

## N.J. growers to vote on 1 cent soybean checkoff

TRENTON, N.J. — Soybean growers in the Garden State this week began to receive ballots to vote for or against the proposed state soybean checkoff.

The ballots were placed in the mail Monday night since Tuesday was a state holiday. Growers will have 60 days,

or until March 15, to vote on the proposal.

On Thursday there was insufficient response to determine any trend at all, according to John Repko of the New Jersey Agriculture Department's bureau of markets.

Under the provisions of the referendum, one cent per bushel will be deducted

automatically at the first point of sale of any soybeans marketed in New Jersey.

In most cases this will be when the farmer moves beans to the mill.

The funds, according to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, are to be used only for market development, research, and educational programs for soybeans.

The referendum was requested by a newly formed group, the New Jersey Chapter of the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association.

Approval for the referendum will be based on the California plan.

Under that method of voting, the checkoff program will begin if it is approved by 65 percent of farmers voting who represent 51 percent of state soybean production; or, 51 percent of those voting approve and represent 65 percent of the production of those voting.

If the growers in the state respond with a positive vote, the State Agriculture Board will appoint members to the State Soybean Association advisory board.

The soybean board will consist of 11 members. Six are to be soybean producers, two soybean handlers or dealers, one soybean processor, the dean of Rutgers Cook College of Agriculture, and the New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture.

This advisory board will have the final say in allocation of the funds collected through the soybean checkoff.

Soybeans are the number one cash crop and the number one export crop in the state.

The N.J. Ag Department's marketing division said it estimates the checkoff will collect about \$60,000 based on last year's production in the state and a checkoff rate of a penny per bushel.

The 1979 crop, valued at \$42 million, was planted on 210,000 acres including full-season and double-cropped soybeans.

New Jersey growers were reminded that more than 460,000 soybean growers in

22 other states currently are participating in soybean checkoff programs.

Maryland was among states to approve a checkoff recently.

Maryland will begin its program on April 1, collecting one cent per bushel soybeans produced.

The program there was approved by a majority of growers in a referendum held last year.

New Jersey, like Maryland, is asking growers

to contribute a penny per bushel.

Of the 21 states now participating in a checkoff for soybeans, 16 require a one-half cent contribution, the remainder a full cent.

Farmers who do not wish to participate in the soybean checkoff can request in writing a refund of money contributed.

Several state farmer organizations have come out in favor of the soybean referendum. — CH

## Harkin has own ideas to protect U.S. farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Representative Tom Harkin of Iowa said President Carter's efforts to protect American farmers from financial hardship caused by the Soviet grain embargo, are "inadequate".

He has proposed several administrative and legislative actions which he said would result in "more meaningful and much more adequate protection" for the American farmer.

Harkin is a member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. His comments and plan were contained in a letter Harkin sent to the President Friday.

In the letter Harkin called on the President to:

Announce a paid acreage diversion program with sufficient incentives to reduce 1980 feed grain production by 10 to 20 percent.

Raise the corn loan rate for at least 90 days to the price received by farmers prior to the embargo announcement.

Direct the Farmers Home Administration and the Small Business Administration to defer loan payments for farmers who have not sold

grain until an orderly marketing plan can be agreed upon with the farmer.

Harkin also asked the President to support legislation he intends to introduce when Congress reconvenes January 22 to:

Extend and expand authorization for the FmHA Economic Emergency loan program due to expire on May 15, 1980.

To encourage the construction of more on-farm storage, reduce the interest rate on ASCA storage facility loans from the current 10.5 percent to five percent for at least the next year.

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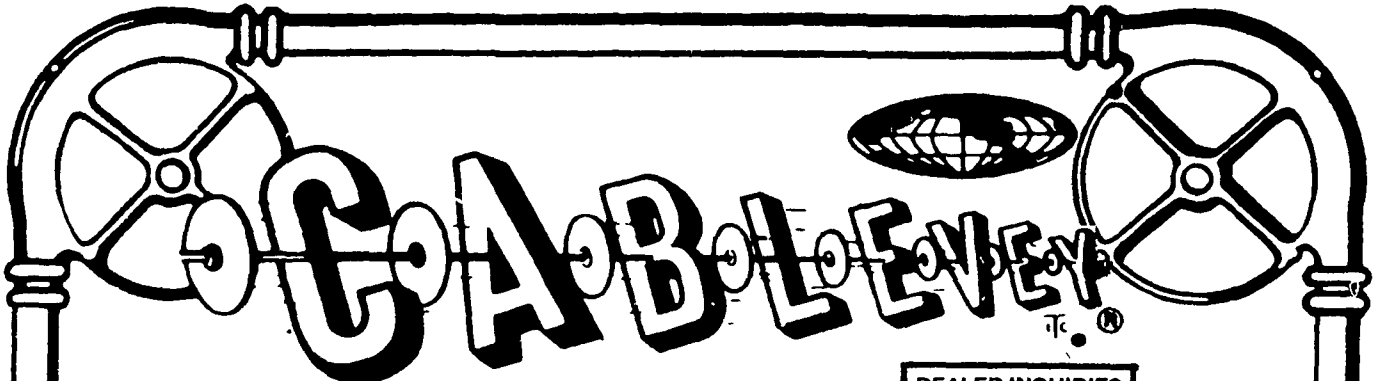
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