

USDA sets 1982 wheat quota

Legislative roundup

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to allow owners of family farms to pass their operations along to their children.

He said he expects to do whatever work is necessary to help agriculture become the number one industry in Pennsylvania.

He noted there are a number of fine agricultural laws currently on the books in Pennsylvania but said he sees a need for new legislation to improve on several of them.

HB 143, a bill which would allow establishment of agricultural areas, is one such measure which could improve existing laws. It would slow the loss of farmland to non-farm applications.

Grieco also said he expects to introduce and promote a comprehensive noxious weed bill early in his tenure as Ag Chairman.

He said he basically supports the Grange position against autumn olive and multiflora rose.

Grieco said he would be using last year's proposed noxious weed bill as a starting point for the legislation he would sponsor.

Last year's bill, which died when the legislative year ended, would

have allowed the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture to declare a plant a noxious weed after review by a noxious weed board. Under current rules, a new law must be passed every time a plant is to be declared a noxious weed.

Vice Chairman of the Ag Committee Noah Wenger, Stevens, said Grieco is a good man, a good man for the job, a man who will serve the farm community well.

Wenger, a Lancaster County popular with the ag community, was not considered for the chairmanship because he currently lacks the seniority for such a position. He will continue as Vice Chairman.

Grieco said he would rely heavily on long-time legislative aides, such as Jack Grey, for advice and technical help on agricultural measures.

Grieco, pointing out he was completing only his first full day as Ag Committee Chairman, asked the farm community to give him a chance to get started in his job.

"I'll be happy to work with all you fellows," he said referring to farmers and their representatives

WASHINGTON, D C — A 1982 national wheat marketing quota of 2 459 billion bushels was announced this week by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

The announcement is required under permanent legislation which has been suspended through the 1981 crop by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. Block said Congress may pass a new law to once again suspend the permanent legislation, in which case today's announcement will be rendered moot.

To become effective, marketing quotas must be approved by two-thirds of the producers voting in a referendum held not later than Aug. 1. If approved, quotas would limit the quantity of wheat which a producer could market without penalty. The date for this referendum will be announced later, if necessary.

The U S Department of Agriculture is required to announce a national wheat marketing quota whenever it is determined, based on a formula in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, that—in the absence of quotas—the supply of wheat would be in excess of demand. Block said USDA has made such determination for the 1982 wheat crop.

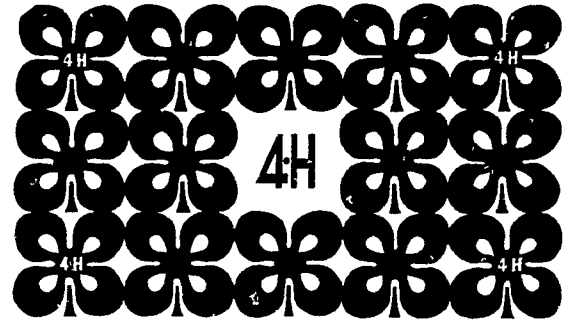
Block said no further announcement is being made now on other marketing quota aspects of the 1982 wheat program because the expected new legislation would make these announcements unnecessary. If it becomes necessary to make further program announcements concerning

marketing quotas for the 1982 crop, they will be made before the referendum is held and will include

- the national wheat acreage allotment;
- apportionment of the national wheat acreage allotment to the states; and
- designation of commercial wheat-producing areas.

In 1977, a similar situation arose and a 1978 national wheat marketing quota was announced, but the required referendum was postponed by special legislation. The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, enacted Sept. 29, 1977, suspended marketing quotas through the 1981 crop.

The new Ag Chairman can be reached at his Harrisburg office phone number 717/787-8943. Letters can be addressed to his office at 313-A Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120



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