat or soybeans will be considered planted to feed grain to prevent loss of the feed grain base. This will enable a producer to plant all or any combination of his acreage to wheat, feed grain or soybeans without loss of planting history or program benefits.

As in this year's program, there is no provision regarding excess wheat production in the 1972 program. However, excess wheat stored under prior programs may be released to the

extent production is less than three times the domestic allotment multiplied by the farm yield.

As was the case this year, producers will receive preliminary payments after July 1 equal to 75 per cent of the estimated face value of the wheat certificate. Any remainder will be paid after Dec. 1, 1972.

The inclusion of barley in the 1972 feed grain program is the result of USDA estimates that feed grain supplies will be adequate in 1972 due to the improved supply of blight-resistant corn seed. The set-aside requirement for barley will be between 20 and 35 per cent of the base. The exact set-aside percentage will be indicated when the 1972 feed grain program provisions are announced.

Soybeans have been included as a substituted crop in 1972 in view of the supply outlook. This will also give the producer additional planting options.

Wheat producers in 1972 will receive 100 per cent of parity on the production of their full domestic allotment, the same as this year. Face value of the certificates will be the difference between 100 per cent of parity on July 1, 1972 and the national average wheat price received by farmers from July through November, 1972.

Under the current program, the farmer may plant as much wheat or any other non-quota crop as he wishes after he has met his acreage set-aside and conserving base requirements. Or, he can choose not to plant any wheat. Crops subject to quotas in 1972 will be peanuts, rice, tobacco, extra long staple cotton, and sugarcane.

Producers are not required to plant wheat to obtain certificates. However, failure to plant or be considered to have planted at least 90 percent of a farm's 1972 domestic allotment of either wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley or soybeans

can result in a reduction in the 1973 allotment by as much as 20 percent. If no wheat or substitute is planted for 3 consecutive years, the entire allotment can be lost. All allotments removed from farms will be re-allocated to other wheat farms.

Acreage which is not planted due to a drought, flood, or other natural disaster or a condition beyond the control of the producer will be considered planted to wheat. Also, any producer who makes a required acreage set-aside but elects to receive no payment will not lose his allotment.

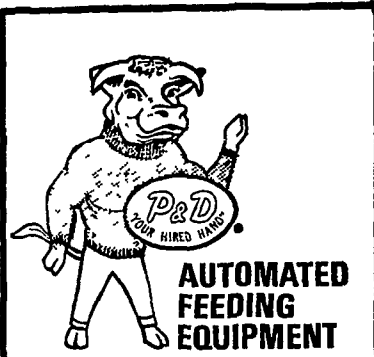
Processors of wheat for domestic food use will continue to pay 75 cents per bushel towards the domestic certificates value. Again in the 1972-73 marketing year, no export marketing certificates will be issued.

Established summer-fallow farms which devote at least 55 per cent of their cropland to that use will not be required to set-aside any additional acreage in order to qualify for program benefits.

As in 1971, producers may graze set-aside acres except during the five principal months of the normal growing season, but set-aside acreage must be protected against erosion, weeds, insect damage and rodents. In 1972, sweet sorghum again may be planted on the set-aside acreage and grazed, except during the five months of the growing season.

Producers who wish to qualify for program benefits need to sign up to participate. Sign-up dates will be Feb. 28 through April 7, 1972. A producer may participate in the wheat program on any farm or all farms in which he has an interest, as he wishes.

ASCS county offices will notify wheat producers of their domestic allotments and the applicable set-aside for their farms.

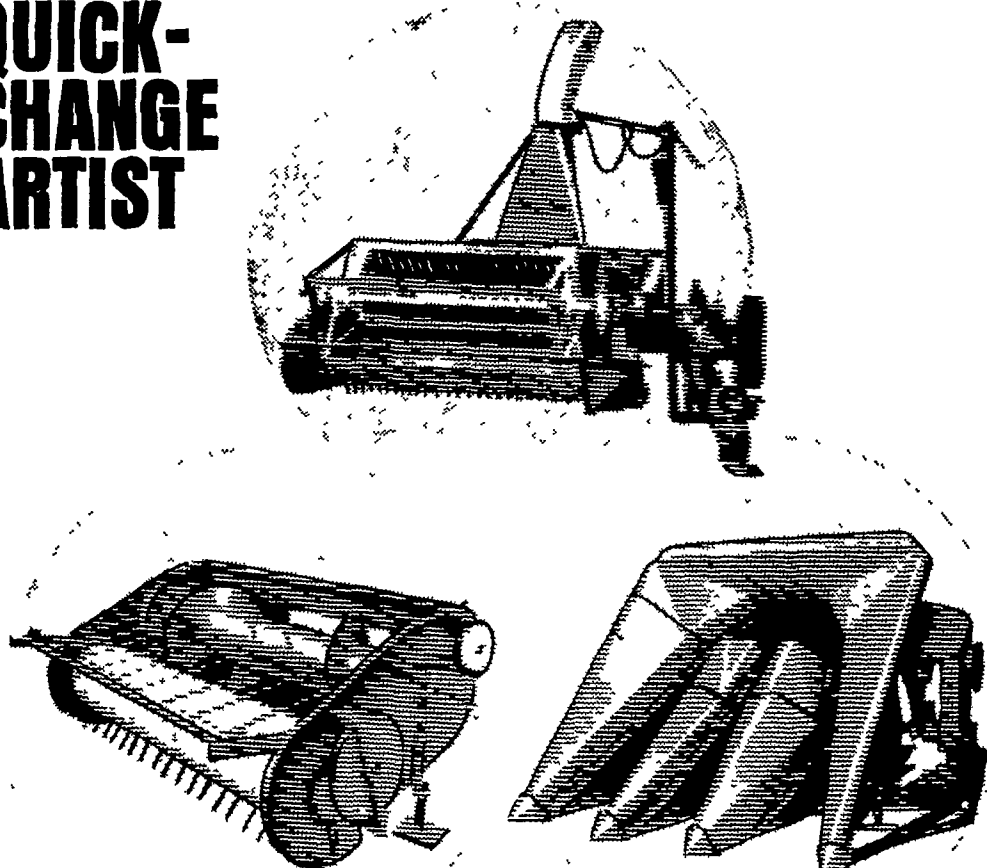


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