

Kiser speaks at Penn Ag. grain seminar

By SALLY BAIR
LANCASTER, Pa. - Dr. Harvey L. Kiser, director of economic services for the National Grain and Feed Association, told participants in Penn Ag Industries' grain seminar this week that there will probably be set aside program for wheat in effect for 1978. He said, "The government will require farmers to set aside certain acreage not to be produced."

While the government also has authority to set aside acreage for other feed grains, Kiser indicated that wheat would be the most likely crop to be affected.

He noted that a set aside program will come about only after 175 per cent of domestic needs have been attained.

In discussing the farm bill now being considered in the Congress, Kiser indicated that an emergency food reserve will be established. The reserve will go no lower



Paul Nelson

than two million tons and could be no greater than 6 million tons. He said the final amount will hinge on international agreements yet to be reached. He said mutual world-minimums for food reserves will be established.

Kiser mentioned that the

Senate has passed their version of a bill, but the House will not act on a final bill until some time later in July.

Kiser said there will be an expansion and liberalization of farm facility loans, and a three year extended loan program for on-farm storage of wheat and rice.

Of great concern to the staff members of this national association was a surprise announcement in the Federal Registry by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland expanding the availability of Form G - type loans to associations of producers. Paul Nelson, director of information services for the association said they spoke up strongly in opposition to the new ruling, calling it both illegal and anti-competitive because it will give cooperatives an edge over other small businesses. He explained that formerly these loans were available only to farmers as individuals, and to groups of farmers in the cotton, honey, rice and soybean industries.

Quoting from Farmland News, a midwest publication, Nelson said, "The proposal will enable farmers to do collectively what now they can do only individually." He added, "The full effect of the proposal is not known."

He said the effect could be "to rather severely alter the marketing of grain". He noted that the announcement in the Federal Register was an unusual way of introducing such a ruling. Five thousand responses were

made, with over half in opposition to the ruling. He



Dr. Harvey Kiser

said, "We will follow it and pay close attention to what is happening".

Nelson presented a slide program on grain handling, offering suggestions for ways to handle grain to maintain the highest quality. Using a U.S.D.A. study, Nelson said that breakage of corn is more economically damaging than breakage in wheat and soybeans.

He said that dropping causes the most damage, and breakage is less when corn is of a higher moisture content and has a higher temperature. He noted, of course, that for storage, low temperatures and low moisture content is more desirable.

He recommended that the number of handlings be kept to a minimum and that binning and inventory be well planned so that grain can be kept in a bin and therefore grain will drop on grain to reduce damage.

He pointed out that if grain

is now being handled three times, there will be one third less breakage if that can be reduced to two handlings. Equipment should be properly maintained and conveyors should be run at the proper speed and capacity to reduce overall damage.

Kiser also discussed proposed standards for pollution devices on modified grain elevators. The standards, as proposed, are so restrictive that they are unenforceable. The Environmental Protection Agency, bowing to pressure, has suspended the standards and will evaluate and reinstate them at a later time", according to Kiser.

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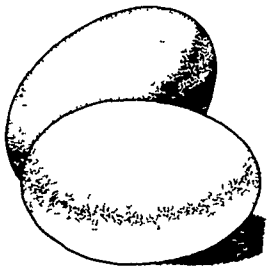
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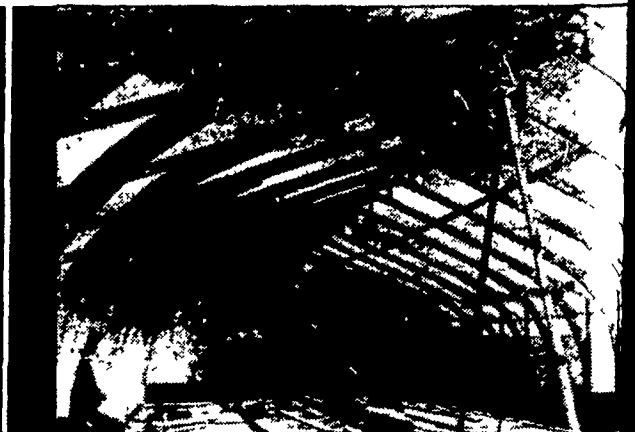
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