

ASCS participation urged

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cent additional land diversion for corn and sorghum and a 20 per cent set-aside for barley.

He thought that the feed grain program could present a problem for state and county ASC people. He said that it appears that "we are not offering farmers as good a program, as good a deal as we did last year because the corn acreage diversion payment is not as high—10 cents a bushel instead of 20 cents." He added that critics of the program say that there is less incentive to

participate this year than last and that the program is inadequate.

He told his audience that there were several points that the critics overlooked

"One is that since the target price has been increased to \$2.20 per bushel for corn, the farmer who fully complies with the program will be guaranteed exactly the same total price as last year—\$2.30 per bushel. The diversion payment went down 10 cents a bushel and the target went up 10 cents."

Another thing he men-

tioned was that there is no restriction on the number of acres to be planted under the additional diversion option as there was the previous year.

And this year "we are offering the opportunity to take part in a supply management program, a total package."

In high production years, the excess wheat can be moved off the market into the reserve program, he explained, so prices are not depressed. This is what happened last year, farmers placed more than a billion

bushels of wheat and other grains into the grain reserve. Thus in a year of "shortfall", market commitments, both those domestic and foreign, can be met by moving grain out of that reserve when the market price is right. The reserve is not government grain, it is not owned by CCC. It is farmer-owned, farmer-controlled grain. And that, he said, is the way it is wanted.

But, he continued, there is danger in this.

"Grain producers cannot rely solely upon the reserve program, and I am afraid maybe they are beginning to do that. The reserve program was slow to start, and many people believed it would not work—but it did. It was successful. There is just no way that we could have had the corn crop that we did, without the market price falling. Instead it rose. The same with wheat."

"But," he continued, "we cannot continue producing corn and wheat for a reserve program. Farmers must use the set-aside and diversion programs to begin balancing supply with demand so that the market will pay a reasonably profitable price. It is important that farmers understand that."

Smith thought that if the nationwide participation was near 50 per cent, and a normal weather situation holds throughout 1979, stocks of corn should be reduced by somewhere near 300 million bushels.

But if farmers don't participate, he warned, the acreage will not be reduced, and there could be an increase of ending stocks even though there is a record-high usage.

Farmers, he stated, must learn that they can't look at the program simply in terms of immediate cash in their pockets. The long range

effects of their decisions must be weighed.

Smith told that nationwide the participation for the program is now around 41 per cent. In the state of Pennsylvania, there is about 20 per cent participation.

The purpose of the meeting where Smith spoke was to review the 1979 farm programs and finalize plans for conducting the nationwide sign up for 1979 set-aside programs. These will begin February 15 and end April 16.

The sign-up period is the time designated for farmers to file their intentions to participate in the 1979 set-aside program with the county ASCS office. Farmers must sign up to be eligible for price support loans and target price and disaster payments for barley, corn, grain sorghum and wheat on participating farms and on other normal crop acreage grown on the farm.

Red Rose 4-H'ers

(Continued from Page 15) Club or leaving for other reasons.

Ken Brubaker, Lancaster a 10 year member has

participated in both the beef and sheep projects. In 1976 he was on the first place state 4-H Livestock judging team. That year the Lan-


caster County team place second in the national competition. He was a past winner of the Intel. steer. Ken also placed third in the national junior Angus showmanship competition.

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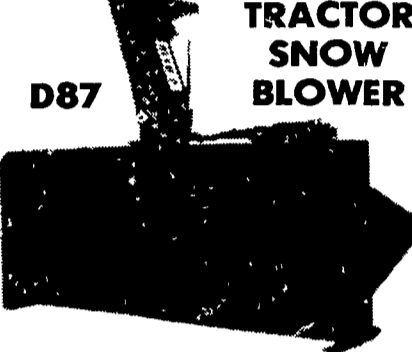
Awards were presented February 1st to 4-H'ers in Lancaster County's Red Rose beef and sheep 4-H Club. Standing in the front left is Michelle Dean who showed the reserve County champion steer. Steve Long showed the grand champion steer at the Pa. Farm Show, while Darlene Huyard had the County's champion steer. Back left is Bonnie Frey and Ed Nissley, both youth helped comprise the grand champion beef trio at the Pa. Farm Show.

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