

USDA Announces Farm Programs

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz today said that the 1975 feed grain, wheat, and upland cotton programs will have no set-side requirement, and will provide farmers decision-making freedom to produce for the marketplace. He stressed there will be no land removed from agricultural production under these

government programs. As the department stated when announcing the 1974 programs, there will be no conserving base requirement for the duration of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (through the 1977 crop year). Now will the provision be implemented during the life of the 1973 Act which gives the Secretary

discretionary authority to limit feed grain and wheat to a percentage of allotments and upland cotton planted in excess of the base allotment. The Secretary pointed out that the allotments under programs authorized under the 1973 farm bill do not represent a limit on acreage, but are computed only for the purpose of payments to producers should such payments be required. Generally, the allotments for wheat and feed grains represent the number of

acres harvested of wheat, corn, grain sorghum and barley based on the estimated national average yield which would result in production equal to estimated domestic and export disappearance in the 1975-76 marketing year.

Also as in 1974, the producers may substitute any non-conserving crop or any conserving crop used for hay or for grazing in order to preserve their wheat, feed grain or cotton 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.

Because of the market-oriented nature of these programs, producers will be studying prices rather than allotment acreages, Secretary Butz said. The price incentive should result in full plantings and with normal weather conditions should enable the U.S. to not only fulfill domestic and

export requirements but to build up much needed stocks as well, he said.

Secretary Butz said today's announcement will provide farmers with the information they need to make their 1975 crop planting decisions. Additional program provisions will be announced after the department has had an opportunity to make a better determination of 1974 production, he said.

US Technical Teams to USSR

The U. S. Department of Agriculture today outlined two exchange projects now being undertaken in the Soviet Union — one by a group of U. S. forecasting specialists and the other by a team of spring wheat specialists. Both efforts are part of a continuing cooperative program between the two nations.

The forecasting team began work in Moscow yesterday. It will travel in the Ukraine and in Kazakhstan before leaving the USSR on Sept. 20. Its purpose is to study methods of crop forecasting, data collection, and economic analysis.

The spring wheat team will be in the Soviet Union from Aug. 25 to Sept. 14. It will study the progress of the Soviet spring wheat crop and discuss methodology of crop estimation with counterparts at the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and in the field. The team will visit principal spring wheat growing areas east of the Ural Mountains.

Both studies are activities under the June 19, 1973, U. S.-USSR Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and are part of a project on exchange of economic data developed within the framework of the

Agreement by the U. S.-USSR Joint Working Group on Agricultural Economic Research and Information.

Members of the forecasting team are Philip L. Mackie, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Foreign Commodity Analysis, Foreign Agricultural Service; Fletcher Pope, Soviet Union Program Area, and James Naive, Grains Program Area Leader, Economic Research Service; and Bruce Graham, Deputy Administrator of the Statistical Reporting Service and Chairman of the Crop Reporting Board.

Members of the spring wheat team are Keith Severin, Agricultural Economist, Grain and Feed Division, FAS; Arthur F. Shaw, Extension Agronomist, Montana State University, Bozeman; and Hugh J. McDonald, Extension Marketing Economist, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

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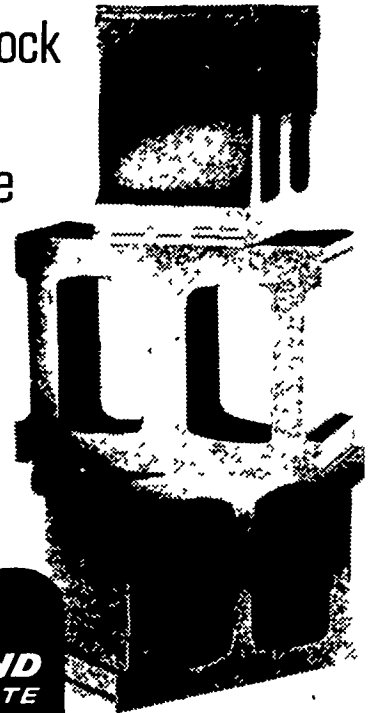


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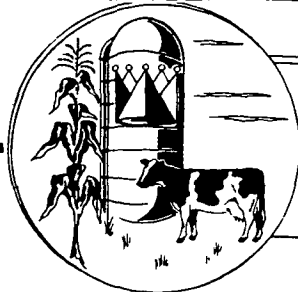
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