

# Wheat Producers Slated for \$1.28 Per Bushel Preliminary Payment

Wheat producers will receive \$1.28 per bushel in preliminary payment on their 1972 crop, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced recently.

The preliminary payment will be made as soon as practicable, probably early July, and amounts to 75 per cent of the estimated face value of domestic wheat certificates.

The final face value of the certificates will be the difference between 100 per cent of the July 1, 1972, parity price per bushel and the national average price received by farmers for wheat from July through November. Final certificate payments will be made after Dec. 1.

For 1971-crop wheat, the total certificate payment was \$1.63 per bushel based on July 1, 1971 parity of \$2.93 per bushel and a five-month average price of \$1.30 per bushel. The preliminary certificate payment was \$1.20 per bushel and the final payment was 43 cents per bushel.

The feed grain payment rates as previously established and announced are 40 cents per bushel for corn, 38 cents per

bushel for grain sorghum, and 32 cents per bushel for barley. These rates are paid on the established farm yield times one-half the corn, grain sorghum, or barley base. They are equal to a payment rate of 80 cents, 76 cents and 64 cents per bushel on the 25 per cent qualifying set-aside. Feed grain payments based on such rates will be made to producers as soon as practicable.

Participants in the 1972 feed grain program are guaranteed a national average of \$1.35 per bushel for corn, or 70 per cent of parity on Oct. 1, 1972, whichever is larger. The guaranteed average price for grain sorghum and barley will be proportionate to corn considering feed value relationship. If market conditions are such that final payments are

due feed grain producers, they will be made after March 1, 1973.

Total payments due producers for voluntary additional feed grain and wheat set-aside acreage will also be made as soon after July 1 as practicable. The payment rates for voluntary set-aside are 94 cents per bushel for wheat, 80 and 52 cents per bushel for corn, 76 and 49 cents per bushel for grain sorghum and 42 cents per bushel for barley. The higher payment rates for corn and grain sorghum will apply on those farms that elected to reduce their 1972 corn-sorghum acreage below 1971 plantings by twice the amount of voluntary set-aside.


Preliminary payments under the three major commodity programs will be made to about

2.5 million farmers and will total approximately \$3.5 billion, USDA reported. Refund will not be required if the preliminary payment proves to be higher than the full payment due the farmer. The commodity program

payments are made to reimburse farmers for the costs of setting aside productive cropland acres and to help assure a return to farmers sufficient to maintain the productivity of U.S. agriculture.

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## Emergency Conservation Funds Earmarked for 20 Counties in Pennsylvania

The U. S. Department of Agriculture last week offered emergency conservation assistance in 20 counties in Pennsylvania to help repair severe flooding damage. The counties are Bradford, Clearfield, Columbia, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wyoming and York.

An initial allocation of \$300,000 has been made to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) State Committee for use in sharing with farmers in the 20 counties the cost of removing debris from farmland, replacing and repairing fences, grading and shaping of eroded land areas, and repairing ponds, terraces and diversion ditches.


Emergency conservation assistance is designed to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to alleviate conditions resulting from a natural disaster and to restore agricultural lands to productive capacity.

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