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1974 Wheat Program Announced

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz announced details of the 1974 wheat program which he said is designed to encourage all-out production.

There will be no set-aside requirement for 1974. There will be no conserving base requirement for the four-year life of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.

New in the wheat program is the target price feature. If the average price for wheat is at or above the \$2.05 per bushel target price, the producer will receive no payment. If the price average is below the target, the producer will receive the difference between the target price and the five month average price received by all farmers.

There will be no preliminary payment. Any payment due will be paid after December 1, 1974. If the average price received by all producers is under \$2.05 per bushel for the July through November 1974 period, a producer would be paid on an amount of bushels determined by multiplying the farm allotment times the projected yield established for the farm. The projected yield represents the potential production for the farm as determined by the Agricultural Stabilization and

Conservation Service (ASCS) county committee.

The allotment is set at 55.0 million acres. Thus, on the average, each producer's allotment in 1974 will be about three times that of his 1973 allotment. This allotment represents the number of harvested acres of wheat, based on the estimated average yield, which would result in production equal to estimated domestic and export disappearance in the 1974-75 marketing year. This allotment is similar to the domestic allotment in the 1973 wheat program in that it is not a constraint on the amount of wheat that can be planted and its sole purpose is for making payments to producers in the event the five-month average price received by farmers is less than the target price.

The total amount of payments a person may receive under one or more of the 1974 wheat, feed grain and upland cotton programs may not exceed \$20,000.

Loans will be available to producers on their 1974 crop

wheat at a national average of \$1.37 per bushel, an increase of 12 cents over 1973 crop loans.

The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 provides for release of about 10 million bushels of excess wheat stored by wheat producers under provisions of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965. It has been determined by the Secretary that such wheat will be released without penalty. Producers holding excess wheat will be notified by their local ASCS county committees on details regarding its release.

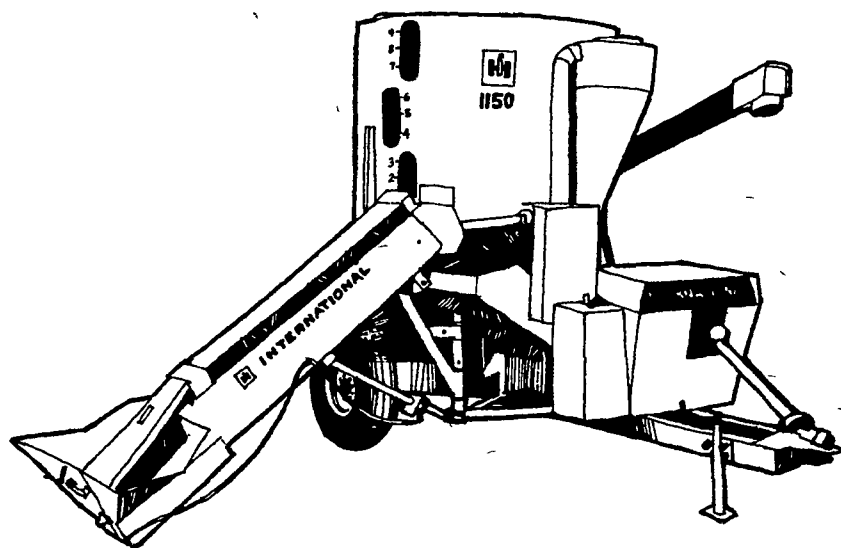
The Act also eliminates the requirement that processors purchase certificates valued at 75 cents per bushel on each bushel of wheat processed for human domestic consumption.

Producers may substitute any non-conserving crop or any conserving crop used for hay or for grazing in order to preserve their wheat allotments and to make them eligible for any payments under the target price feature. Crops for which a marketing quota is in effect are excluded.

Picnic Food Care

Taking fried chicken to a picnic? Make sure it's safe to eat, remind Extension specialists at The Pennsylvania State University. Use an insulated bag or metal ice chest—and ice—to carry your meal. Keeping food cold prevents harmful bacteria from growing and causing illness. Chicken and other protein foods need this kind of care. Keep them safe—at home and on picnics.

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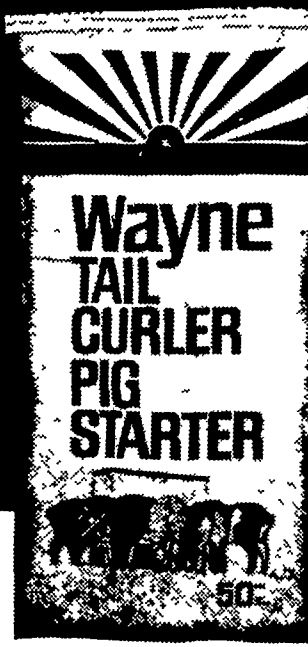
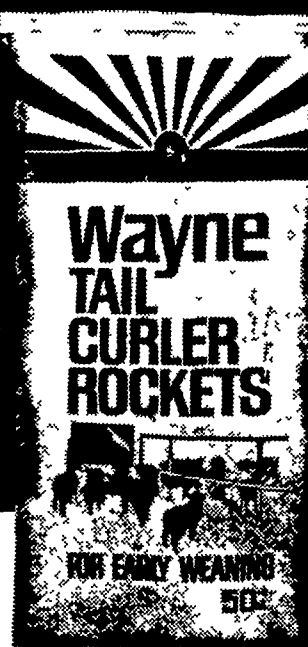
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