

Support Loan Rates for 1972 Corn Crop Announced

Basic county support loan and purchase rates for 1972-crop corn will be unchanged from the 1971 county corn loan and purchase rates except for modifications to improve county-to-county relationships in a few counties, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced. Premiums and discounts for 1972-crop corn also will be un-

changed from those in effect for the 1971 crop.

The county loan rates are based on a national average loan level of \$1.08 per bushel (No. 2 basis) announced Oct. 18, 1971.

Any producer who participates in the 1972 feed grain program is eligible for Commodity Credit

Corporation loans and set-aside payments for corn.

Besides protecting his price by acting as a floor, the loan can provide the eligible producer with several other advantages in marketing his crop, according to ASCS Administrator Kenneth E. Frick.

"Corn producers can borrow on

their 1972-crop stored on the farm at the county loan rate and receive the cash immediately at 3½ percent interest," Mr. Frick pointed out. Loans secured by corn stored in commercial warehouses may be made on 100 per cent of the eligible production. If the farmer intends to feed out his stored corn, he can simply stop by the ASCS office and make a partial payment of the loan to maintain the margin of security. Livestock producers can in this way finance their feed inventories through these commodity loans.

Before a producer can remove any corn under loan he needs to

obtain in advance written approval from the county office, Mr. Frick said. "I also want to remind farmers that ASCS regulations have been changed to permit the farmer to borrow on grain sold under forward contract."

Corn producers placed a record 924 million bushels of 1971 corn under CCC loan. County loan rates vary throughout the Nation because of historical differences in farm prices by location. These differences represent county and area supply and demand factors and to some extent the cost of transportation to areas where the commodity is to be used.

McHale Says Money for Meat Inspection Available

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale has announced that inspections of meat plants will not be interrupted by legislature's failure to allocate funds by July 1, but "will continue on a stop-gap funding basis as will other programs."

McHale said inspections will be continuous, enabling plants to operate, whether or not the state is able to retain its program. "I want to allay any fears on that score," he said.

The Secretary's comments followed a meeting between Agriculture Department per-

sonnel, several legislators and high ranking USDA officials.

A USDA spokesman disclosed at the meeting that an intensive two-week review of Pennsylvania's 526 state inspected meat plants began last week to determine if deficiencies encountered in previous random inspections have been corrected. It will be carried out by federal inspectors, accompanied by state inspectors.

While the survey is in progress, he said, USDA officials will

confer with meat plant operators during a series of meetings.

Pennsylvania has been put on notice to correct certain deficiencies in its meat inspection program or lose it to the federal government. The program is currently funded on a 50-50 basis with USDA.

The State Department of Agriculture is awaiting legislative approval of a \$1.3 million appropriation to continue its support of the meat inspector program in the next fiscal year

May Egg Production

Production of eggs during May at 315,000,000 was barely a million ahead of April figures, according to a recent report from the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The loss of some 315,000 layers during the month was offset by a rise of nearly a half-egg in the number produced per hen. The total was three per cent more than the same period a year earlier when both the flock and per layer average were lower.

Prices paid to farmers remained the same from April 15 to May 15 but at the average price of 29 cents per dozen was four cents under the May, 1971 price.

The monthly U.S. total was 6,088 million eggs.

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