

Winter

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requently occur for a short time as a transitory condition between the occurrence of rain or drizzle and snow, and therefore usually occur at temperatures slightly below freezing.

Ice storms are sometimes incorrectly referred to as sleet storms. Sleet can be easily identified as frozen rain drops (ice pellets) which bounce when hitting the ground or other objects. Sleet does not stick to trees and wires; but sleet in sufficient depth does cause hazardous driving conditions.

The terms ice storm, freezing rain, and freezing drizzle warn the public that a coating of ice is expected on the ground and on other exposed surfaces. The qualifying term heavy is used to indicate the coating which, because of the extra weight of the ice, will cause significant damage to trees, overhead wires, and the like. Damage will be greater if the freezing rain or drizzle is accompanied by high winds.

SNOW

The word snow in a National Weather Service forecast, without a qualifying word such as occasional or intermittent, means that the fall of snow is of a steady nature and will probably continue for several hours without letup.

Heavy snow warnings are issued by the National Weather Service to the public when a fall of four inches or more is expected in a 12-hour period, or a fall of six inches or more is

expected in a 24-hour period. Some variations on these rules may be used in different parts of the country. Where four-inch snowfalls are common, for example, the emphasis on heavy snow is generally associated with six or more inches of snow. In other parts of the country where heavy snow is infrequent or in metropolitan areas with heavy traffic, a snowfall of two or three inches will justify a heavy snow warning.

Snow flurries are defined as snow falling for short durations at intermittent periods; however, snowfall during the flurries may reduce visibilities to an eighth of a mile or less. Accumulations from snow flurries are generally small.

Snow squalls are brief, intense falls of snow and are comparable to summer rain showers. They are accompanied by gusty surface winds.

Blowing and drifting snow generally occur together and result from strong winds and falling snow or loose snow on the ground. Blowing snow is defined as snow lifted from the surface by the wind and blown about to a degree that horizontal visibility is greatly restricted.

Drifting snow is used in forecasts to indicate that strong winds will blow falling snow or loose snow on the ground into significant drifts. In the northern plains, the combination of blowing and drifting snow, after a substantial snowfall has ended, is often referred to as a ground blizzard.

Blizzards are the most dramatic and perilous of all winter storms, characterized by strong winds bearing large amounts of snow. Most of the snow accompanying a blizzard is in the form of fine, powdery particles of snow which are whipped in such great quantities that at times visibility is only a few yards.

Blizzard warnings are issued when winds with speeds of at least 35 miles per hour are accompanied by considerable falling or blowing snow and visibilities are dangerously restricted making it very easy to become lost or stranded.

Severe blizzard warnings are issued when blizzards of extreme proportions are expected and indicate wind with speeds of at least 45 miles per hour plus a great density of falling or blowing snow and a temperature of 10 degrees F or lower.

Travelers' Advisories are issued to indicate that falling, blowing or drifting snow, freezing rain or drizzle, sleet or strong winds all make driving difficult.

Stockmen's Advisories alert ranchers and farmers that livestock will require protection from wet, windy, chilling conditions. Advisories are not issued when other winter warnings are in effect.

A very strong wind combined with a temperature slightly below freezing can have the same chilling effect as a temperature nearly 50 degrees F lower in a calm atmosphere. Arctic explorers and military experts have developed what is called the wind-chill factor, which shows the combined effects of wind and temperature as equivalent calm-air temperatures. In effect, the index describes the cooling power of the air on exposed flesh.

That's the story of this season. This series will not appear for the next two weeks but will resume in late January.

Wool payment

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The incentive price of 72 cents a pound for marketings of shorn wool and a support of 80.2 cents a pound for mohair will continue unchanged from the 1976 level.

The National Wool Act, as amended, requires that support shall be at the above levels for each of the marketing years beginning January 1, 1971 and ending December 31, 1977.

Pulled wool (unshorn lambs) will continue to be supported at a level comparable to the incentive price for shorn wool through payments on unshorn lambs.

As in past years, shorn wool payments will be based

on a percentage of each producer's returns from sales. The percentage will be that required to raise the national average price received by all producers from shorn wool up to the announced incentive price of 72 cents a pound.

Mohair payments will be calculated in a manner similar to wool. Producers of wool and unshorn lambs marketed in 1976 are reminded that applications for 1976 wool incentive payments should be filed with the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office by

January 31, 1977.

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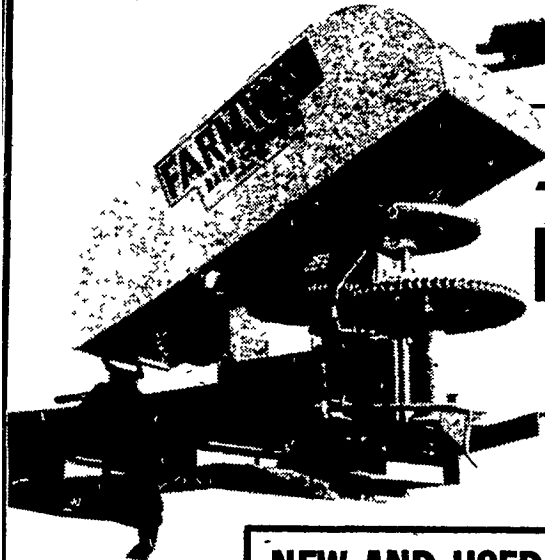
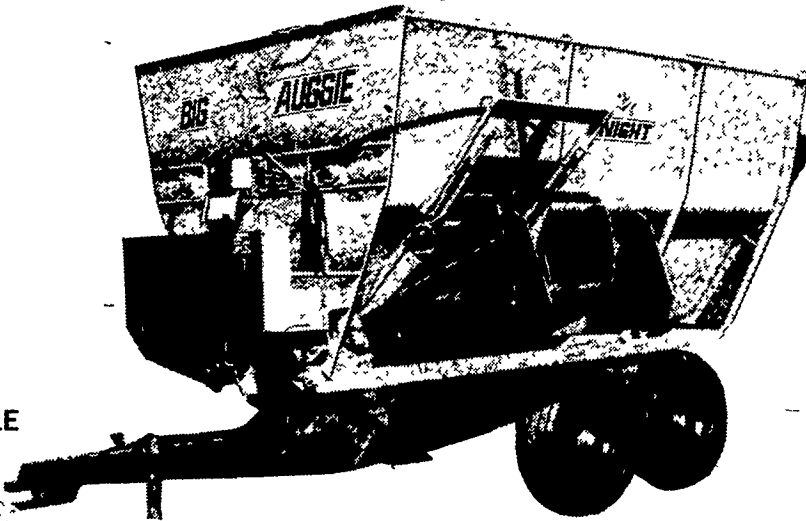
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