Feeding Regulations Proposed

Proposed changes in the regulations governing the operations of food service in summer recreational programs were announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture These changes are designed to help sponsors of summer feeding programs to better plan and carry out the feeding of needy voungsters during the summer months when school cafeteria are closed

The President's budget, submitted to Congress on Jan 29, provides \$50 6 million - the same level as was available last year

The changes are based on the operating experience gained since the program's inception in 1969 and emphasize the use of school foodservice facilities to the maximum extent possible They clarify responsibilities at all levels of program operations, provide greater flexibility in the type of meal served, and provide improved guidelines for the selection of food service sites to insure safe and sanitary service of meals to eligible children

The proposals require State Agencies to set standards for determining if a service institution has the ability to operate a summer program-such as adequate personnel and capacity for financial and administrative operation of a complex quantity food service program for large groups of children

In selecting food service sites, consideration must be given to controlling success to meals so that only eligible children consume meals on the site, to having arrangements for protective food storage and holding facilities, and to having adequate arrangements for food service



during inclement weather. In the absence of food storage facilities, the regulations also provide for a "summer meal" as an alter-native to a complete lunch when problems of food safety in transportation and food storage arise The regulations delete all references to breakfasts and lunches for the summer program to allow flexibility in the time of day when the meal is served.

Initiated in 1969, the program last summer reached 1.4 million voungsters from low-income neighborhoods with nutritious lunches and snacks at school playgrounds, sites. and recreation areas. Planning for the summer program must get underway soon. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will also issue handbooks for service institutions and on-site supervisors as well as assist in conducting training sessions at the Regional Office and State Agency level. Other changes

Make the standards of eligibility for this program the same as those applied to youngsters during the school year,

- Waive individual free meal determinations when sponsors have evidence that all children to be served will come from low economic areas;

Specify monitoring requirments for sponsors for this year with a parallel State-level responsibility provided for in the 1974 program

Fewer Farms Seen by 1985 U.S. agriculture by 1985 is

likely to consist of about 2.1 million farms, some 700,000 less than this year, according to a report presented at the recent **USDA** National Agricultural Outlook Conference in

Washington, D.C. John Lee, director of the Farm **Production Economics Division** of USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), said that by 1985, farms with gross sales of \$20,000 or more will account for more than 90 percent of the cash receipts from farm products.

He joined other ERS economists in reporting on the future structure of agricultural production and marketing to 1985 at the Conference.

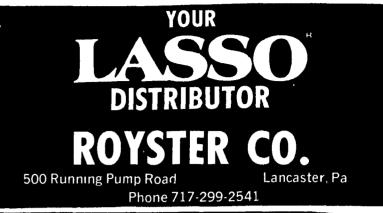
On the domestic front, David W. Culver, economist, projected that farm income to 1985 will trend upward, and that farmers' prices will rise gradually, perhaps at the rate of two to three percent annually. Farmers will produce more and get better prices in most years.

William Manley, director, Marketing Economics Divison, ERS, predicted that by 1985 internal control of the U.S. food system "will rest in those market-oriented agencies with the most direct access to mass consumer markets.' Agricultural production, he said, will likely be dictated by market requirements rather than market choices being governed by what is produced.

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In foreign trade, Joseph Willett, director, Foreign

Demand and Competition Division, ERS, said the growth in world demand for animal products will be reflected in continued growth in demand for high protein feeds. There is considerable potential, he said, for expansion of soybean meal exports in the years ahead.



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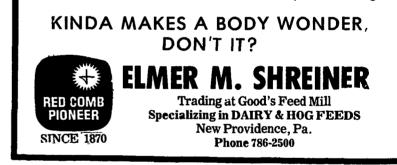
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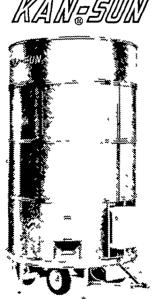
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