

Farmers take leases on state farm lands

HARRISBURG — Ten Pennsylvania farmers have been awarded leases on land and buildings at six state-owned farms, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

Hallowell said that 2794 acres of land and buildings at the Allentown, Laurelton, Mayview, Selinsgrove, Wernersville and Woodville farms had been leased for a total of \$166,671 per year, an average of \$60 per acre.

Leases are for a period of three years with two-year renewal options.

He noted the Agriculture Department is still soliciting bids for leasing the Somerset Farm and 41 acres of apple and peach orchards at Selinsgrove. The farms had been transferred to the Agriculture Department by Governor Thornburgh in an

executive order on May 7, 1980.

In his executive order, the Governor noted, "The strength of Pennsylvania's agricultural economy rests on the development and success of its farm families." A priority of the Thornburgh administration has been helping the state's family farmers.

The key objective of the Agriculture Department has been to provide an efficient transition of farming operations to the private sector. Act 244 of 1980, signed by Governor Thornburgh on December 19 last year amended state law to allow leases of more than one year.

"This legislation was important in helping keep the farmlands at these farms viable for productive agricultural use," Hallowell said. "Three-year leases should enable these farmers to properly care for

the lands and their farm operations by enabling long term planning.

"We are very pleased with the caliber of family farmers who bid on these farm leases," Hallowell continued. "They all recognize the importance of good conservation practices to preserve our farmland resources. And they have a desire to expand their own farm operations."

The Secretary noted the Department will work with these farmers, providing technical services and marketing assistance.

"I am confident that these farmers now have the opportunity to be a credit to themselves and the Commonwealth."

The Agriculture Secretary also noted that since their transfer from the Department of Public

Welfare, the ten farms had operated in the black.

"These leases will also generate income for the state, which will permit us to help maintain these farms and buildings as viable farm operations."

The Agriculture Department will continue to administer the three state owned farms at Polk, Danville and Norristown until alternate uses are determined.

By farm parcel, the farmers awarded leases follow:

Mayview: 239 acres and buildings, Robert R. Morgan of Bridgeville.

Woodville: 396 acres and buildings, 41 acres of fruit orchard, Joseph N. Kirby of Clinton.

Wernersville: 353 acres and

buildings, Earl G. Martin of Ephrata.

Allentown: parcel 1, 455 acres and buildings, Glenn Williams of Walnutport; parcels 2 and 3, 219 acres and buildings, Howard Hummel of Cherryville; parcel 4, residence, Harry Williams of Northampton.

Laurelton: parcels 1 and 3, 346 acres, Mark I. Stern of Lock Haven; parcel 2, 185 acres, Leory S. Zimmerman of Millmont; parcel 3, six acres and hog production buildings, Steven L. Hook of Lewisburg.

Selinsgrove: parcels 1 and 3, 490 acres and buildings, Joseph Hilbish of Northumberland; parcel 2, 104.5 acres, Douglas Bowersox of Middleburg.

USDA boosts honey

loan rates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Loan and purchase rates for the 1981 crop of honey will average 57.4 cents per pound, 7.1 cents more than in 1980, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said last Thursday.

Edward Hews, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said the 1981 level represents 60 percent of the April 1981 adjusted parity price of 95.6 cents per pounds.

Loans and purchases will be offered on 1981-crop honey stored in bulk and other eligible containers, on or off farms, he said. Producers have until March 31, 1982 to request loans that will mature June 30, 1982.

Hews said eligible producers wishing to sell honey to USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation should contact their ASCS county office before June 30, 1982. Producers must specify the approximate quantity they desire to sell.

The 1981-crop loan and purchase rates for extracted honey in 60-pound or large containers, by color and class, are as follows:

White or lighter 58.2

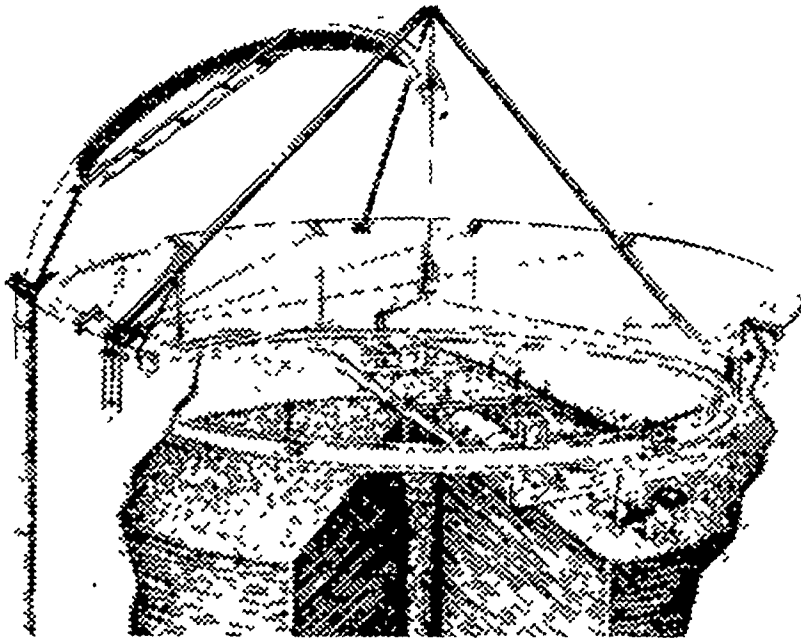
Extra light amber 57.2

Light amber 56.2

Other table and non-table honey 54.2

Honey delivered to CCC by beekeepers to satisfy loans will be used for domestic food donation programs.

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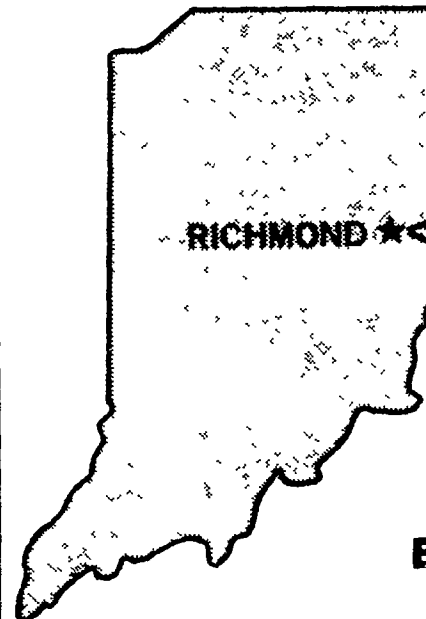
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