

USDA Sets Up Price Freeze Information Office

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin has announced establishment of a special unit within the U.S. Department of Agriculture to handle questions involving President Nixon's wage-price freeze action.

Hardin said the unit was being established primarily to answer questions from agri-

business interests and farmers about how the President's action affects the price of specific agricultural products. The unit will provide guidance on questions that cannot be answered by the regional information offices being established by the Office of Emergency Preparedness, he indicated.

Jerome B. Siebert, on assign-

ment to the Secretary of Agriculture, will be in charge of the wage-price unit, the Secretary said. Telephone number for the unit, on area code 202, is 388-4623.

In establishing the new unit, the Secretary said all specific announcements about pricing rules and regulations will be announced by the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) rather than by individual Federal Departments. The wage-price unit within the Department will simply provide additional clarification and guidance on these official announcements, the Secretary said.

In addition, when the wage-price freeze creates special

problems for a commodity, the unit will consider facts presented by agri-business groups and, where needed, will recommend corrective actions to the President's Cost of Living Council, which provides policy guidance to OEP on pricing matters, the Secretary said.

The Secretary said that no "list" presently exists of products that are included or exempt from the wage-price controls. He said the only "lists" that will be developed will be those of items that are exempt from controls, and these will be announced by OEP as the determinations are made. Other items will be considered controlled, he said.

In further explaining what constitutes "raw agricultural products," which are exempt from controls, Secretary Hardin said a product is considered raw if it sold to the public in the form which it normally leaves the producer. Oranges, he said, would be exempt in their natural form, but the price would be controlled if the orange was processed into canned juice or frozen concentrate.

Eggs or lettuce would be considered raw if sold packaged in the form in which they are normally available in grocery stores. But if the eggs were liquid, frozen, or dried, they would be considered processed, he said.

Ag Days to Show Research

Soil and crop scientists of Pennsylvania State University will exhibit and discuss their research at the Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center during Agricultural Progress Days to be held August 31 to September 2.

Located three miles west of Pine Grove Mills on Route 45, Rock Springs is the principal site for research on field crops, weed control, and studies of soil fertility and management. Laboratory studies and special-purpose plot work are carried out on the University Park campus.

The three-day agronomy program will include exhibits of commercial corn and grain sorghum varieties. This will show 18 commercially-developed grain sorghum hybrids and 61 commercially-developed corn hybrids — all provided by seedsmen participating in Agricultural Progress Days.

An unusual field crops garden will feature species common to Pennsylvania as well as species unfamiliar to most people. The garden will include forage legumes and grasses, oil crops, fiber crops, drug crops, and grain crops.

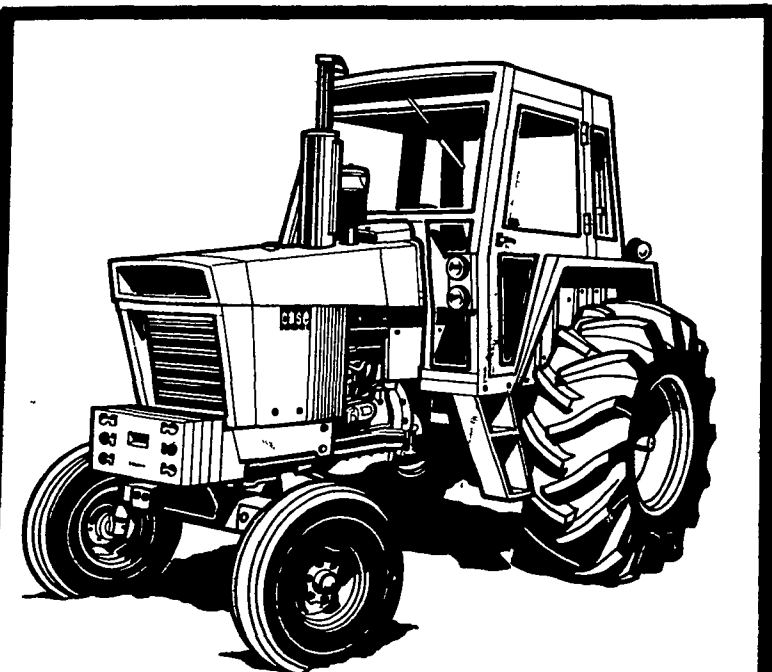
A corn wheel, in which corn hybrids are displayed at varying planting rates, will indicate the optimum seeding rates per acre for top yields among competing varieties.

During the three days, wagons will take visitors on tours of the various research plots. Shuttle buses will operate between the parking area and the Agronomy Farm.

Visitors to the Agronomy Research Farm will be able to take two wagon tours. Tour Number 1 will show (1) Studies on the breeding of perennial forage grasses, (2) research by scientists of the Regional Pasture Research Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, (3) alfalfa and clover breeding, (4) crownvetch breeding and management, (5) nitrate movement in the soil, (6) cropping systems, (7) corn breeding and genetics, and (8) grain sorghums and soybeans.

Tour Number 2 will feature (1) a soil pit showing a profile of Hagerstown silt loam, (2) forage crops management, (3) studies of Southern corn leaf

blight, (4) analysis of Garden Symphylan damage, (5) no-tillage corn planting, (6) control of annual weeds in corn, (7) animal waste utilization, and (8) control of yellow nutsedge or nutgrass in corn.



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