### Federal Board Approved Proposed **Regulations for Farm Credit Act**

The Federal Farm Credit Board has announced approval of proposed regulations under which the Farm Credit System will provide the new and revised lending programs for farmers and rural residents authorized in the Farm Credit Act of 1971.

The Board, top policy-making body for the System, said the regulations would be printed in the Federal Register this week Once printed, there will be a 30day waiting period for comments from interested persons The Board said it will meet in May to review comments on the proposed regulations received

from the public and give final approval. The district Farm Credit Bank boards, in the meantime, will establish detailed lending policies and should then be set to begin promptly the services authorized by the Act.

Board chairman Millard F. Dailey, Red Lake Falls, Minn., said the Federal regulations "reflect the intent of Congress in passing the law - to place maximum authority at the local level within broad, national guidelines." He noted that the Banks and local Associations of the System have been entirely owned and capitalized by their farmer-borrowers for the past three years, and the laws and regulations open new areas for increased borrower participation and control of the System.

At the same time, Dailey said the regulations "emphasize the high degree of coordination necessary between the System's three lending units to properly carry out the mandate of Congress in meeting farm and rural credit needs. This coordination is particularly important in the new areas of loans for rural housing and farm-related businesses," Dailey said.

The Act, passed and signed into law last December, is a complete rewrite of the laws dating back to 1916 which governed the System. The System includes the Federal Land Banks and local Federal Land Bank Associations, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks and local Production Credit Associations, and the Banks for Cooperatives

Principal new features of the Act are authorities for Land Banks and PCAs to make loans for both non-farm rural housing and for farm-related businesses such as custom harvesters or crop sprayers

It also authorizes Land Banks to increase the amount they can loan on a farm and gives both

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#### farm lending organizations authority to increase the number of financial related servies they can provide for their farmermembers. For the Banks for Cooperatives, it defines a

farmers as eligible to borrow. Ail units of the System operate under Federal charters and are supervised by the Farm Credit Administration, an independent Federal agency. National policies for the System are set by the Federal Board which consists of 12 members who are appointed by the President from among candidates nominated by the three units of the System. The thirteenth is appointed by the Secretary of Agricultural and serves as his representative.

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