

All-risk crop insurance program ready to roll

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation stands ready to begin immediate implementation of the provisions of the "Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980" signed by the President, says Everett S. Sharp, acting manager.

The new law will permit rapid expansion of the present FCIC program from 1670 counties and 28 crops into a nationwide "all-risk" insurance plan covering all farm commodities. Also included is extension for one year of the low-yield disaster program administered by the USDA's Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The basic plan is to expand into an additional 250 counties, including 25 in Pennsylvania in each of the next five years with priority consideration given to counties which produce the basic disaster crops of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, cotton and rice, Sharp says.

"We anticipate announcing the initial 250 counties prior to planting of the 1981 Spring crops. This will permit farmers to purchase "all-risk" crop insurance on about 94 percent of all the acreage

planted to these six disaster crops this first year," he adds.

A more gradual expansion is planned for 22 other crops presently insured by FCIC and all other crops and commodities will be included as rapidly as funding and actuarial data permit.

The legislation, Sharp says, provides a unique opportunity for private insurance agents and companies to help market "all-risk" crop insurance in conjunction with the Federal system.

"All FCIC regional offices have been instructed to begin completing commission sales agreements with licensed private agents and brokers effective for the 1981 crop year which is now underway.

"This arrangement," Sharp states, "will provide farmers an opportunity to insure their crops under the 'all-risk' plan through their local participating private insurance agent or direct with the government."

Complete information on the agent system and any of three sales and servicing agreements is now available at each of the 18 FCIC regional offices across the country or through the national office in Washington, D.C.

We anticipate a heavy sign-up of new policyholders this Spring especially due to the estimated \$283,000,000 in crop loss benefits now being paid to some 125,500 insured farmers across the country mainly due to the severe Summer drought, Sharp says.

"The 1980 year undoubtedly will be record breaking in terms of indemnities paid by FCIC in the history of its 42 years of assisting farmers through the voluntary insurance plan," he adds.

In the Harrisburg Region serving four states, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and Delaware, the estimated insured crop losses to corn, soybeans,

wheat and grapes totals \$910,000, according to Joseph C. Schmidt, director of the Harrisburg regional FCIC office.

About 800 insured farmers are in the process of receiving indemnity payments.

Counties included are: Adams, Berks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Northumberland, Perry and York.

The most notable program improvement for the 1981 crop year under the new legislation will be the 3 percent discount in premium for those farmers to participate in the shared-cost insurance program as compared to other types of disaster assistance programs, Sharp says.

In general, farmers will be offered a choice of three levels of insurance coverage based upon average crop yields in their area for the past 10 to 15 years. These coverage levels generally will be 50, 65, and 75 percent of average production.

"The premium subsidy will be paid only on coverage up to and including the 65 percent level. Farmers will pay full premium costs for insurance on the increment between 65 percent and 75 percent if they select the highest coverage," Sharp adds.

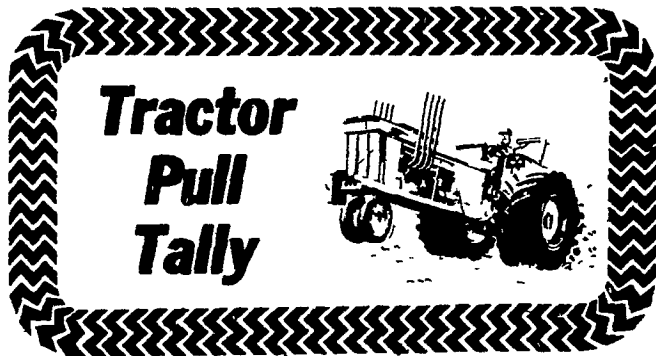
In addition, farmers will be offered three choices of price election to value any production lost under the insurance plan. The top choice will approximate market price for the com-

modity being insured and will be determined in advance based upon the best information available, he indicates.

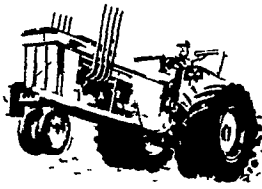
While complete program details are not yet fully determined, producers in areas where crop insurance coverage is now available may begin signing up at any time by contacting their

nearest FCIC representative. Additional opportunities will be announced as new counties and new programs are made available, Sharp says.

The FCIC regional office is located at: Harrisburg Regional Office, 75 S.O. Houcks Rd., Suite 320 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109; phone 717/782-4803.



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1. C & E Pulling Team, Myerstown, PA 2-468 Chevy F.P.; 2. C & E Pulling Team,

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1. Toni Bedgar, Freeland, MD IH 856 261.9; 2. Dan Greenleaf, Martinsburg, PA. JD 4010 244.11; 3. Tom Middleton, Ridgely, MD IH 966 244.8.

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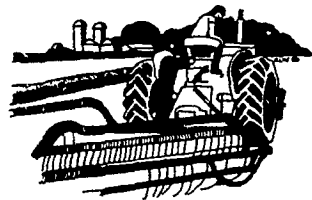
1. C & E Pulling Team, Myerstown, PA 2-468 Chevys F.P.; 2. Willard Will, Central City, PA Allison, 296.10; 3. Harold Martin, Lititz, PA Allison 292.10.

6500 FWD

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1. C & E. Pulling Team, Lebanon, PA Hmde/2-468 Chevys 300.0/259.1; 2. Willard Wills, Central City, PA Hmde/Allison 300.0/251.11; 3. Tom Bedgar, Freeland, MD IH 856 280.5.



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