

Rural fire companies receive aid

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Rural fire companies across the Commonwealth, which serve areas with a population of 10,000 or less, are benefiting from a Federal Rural Community Fire Protection Program implemented by the Division of Forest Fire Protection within the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Benefits from this program are in the form of Federal excess trucks, fiberglass water tanks, hose reels and other equipment purchased with funds, on a 50-50 matching basis, from Title IV of the Rural Development Act of 1972.

The Act authorized and directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial, technical and other assistance to State Foresters or other appropriate officials to organize, train and equip fire departments in rural areas and communities under 10,000 population to prevent and suppress fires.

It is aimed at improving fire prevention, control, and suppression in those rural

areas where the volunteer fire companies normally do not have the necessary funds for the purchase of new equipment.

Also as part of the Title IV program, the Commonwealth received for the 1976 fiscal year \$102,100 and application forms were mailed to all known fire companies in Pennsylvania with the exception of those in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

After careful evaluation of the returned applications, 60 fire companies were selected to receive cost share grants for the purchase of suppression equipment, communications and protective clothing and gear. Federal excess trucks were not involved in this portion of the program.

For the Federal 1976 transition quarter (July through September) an additional \$25,520 was received by the Commonwealth and was used to extend the program by awarding grants to 15 additional fire companies for the purchase of small equipment.

Among the rural fire

companies approved for grant money for the purchase of protective gear, communications equipment or suppression gear are:

South Mt., Franklin County; Monaghan, York County; Bendersville, Adams County; Delaware Twp., Juniata County; Newburg Hopewell, Cumberland County; Rockwood, Somerset County; Allison, Hiller, Dawson and Dunbar,

Fayette County; Morris Twp., Greene County; Whitney and Mr. Pleasant, Westmoreland County; Ottsville, Bucks County; Oaks, Montgomery County; Union Water Works and Speedwell Engine & Hose Co., Lebanon County; Friedens, Lehigh County; Sacramento, Good Intent and Kline Twp., Schuylkill County; and Gratz, Dauphin County.

Seed case settled

HARRISBURG, Pa. - A settlement of \$2,750 has ended a case under the Federal Seed Act against an Illinois seed firm, according to Raymond J. Kerstetter, Pa. Secretary of Agriculture. The case was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and involved in part a shipment of lawn seed to Pennsylvania.

Kerstetter said that

Courthouse Squares



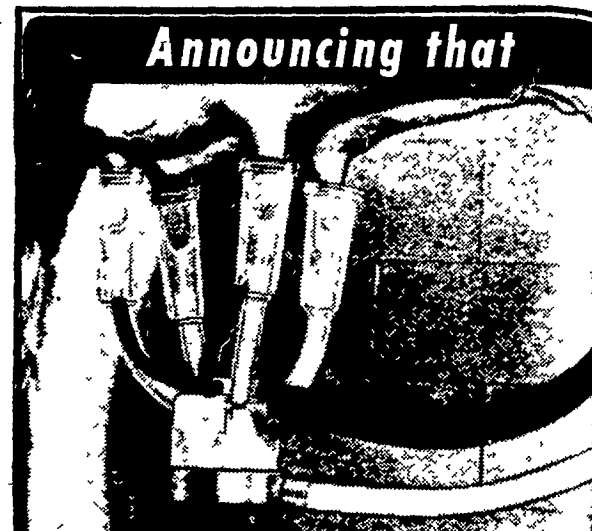
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Seaboard Seed Company, of Bristol, Illinois, paid the settlement figure for alleged violations involved in nine shipments of lawn seed from March 1971 to February 1975. The alleged violations included false labeling as to noxious-weed seeds, purity, origin and test date; excessive noxious-weed seeds; incomplete labeling as to purity and noxious-weed seeds; and failure to keep required records under the Federal Seed Act.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Bureau assisted in the investigation. The Botany and Seed Division sampled and tested the seed involved and provided the necessary evidence for the successful completion of the case.

Kerstetter said that the Federal Seed Act is a truth-in-labeling law designed to protect farmers and other consumers when they purchase seed shipped in interstate commerce. The Act is administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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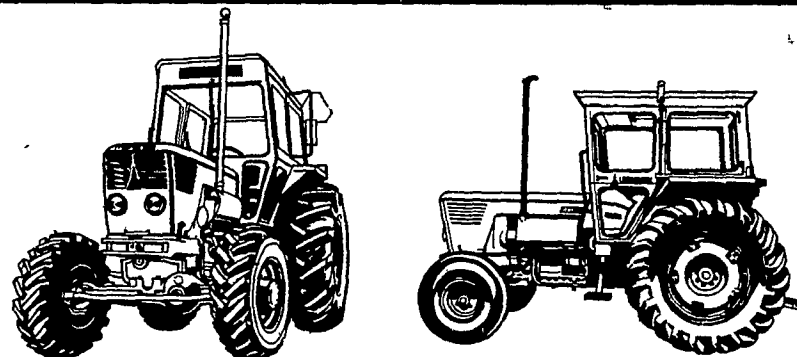


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