

# New FHA Bill Aids Agnes Farm Victims

Farmers suffering property or production losses from the severe rains or flooding of storm Agnes can receive additional help from the broadened Disaster Relief Act, signed by the President on August 16.

Farmers Home Administration loans with the first \$5,000.00 to be forgiven are now available according to Penrose Hallowell, FHA state director. Any remaining amount over \$5,000.00 will bear 1 percent interest. He

stated that many Pennsylvania Farmers will benefit from the new Act. All 67 counties have been designated in the major disaster area by President Nixon.

"To date, 1,448 applications from farmers have been received," Hallowell stated, "and 799 farm loans totalling \$3,251,250 have been written. Ample funds are available and we estimate that by June 1973 as much as \$56 million may be utilized to provide winter feed, family living expenses, and next spring's operating expenses."

The 1972 Disaster Relief Act broadens the benefits, and many farmers who have already received Emergency loans with the \$2,500 forgiveness provision may reapply for the increased benefits.

"We have shifted our Pennsylvania personnel to serve farmers where the applications were greatest. In addition, twenty FHA Loan Supervisors from Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, and Texas have worked with our Pennsylvania farmers," Hallowell continued. "We anticipate an additional nine Loan Supervisors from North Carolina and South Carolina commencing next week. 15 temporary employees have been placed on the job, too."

In order to be eligible, a farmer must have experienced damage to his growing crops, or his buildings, or his equipment, or his livestock, or his land.

Funds advanced under this authorization by the Farmers Home Administration can be used for typical farm operating, such as feed, seed, fertilizer, property taxes and interest on secured debts, and for living expenses.



## County Bull Named ABS Proven Sire

Meadow Hollow Insignia, a registered Holstein bull bred by Amos M. Stoltzfus, Elverson, recently graduated from the Dairy Progeny Test Program of American Breeders Service, Inc., De Forest, Wisconsin, to their regular proven sire line-up. Meadow was purchased by ABS from Stoltzfus as a calf.

The current USDA information shows Meadow to have 23 daughters in 20 different herds across the country. His daughters average 17,108 pounds of milk and 601 pounds of butterfat. This is +1,196 pounds of milk more

than their herd mates and gives Meadow an outstanding Predicted Different of +737 milk and +22 butterfat. USDA predicts the average daughter of this bull will produce \$39 more of milk each lactation than daughters of breed average bulls.

Meadow is the second Lancaster County bull to graduate to the ABS Genetic Harvest. Fultonway Ivanhoe Belshazzar, bred by Fultonway Farms, graduated several years ago. Both bulls are routinely available through local ABS representatives.

## USDA Lifts Newcastle Quarantine in Calif., Ariz.

The USDA has lifted the federal quarantine for exotic Newcastle disease in poultry and other birds from San Diego county, Calif.—except for five isolated locations—and all of the Colorado River Indian Reservation in Yuma county, Arizona.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) explained that the action was made possible by the fact that—with the exception of the five selected locations in San Diego county—the poultry of San Diego county and Yuma county have been free of exotic Newcastle infection for more than 90 days.

"This length of time without a new disease outbreak indicates that the poultry populations of both counties are free of infection," according to Dr. E. E. Saulmon, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, APHIS.

San Diego county had been under quarantine since March 10,

along with seven other southern California counties, USDA said. The eastern part of the county was released from quarantine on July 28, with the entire quarantine area of Southern California reduced to about a third of its original size.

Guidelines for lifting the quarantine call for areas to be free of the disease in poultry and pet birds for at least 90 days. Dr. Saulmon said the general quarantine in San Diego county could be safely lifted now because there was no evidence that the disease has spread from the isolated cases involving pet birds, which remain under quarantine.

The Colorado River Indian Reservation quarantine had been in effect since mid-April, following confirmation of the disease in a small backyard poultry flock near Parker, Ariz.

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