

\$350,000 More for Pa. Conservation Assistance

An additional \$350,000 in emergency conservation assistance has been offered for use in Pennsylvania to help repair damage caused by floods resulting from tropical storm Agnes during June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week.

The allocation brings to \$2,200,000 the amount made available under this program to

the Pennsylvania Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) State Committee for use in sharing with farmers in 52 eligible 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. The measures are subject to approval by the ASC State and the county committees. Lan-

caster, Chester and Lebanon are among the eligible counties.

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.

Under a separate program administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), government-owned feed grain has been made available at reduced prices in 44 counties in Pennsylvania where there is a severe shortage of livestock feed due to the effects of Agnes.

And under the emergency

haying and grazing program, premission to harvest and-or graze Cropland Adjustment Program (CAP) acreage has been granted to all 67 Pennsylvania counties. Haying and grazing privileges of CAP acreages may be authorized by ACS State Committees.

In addition, under two loan programs administered by another USDA Agency, the Farmer's Home Administration, a total of \$4.35 million has been made available for use in all Pennsylvania counties to assist farmers and other rural residents sustaining losses due to Agnes.

Loans under the emergency loans program are to assist

farmers and ranchers in continuing their normal farming and ranching operations, and loans under the rural housing disaster loans program are to assist farm owners and homeowners to repair, rehabilitate or replace property that was damaged or destroyed.

Principal cancellations are available to applicants receiving FHA emergency loans based on qualifying property losses or qualifying crop losses caused by a disaster. An applicant's cancellation may be up to \$5,000 on losses not compensated for by insurance or otherwise. These loans are available at one percent interest.

Meat Production Falls in Pa., US

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania was 65,134,000 pounds during July. This was 20 percent less than June and 17 percent less than July 1971, according to the latest figures from the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service

Commercial production of red meat in the 48 States totaled 2,660 million pounds in July, 11 percent below a year earlier and 14 percent below June 1972. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other slaughter plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms

Beef production was 1,688 million pounds, 9 percent less than July 1971. Cattle killed totaled 2,753,400 head, compared with 3,067,600 head slaughtered a year earlier. Live weight per head was 1,024 pounds, 10 pounds more than 1971, and 5 pounds above June 1972

There were 33 million pounds of veal produced during July, down 23 percent from the 43 million pounds produced in July 1971. Calf slaughter was 20 percent less than a year earlier. Live weight

per head was 274 pounds, 7 pounds more than July 1971.

Pork production totaled 902 million pounds, 15 percent less than a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 5,684,900 head, down 16 percent from July 1971. Live weight per head was down 1 pound from last year and 5 pounds from last month's level. Lard rendered per 100 pounds of live weight was 7.8 pounds, compared with 8.7 in July 1971.

There were 37 million pounds of lamb and mutton produced in July, down 10 percent from a year earlier. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 764,800 head, down 11 percent. Average live weight was 100 pounds, the same as a year earlier but 2 pounds less than last months.

Beef stocks totaled 257 million pounds on July 31, up 2 percent from a month earlier but 18 percent below a year ago. Pork stocks declined 21 percent during July to 319 million pounds, 37 percent below a year earlier. Holdings of pork bellies dropped 35 percent during July to 69 million pounds - 34 percent below a year earlier

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