

1981 wheat program is announced

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland last Friday said for the second year in a row U.S. wheat producers would not need to set aside acreage to be eligible for the farmer-owned reserve, commodity loans and target price protection.

"Wheat producers need only to be sure they plant within their normal crop acreage to be eligible for all program benefits in 1981," Bergland said.

The farmer-owned reserve release and call prices for the 1981 crop will be increased from the current \$4.20 and \$5.25 to keep them consistent with the cost of

producing wheat, he said. The exact amount of the increase will be decided when more precise cost information becomes available.

Bergland said he expects the Congress to authorize a special reserve loan that will provide an additional incentive to wheat producers to make more effective use of the farmer-owned grain reserve.

The measure under consideration by the Congress would set the special reserve loan for wheat at not less than \$3.30 a bushel for the 1981 crop. It may be increased to provide adequate incentive for

producers to use the reserve program, Bergland said.

"The 1981 crop target price will be increased from \$3.63 for the 1980 crop to at least \$3.81, with the final amount dependent upon the magnitude of the increase in short-run production costs," Bergland said.

"The loan price will be at least \$3.00 a bushel. After Congress completes action on the measure that provides for a special reserve loan, and supply prospects are clearer, we will make that determination," Bergland said.

The Secretary said wheat supplies are expected to be

adequate, but not excessive in 1981 and that major uncertainties remain over grain and oilseed production this year. Even greater uncertainties exist over production prospects for the 1981 season.

"If conditions change by next spring and it becomes evident that our wheat supplies will be excessive in 1981, a paid diversion program will be offered to wheat producers."

The final decision on a haying and grazing program will also be made before the spring grazing period begins.

"While wheat producers can market wheat from the farmer-owned reserve without penalty through August 31, I do not expect large quantities will be sold," Bergland said.

"This means the supply of wheat available to the market at the current farm price is limited. I also expect farmers will place a sufficient quantity of 1980 crop wheat into the reserve so that the farm price will have to rise above the \$4.20 reserve release price to satisfy 1980-81 market requirements."

"A farm price above \$4.20 a bushel would tend to encourage a high proportion of our wheat producers to stay out of a set-aside program if one were offered. Our analysts tell me that only about half of the 1981 crop would be eligible for farm program benefits — in-

cluding entry in the farmer-owned reserve program — if we required a set-aside. Given the uncertain crop outlook, it just doesn't make sense to withhold benefits from half the wheat producers next year," he said.

Bergland stressed the importance of the reserve program in allowing producers themselves to manage supplies.

"Under the current situation and the outlook for 1981, the farmer-owned reserve program becomes the principal tool for achieving a market balance which works in the interests of producers and consumers," he said.

The preliminary national program acreage for the 1981 wheat crop has been determined to be 71 million

acres, but is subject to change depending upon subsequent developments.

A harvested acreage of 71 million acres, according to current estimates and assuming average weather patterns, would produce enough to satisfy the expected wheat demand during the 1981-82 season and bring wheat stocks to a level that would provide the assurance that the U.S. can be a reliable supplier of wheat in national and international markets.

"Consistent with the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act, those who want to be guaranteed target price protection on the normal production from their entire 1981 crop will need to hold plantings to no more than was planted for harvest in 1980," Bergland said.

Fulton Grange meets

OAKRYN — Fulton Grange No. 66 held their regular meeting August 25, 8 p.m. at their hall in Oakryn, Lancaster Co., with the Master, Thomas C. Galbreath presiding.

A report was given of a public meeting held August 13 at the Grange Hall which was called by concerned Grangers over weight limits being imposed by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation on a bridge over the Octorara Creek on route 272, at the Chester-Lancaster County line. The bridge is located between Oak Hill and Nottingham.

The meeting was attended by local farmers, bus drivers, truck drivers, and others who have had to pay large fines to cross the bridge or have had to drive eleven miles out of their way for between two and three years.

For some truckers and school bus drivers this in-

convenience amounts to thousands of dollars being spent each year to drive the extra mileage as well as the extra man hours spent which is caused by the detour. The meeting was carried on Channel 8 TV.

PennDOT has now said they will issue permits to local farmers to take their machinery across the bridge because the earliest date a new bridge could be started would be two years. Sensing a need for local contracts with PennDOT officials to iron out some unfair requirements in the permits Grange Master Galbreath appointed J. Everett Kreider, Charles Wallace and Jesse Wood to work with them.

Clifford W. Holloway Jr., chairman of the Grange tour committee, announced a one-day bus trip to Annapolis, Md., for October 1. The trip will include a guided walking tour of the U.S.

Naval Academy and a 45 minute boat trip around it, sponsored by the Navy.

The youth committee reported that approximately 30 people attended the volleyball party August 15 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Zug.

In other business the Grange gave a donation to the Robert Fulton Fire Co. Also there were nominations for new officers.

The Lecturer, Mrs. Howard Miller, introduced Rev. Mark King who spoke on "Living In The Troubled Times."

Election of officers will be held at the next meeting, September 8th and Grange members will discuss the different approaches on land preservation during the literary program.

Community Night will be observed at the Sept. 22nd meeting, commencing with a covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

Franklin 4-H Dairy Show



Steve Eckstein, left, Mercersburg, won the 1980 Grand Champion Fitter and Showman Award at the Franklin County 4-H Dairy Show and Maryanne Johnson, Mercersburg, captured the Senior Fitter and Showman prize.



Breed champions at the Franklin County 4-H Dairy Show include, from the left, Roger Crider, Greencastle, Grand Champion Holstein; Patricia Tayman, Waynesboro, Grand Champion Guernsey; Timothy Dobough, Chambersburg, the Grand Champion Jersey; and Willie Gloss, Chambersburg, the Grand Champion Brown Swiss.

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