Increased price supports favored

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Raymond J. Kerstetter has called for a yearly increase in target price supports as part of a federal Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act in 1977 which would provide a balance of all interests affected by policy decisions.
"We are all in the same game," Kerstetter said. "We all

lose when the farmer, the processor or the consumer loses. No one segment of agriculture and the food distribution process can live alone, we are all interdependent."

"The basic authority for our federal farm legislation will expire at the end of the 1977 crop years, so Congress must decide at what level to set price supports, target prices and loan levels. We need these contained in a national food policy which would recognize agricultural production, producer incentives, nutritional standards, food distribution problems, commodity reserves and consumer needs," Kerstetter said.

"Our farm program should seek to assure a minimum level of income security and protection from disasters for farm producers. Although price supports will not be the only component of our farm policy, it clearly will be one of the most important and most difficult to decide upon."

Support payments under the target price concept are primarily to supplement the income effects of short-term price fluctuations. Disaster payments are designed to protect the producer against the economic impact of natural disasters.

Kerstetter said that target prices for the three major commodities should be set at the full cost of production. "Obviously the costs of production vary widely with the costs of land and the yield per acre. But we have reasonably good estimates of 1974 and 1975 crop production costs which can be used for projections of costs for 1977, 1978 and the future," Kerstetter said.

Target prices should be increased yearly to a figure at the total cost of production, including a reasonable charge for land, according to Kerstetter.

The introduction of the target price concept came in the 1973 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act. The purpose

Poultry still strong

HARRISBURG - Pennduring the week ending year ago. December 25, 1976, but In the maintained level above last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Placements of broiler chicks were 1,688,000. The placements were five per cent below the previous week, but 22 per cent above the corresponding week a year earlier.

Average placements sylvania's poultry during the past ten weeks production dipped slightly were 30 per cent above a

> In the 21 key poultry producing states, placements were 60,602,000. This figure is about the same as the previous week and seven per cent above the same week in 1975.

> Average placements in the 21 key states during the past ten weeks were five per cent above a year ago.

of the target price is to provide a basis for varying price support payments to producers inversely with market prices, This eliminates a great swine in income or loss to the producer during any crop year.

No payments are made to farmers if the market prices are above the established market price. If market prices fall below the target price, then support payments are made for the difference, under the present act.

No price support payments have been made through the first three years of operation of the 1973 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act. Total payments to any person under the 1973 act are limited to \$20,000 per year for price support and disaster payments.



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FARM MACHINERY

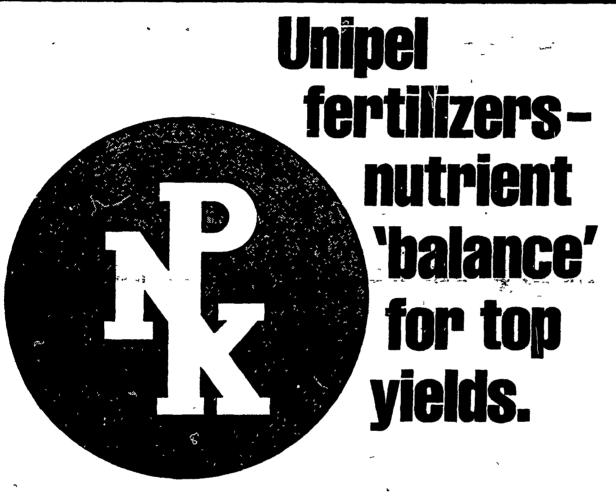
4020 J D with blower, heat houser, roll guard; 3020 JD tractor with chains; 2020 J D tractor with heat houser; super H Farmall; Ferguson 30 with 12 speeds; Davis loader, fork, dirt scoop; tractor chains; Ford Ferguson with standard and high range; 2 way three bottom plow; Allis chalmers 32 disc; 12 ft. brillian cultimulcher; 3 point orchard harrow; 494-A four row J D complanter with insecticides; corn ensilage & haylage; 65 J D blower with Approx. 50 ft. pipe; J D 38 two row chopper with hay pickup; J D three point PTO rake; 24 T JD bailer with thrower; 300 J D elevator; 36 ft. N H elevator excellent condition used 3 seasons; J D ft. NH elevator excellent condition used 3 seasons; JD 216 chuck wagon; 125 & 115 chuck wagons; PTO 10 Hesston haybine; 2 hay wagons with high sides; 16-A JD flail chopper; 507 JD gyro mower; 54 JD manure spreader with hydraulic tail gate; portable hoof trimming table; JD 8 ft. blade with wings; PTO seeder; 25-A JD 3 point sprayer; JD 15 disc grain drill with band seeder & press wheels; JM & little giant bin wagons; 8 ft. V snow blade; 3 JD two way cylinders; cross heavy duty cylinder; Unico feed cart; wheel barrow; portable hay bin; hay ropes; 42' McDade hay fan w-7 hrp motor; bailer twine; three point drop cleaner; continental bolt bin; metal welding table; Forney welder; drill bits; black & decker ½ & ¼ drills; ½ ton chain hoist; anvil; log chains; push pole; 55 gal. ½ ton chain hoist; anvil; log chains; push pole; 55 gal. drums; seed corn; wooden gates; oak planks; milker pump & motor; lots of tools; trailer load of sawed locust post; ice house lockers. Many more items to numerous to mention. Not responsible for accidents day of sale.

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