

Grain weighing waived for most shipments

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Most grain shipments coming into export elevators at export port locations will no longer be required to be officially weighed, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said last Friday.

Leland E. Bartelt, administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, said the changes were required under legislation which became effective Oct. 14. The legislation—the Ashley Bill—amends the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

"Previously, all grain shipped into or out of export elevators had to be officially weighed," he said. "The new law does not change the requirements for official weighing of grain being exported."

Bartelt said an emergency rule will be published soon in

the Federal Register, spelling out specific steps to implement this amendment.

"We are talking with grain industry leaders to obtain their thoughts on how to proceed in an orderly manner," Bartelt said. "We will continue to provide official—Class X—weighing for all grain shipped in or out of export elevators for 30 days after the emergency rule making is published. However, any elevator operator or owner may request that exempted weighing services be discontinued before then."

After the 30-day period, elevator operators could choose to continue official weighing—Class X; choose to receive supervision of weighing—Class Y, or choose to receive no weighing services at all for the exempted grain.

Bartelt said this amendment will not eliminate the FGIS Inventory Monitoring Program. "This program will continue and elevators will be required to furnish records on all grain received and shipped," he said.

Bartelt said the new legislation specifically exempts from mandatory official weighing the following types of shipments:

—Intracompany—company owned—shipments of grain into an export elevator by any type of transportation;

—Intercompany—one firm to another—shipments of grain into an export elevator by any transportation other than barges; and

—Any grain shipped out of an export elevator to locations within the U.S.

FGIS plans to continue honoring all requests for

official weighing of exempted grain at published fees, providing personnel are available, Bartelt said.

"Maintaining sufficient trained personnel to provide needed services is one reason FGIS needs input from the grain industry,"

Bartelt said. "We also need time to implement the amendments."

"We want to proceed as quickly as possible. However, we must be able to give the service so grain can be marketed in an orderly fashion."

Elevator operators who wish to discontinue official weighing services before the 30-day period has expired should make the request in writing to Leland E. Bartelt, administrator, rm. 1628-South Bldg., FGIS-USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

Hunters should ask to hunt

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Game Commission this year again is urging all hunters to ask for permission before going onto private land.

Too many landowners are complaining to the Game Commission that increasing numbers of hunters barge onto private property without first getting permission to do so. The Game Commission, through its SPORT program (Sport-

smen Policing Our Ranks Together), is asking that hunters discontinue hunting without permission.

Complaining landowners, many of whom are participating in the SPORT program, generally do not object to hunting or hunters, but they feel that hunters should show them more courtesy and consideration. The landowners are ready to grant permission to hunt if it

is sought by responsible sportsmen. Those wearing SPORT buttons or similar identification are usually readily welcomed.

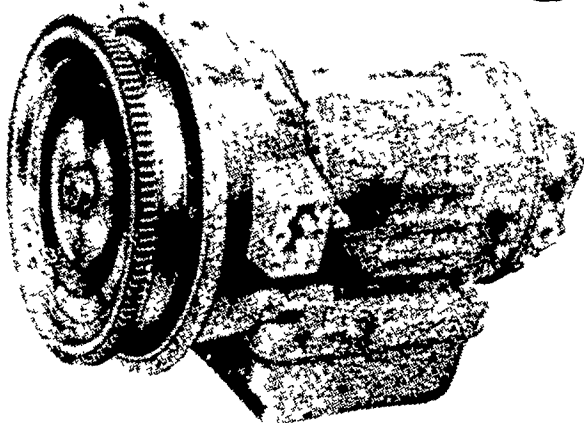
Farmers who are harvesting crops want to know where hunters are on their properties. Sportsmen must avoid unharvested fields.

Those who hunt without asking permission risk the closure of private properties to all hunters.

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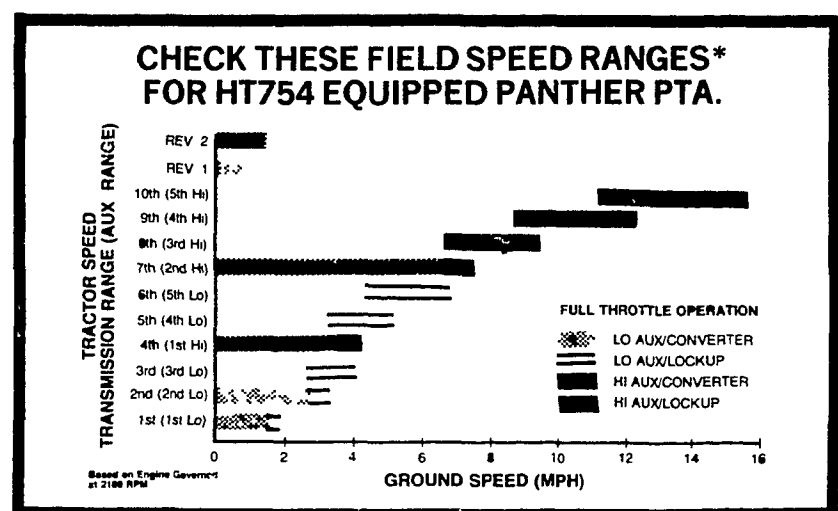
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