

# 1980 wool payments up

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sheep producers will receive about \$36 million in federal incentive payments on the wool they sold in 1980, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said Friday.

This compares with \$32 million paid last year on 1979 marketings.

Edward Hews, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said the current shorn wool support price is \$1.23 per pound but the 1980 national average market price for shorn wool was 88.1 cents a pound,

a difference of 34.9 cents.

Dividing the difference (34.9 cents) by the average market price (88.1 cents) results in a 1980 payment rate of 39.6 percent, compared with a payment rate of 33.3 percent in 1979, Hews said. The payment rate is the amount required to bring the average market price up to the support price.

Hews said the wool program encourages the production of higher quality wool because the more producers receive from sales, the more they receive in

government incentive payments.

Producer payments are determined by multiplying the payment rate (39.6 percent) times the net dollar return received from wool sales.

Hews also said producers will receive \$1.40 per hundredweight in federal payments for unshorn lambs they sold or slaughtered in 1980. This payment is to compensate growers for wool on live lambs they marketed, he said.

Incentive payment checks are prepared by USDA's Kansas City commodity office. When payments

are computed, the office withholds 2.5 cents a pound from wool payments and 12.5 cents per hundredweight from lamb payments. This money later is forwarded to the American Sheep Producers' Council to finance advertising, sales promotion and

related market development activities.

USDA will not make incentive payments on mohair sold in 1980 because the average market price of \$3.50 a pound was above the announced support level of \$2.903 a pound.



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