

USDA announces new barley reserve program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Williams Thursday announced provisions for a new farmer-held grain reserve for barley.

Effective immediately, 1978 and 1979 crop barley which producers have under loan to the Commodity Credit Corporation may be placed in the new reserve. There are about 21 million bushels of 1978 crop barley and 22 million bushels from the 1979 crop under CCC loan, Williams said. Barley from the 1980 crop will be eligible for entry in the new reserve at the beginning of harvest.

Under the new barley reserve program, U.S. Department of Agriculture

officials will look only at market prices for feed barley where most of the reserve barley is located in determining the triggering of the commodity's release and call levels, Williams said.

A new reserve program is needed for the commodity because of barley's unique situation, Williams said.

"While about 95 percent of old reserve barley is located in the Minneapolis marketing area, substantially higher West Coast area market prices have triggered the commodity's release and call levels under the old reserve program," he said.

Barley in the old reserve was placed in call status even though market prices were well below the reserve

release level in the Minneapolis market area, Williams said.

Another problem for old reserve barley has been the exaggerated influence of higher priced malting barley over feed barley in the calculation of the commodity's market prices, Williams said.

Here's why you should attend rabbit conference

UNIVERSITY PARK — The mother rabbit is one answer to high energy cost and inflation of price above actual value of items purchased, according to Penn State's Herbert Jordan.

One 10 pound adult doe rabbit, if well managed, can produce 100 pounds of young, fresh, dressed oven-ready fryer rabbit each year. No fossil fuel energy is needed to heat young rabbits and only a fraction of a cent per pound of rabbit is needed for an electric light in the rabbit warren or barn.

Low cost roughage feed can be used for efficient rabbit meat production. This is because poultry and hogs need fiber content below 7 per cent while rabbits do well on 10 to 20 per cent fiber in the ration.

The mother rabbit can produce 10 times her live body weight in oven-ready young fryer rabbit in one year whereas other species require two to seven years to

Eastern annual meeting

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the Syracuse office admits to knowing what issues will be discussed.

A spokesman for Eastern said the resolution committee has not met yet and won't be meeting until Monday, the day before the delegate body meets.

The Tuesday session should prove interesting and will take a lot of close attention from delegates to

keep up with the proposed agenda.

Eastern has allowed 15 minutes for the presentation of amendments to the by-laws, and the action needed on the proposed amendments.

Becoming a little more generous with their time, slightly less than an hour is allotted for the report of the resolutions committee, and the necessary action on their work.

After an almost two hour

lunch, the delegate meeting will come back into session, accepting resolutions from the floor for 45 minutes, followed by half an hour's general discussion.

The resolution and decision making processes will be tabled for 24 hours.

In the ensuing time period, Eastern members will hear committee and officer reports on Wednesday morning, climaxing with the annual report in the afternoon.

Arden Tewksbury, retiring president of the Co-op will address the group at the morning session.

It will be a hectic two days for most of the members, and their senses and understanding will have to be sharp, not wrapped up with the evening's entertainment and awards ceremony excitement.

Members won't be able to daydream or doze—there's too much milk and money at stake.

Legislative roundup

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HB 1608 would exempt closely held farm corporations from the capital stock tax, making it easier for a family farm to be passed from generation to generation.

Also on the move is SB 1253 which would prohibit forcing farmers to fence livestock from streams.

Originally the powerful Department of Environmental Resources opposed the measure. But now, while not supporting it, DER has decided not to oppose it.

The change of heart seems

to be due to a study which shows minimal pollution results from animals and because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency already has strict rules on drylots near water.

In other activity, the Senate Education Committee last week amended HB 1111 which would permit any school district that was consolidated under the Reorganization Act to divide into smaller districts.

Should the measure pass, it remains to be seen whether many rural districts could justify such a move either financially or in light of educational quality.

Over 3 million seedlings planted for game cover

HOWARD — Pennsylvania's wildlife will soon be benefitting from over 3 million tree and shrub seedlings planted to improve wildlife habitat throughout the state.

The seedlings were produced at the Pennsylvania Game Commission's nursery at Howard in Centre County. Plantings were made in recent weeks.

More than half of the seedlings were planted by personnel of the Game Commission on State Game Lands (tracts which have been purchased over the years with funds derived from the sale of hunting licenses and maintained as public hunting areas) and on farm-game and safety zone projects (privately-owned agricultural land which is kept open to public hunting through the courtesy and cooperation of landowners).

Sportsmen's groups, conservation clubs, soil and water conservation districts, coal stripping operators and other groups received the seedlings which will provide future food and cover for wildlife.

The Game Commission also released 55,400 seedlings to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry to improve wildlife habitat on State Forest Lands. Additional seedlings were also provided to the Allegheny National Forest and the Army Corps of

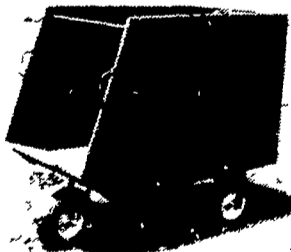
Engineers for planting.

Species distributed included scotch pine, white pine, Austrian pine, mugho pine, white spruce, hemlock, willow, bittersweet, black locust, autumn olive, flowering dogwood, silky dogwood, Amur honeysuckle, chestnut, Asiatic crabapple, sawtooth

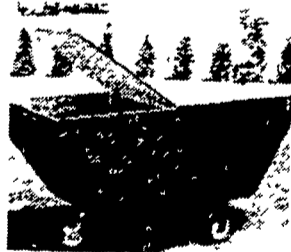
oak, bristly locust and privet.

Seedlings produced at the nursery are provided free of charge by the Game Commission, and planting and maintenance for the benefit of wildlife are usually provided by thousands of interested sportsmen and landowners.

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