

# 1974 Wheat Program is Designed to Spur Output

Secretary of Agriculture, Earl L. Butz, recently announced details of the 1974 wheat program which he said is designed to encourage all out production, according to John M. Phillips, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

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 producers will receive no payment. If the price average is below the target, the producer will receive the difference between the target price and the 5 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 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 domestic average yield, which would result in production equal to estimated domestic and export disappearance in the 1974-75

marketing year. This allotment's sole purpose is for making payments to producers in the event the 5 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 Act terminated on June 30, 1973, the requirement that processors purchase certificates valued at 75 cents per bushel on each bushel of wheat processed for human domestic consumption.

Wheat allotments may be preserved by growing any non-conserving crop, or conserving crop used for hay or grazing.

Pennsylvania farmers should be planning wheat income from production in 1974, Mr. Phillips said. There will be no set aside payments to replace sale of wheat in 1974, the Chairman added.

For Lancaster County, the 29,974 acre allotment represents a 30 percent increase over last year, according to Dorothy Neel, director of the county ASCS office. Allotments will be mailed to all farmers around September 10.



"Keep up the competitive spirit—when competition steps out monopoly moves in."—Mrs. Gary Hiott, The Pickens (S.C.) Sentinel.

"Whenever there is a crisis of some kind, the only way Congress can figure to solve it is to either levy a new tax or appropriate umteen million (or billion) dollars."—Bill Epler, Brewery Gulch, Bisbee (Ariz.) Gazette.

## Iowa No. 1 Now In Farm Population

Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois now have more farm residents than any other states in the nation.

This was brought out in a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study spanning the decades from 1970 back to 1910.

The report marked the first time in USDA records that a Southern state did not have the largest number of farm residents. North Carolina and Texas previously were the heaviest farm-populated states. By 1970, they fell to fifth and fourth places, respectively.

The decade of the 60's continued the longtime downward trend in the number of persons living on farms, dipping from 15.7 million in 1960 to 9.7 million in 1970.

Biggest drop was in the South, where farm population decreased by nearly half. The loss principally resulted from cotton farming's mechanization and near-abandonment of the share-tenant system of farming, the report said.

In addition, non-farm areas with higher employment opportunities lured a large number of farm residents. The South's black population decreased by well over 60 percent during the '60s.

North and South Dakota led all other states in their percentage of population on farms. Both had about 1 out of every 4 residents living on farms in 1970.

Only 13 states in the nation had a farm population that accounted for 10 percent or more of their total. This was in sharp contrast to 1920—the first year state data became available—when 11 of the 48 states had a majority of residents living on farms. Thirty-two states had a fourth or more of their residents on farms in 1920.

## Local NFU Members On Fly-In

A dozen National Farmers Union members from Lancaster and Chester Counties flew out of Lancaster Municipal Airport last Tuesday aboard the Farmers Union Travel Club's Convair 580. They were part of a 100-member contingent bound for Idaho in an effort to find more members for NFU. A similar trip last year resulted in the enrollment of over 500 new members in six mid-western states.

Lancaster County participants include: Clair Amand, Lititz RD3; J. Harold Esbenshade, Manheim RD2; Arthur Graybill, Stevens RD1; John Huber, Valley Rd., Neffsville; Ron Kline, Lititz RD5; Forney Longenecker, Lititz RD3; and Roy K. Steffy, Manheim RD2.

From Chester County: Sabitor Dazzolin, Landenburg RD1; Thomas O. Moran, Oxford RD2; Cox W. Shepherd, Lincoln University; Walter W. Shepherd, Oxford RD2; and Simon Z. Zook, Oxford RD2.

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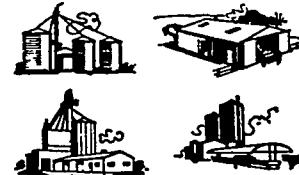
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