

USDA Expects No Land Idling in 1975

"It should not be necessary to ask farmers to idle land in 1975", Kenneth E. Frick told farm leaders in reference to government programs for wheat and feed grains.

Last July, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz announced the lifting of all acreage set-aside (idling) provisions for 1974 programs. Frick said the current grain production and demand outlook indicates a need for continuation of a full production policy in 1975.

"There are two main reasons we should be able to continue our 'hands off' policy in farmers' production plans", according to Frick, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

"First of all, we plan to keep the government out of the commodity business, and leave stocks in private

hands", Frick told members of the National Association of Farmer-Elected Committeemen. "This will result in less government interference in farm markets, lower cost to taxpayers, and greater dependence on the marketplace, not government, by farmers for their incomes.

"Second, the high demand for U.S. agricultural products at home and abroad will continue". He indicated current projections for U.S. farm exports were probably low.

"The U.S. is no longer the world's residual supplier of farm products. We have the best exporting system and the world's most efficient farm production. As a result, we have become the most dependable food and fiber supplier. There is no reason why we cannot maintain our role as the world's number one agricultural supplier.

"The efficiency and

productivity of the American farmer has also allowed us to maintain our domestic and world humanitarian role", Frick added.

Frick noted that Federal costs have been greatly reduced as a result of market-oriented farm programs. "Because of reduced payments for programs and for storage of government-owned stocks, the farm program share of the USDA budget has been reduced from about 40 percent to an estimated 5 percent for the current budget".

He noted that farm efficiency has been helped two ways by the turn round in farm policy. "Farmers have the freedom to choose the crops they feel they can grow best for the most return", Frick said, "and full production farming allows for economies of volume".

Among the other options for 1975 programs Frick discussed with the farm group were commodity loans made to farmers for interim financing and the govern-

ment's sales policy for disposing of commodities acquired under the programs.

Frick said government planners are discussing the possibility of setting the sales price for government-owned grains at 115 percent of the target price for the commodity involved. Target prices are prices established by law as a basis for payments to farmers, should average market prices fall below prescribed target levels.

He also said the government was considering a change in provisions to offer loans for a 12 month period only, with no loan extension, or "reseed", as has been often offered in the past. "The resealing of production under loan represents a non-decision on the part of farmers in marketing their crops", Frick said.

Frick said he expected complete farm program provisions could be announced soon, early enough for farmers to have time to plan for 1975 production.



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First Forecast For Apple Crop

The first Pennsylvania commercial apple production forecast for the 1974 season indicates 11,905,000 bushels. This would be the same as last year, but 1 percent below the 5-year (1969-73) average production.

The Commonwealth's peach crop, forecast at 2,083,000 bushels, is 24 percent above last year's crop of 1,688,000 bushels, and 6 percent above the 5-year average. The state's pear crop is expected to total 3,200 tons, up 1,400 tons from last year, but 100 tons below the 5-year average.

The nation's 1974 commercial apple production is forecast at 147.3 million bushels. This output is less

than 1 percent below last year, but 5 percent more than the quantity utilized in 1972. Increases from last year in the Eastern and Central states failed to offset a 15 percent decrease in the Western states.

The U.S. 1974 peach crop is forecast at 60.4 million bushels, a 13 percent increase from last year. Total pear production in the U.S. is forecast at 704,600 tons, 2 percent less than last year's utilized crop of 720,140 tons.

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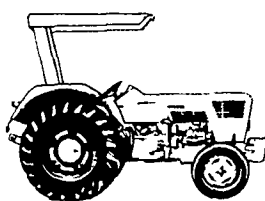
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Holstein Field Day Slated For Aug. 1

Lancaster County's Holstein Field Day will be held August 1 this year, at the home of Galen Crouse in Stevens. Herd visitation is from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 with the judging contest beginning promptly at 10:30 a.m.

A chicken barbecue lunch will be served at 12 noon. Tickets are \$2.00, and reservations must be made by July 24 with chairman James A. Hess, RD2, Box 66, Quarryville, Pa., 17566.

Contest judge will be Ray Seidel, prominent Holstein breeder, and the afternoon program will feature a presentation by Mike Young, director of special programs for the Pennsylvania Holstein Association. Judging prizes and door prizes will be given away during the program.

A special feature this year will be the awarding of a Holstein heifer calf to an eligible 4-H or FFA member. The heifer is available to any young person who is enrolled

in 4-H or FFA, and will be awarded by special drawing. Interested persons can enroll that day, simply by filling out a card at the registration table. To be eligible for the drawing young persons must be between the ages of 8 and 15, as of January 1, 1974. They must be residents of Lancaster County, and must be enrolled in 4-H or FFA. They must agree to raise the calf with acceptable management practices and the winner must be present at the time of the drawing. Winner of this year's calf will not be eligible for calves in future years.

Directions to Len-Lyn Farm, home of Galen Crouse: Traveling north of Ephrata on old 222, turn left at Messick Chevrolet onto Schoeneck Road (there is a Texaco station on the right). Travel on Schoeneck Road to the village of Schoeneck. The Crouse farm is located just on the outskirts of Schoeneck on the left side of the road.

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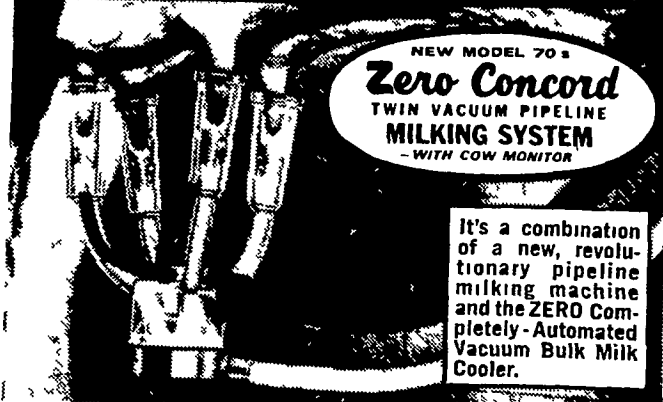
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