

'74 Wool Payments Are Set

"1974 wool payments are being made to wool and lamb producers participating in the ASCS administered wool incentive program," according to B. Snavely Garber, Chairman of Lancaster County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

An incentive payment rate of 21.8 percent on 1974 marketings of shorn wool has been announced by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The announced payment rate is based on the difference between the national average price of 59.1 cents a pound received by producers during 1974 and the previously-announced incentive price of 72 cents a pound. Incentive payments to wool growers are required under the National Wool Act of 1954, as amended.

The 1974 payment rate compares with the 1972 rate of 105.7 percent. Payments on 1974 marketings of wool will be about \$16 million compared to payments of \$68 million on 1972 marketings of wool. There were no payments made on 1973 wool marketings since the National average price during 1973 exceeded the support level.

A grower's wool payment on 1974 marketings is determined by multiplying his net dollar return from the

sale of wool by the payment rate of 21.8 percent. This percentage method of payment is designed to encourage growers to improve the quality and marketing of their wool. In any marketing year for which incentive payments are made, the higher the price a grower receives for his wool, the larger his payment will be.

A payment rate of 52 cents per hundredweight on unshorn lambs sold or slaughtered in 1974 was also announced by USDA. This payment is designed to compensate growers for the wool they market on live lambs rather than as shorn wool. The payment is based on the shorn wool payment rate, average weight of wool per hundredweight of lambs, and value of lamb's wool relative to the National average value of shorn wool.

Deductions of 1-1/4 cents a pound from 1974 shorn wool payments and 7-1/2 cents a hundred pounds of liveweight from 1974 lamb payments will be made to finance advertising, sales promotion, and related market development activities. These deductions, provided for in the National Wool Act, were approved by an 85.5 percent favorable vote by sheepmen voting in a November 1974 referendum.

USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will begin making the payments to growers shortly through its county offices.

Wool and lamb producers who have not filed an application for incentive payments may still do so at county ASCS offices, the chairman said. Wool and lamb receipts are required with all applications.

A&C and Hustler Equipment Merge

Earl S. Martin, General Manager of A & C Equipment Company, 780 East Main Street, New Holland, Pennsylvania, and Vernon P. Glick, President of Hustler Equipment, Inc., 2320 Hobson Road, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, an-

nounce the merger of Hustler Equipment, Inc. into A & C Equipment Company. Hustler Equipment, Inc. has been selling and servicing specialized lawn mowing equipment manufactured by Excel Industries of Hesston, Kansas, and Deines Corporation of Ransom, Kansas since 1967. A & C Equipment Company has been selling and servicing specialized material handling equipment and the Mustang Skid Loader since 1965.

All Hustler Equipment, Inc. personnel and operations have been moved to A & C Equipment Company's sales and service facilities in New Holland, and the 2320 Hobson Road operations have been closed.

A & C Equipment Company has received awards for outstanding sales performance from the Pettibone Corporation and has earned awards as one of the top dealers in the nation for the Owatonna Manufacturing Company's Mustang Skid Loaders

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Mushroom Report Gets Backing of Sen. Scott

U. S. Senator Hugh Scott last week asked the U. S. Department of Agriculture to restore a proposed \$16,000 cut in its budget so that the Department's Annual Mushroom Report will not be discontinued.

In a statement before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Senator Scott said the report "is vital to the success" of the domestic mushroom industry, of which Pennsylvania produces 59 percent of the national crop.

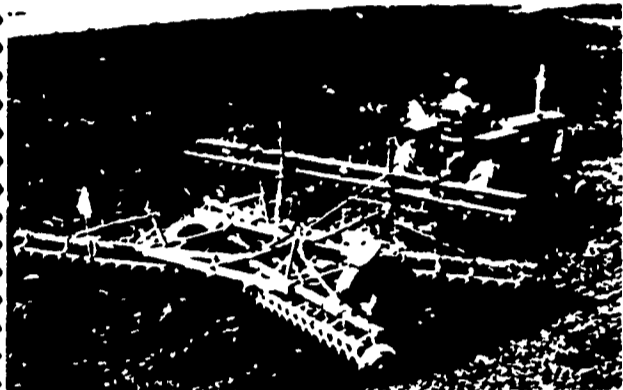
The report, he said, "provides the only official and accurate information on mushroom production, prices, growth and other conditions."

"I am aware that the Department is under pressure to reduce its expenses and I certainly appreciate its efforts in this direction," Scott added. "But the cost of this service . . . is insignificant when compared to the valuable help it provides for this important industry." He said the Report "is a small price to pay for the continued prosperity of this industry."

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