

USDA announces 1982-crop wheat marketing quota over 2 billion bushels

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A 1982 national wheat marketing quota of 2.459 billion bushels was announced recently 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.

To become effective, marketing quotas must be approved by two-thirds of the producers voting in a referendum held not later than August 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

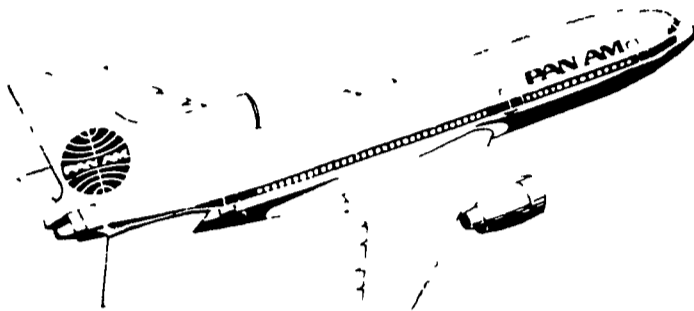
make these announcements unnecessary. If it becomes necessary to make further program announcements concerning marketing quotas for the 1982 crop, they will be made before the referendum is held and will include:

- the national wheat acreage allotment;
- apportionment of the national wheat acreage allotment to the states; and

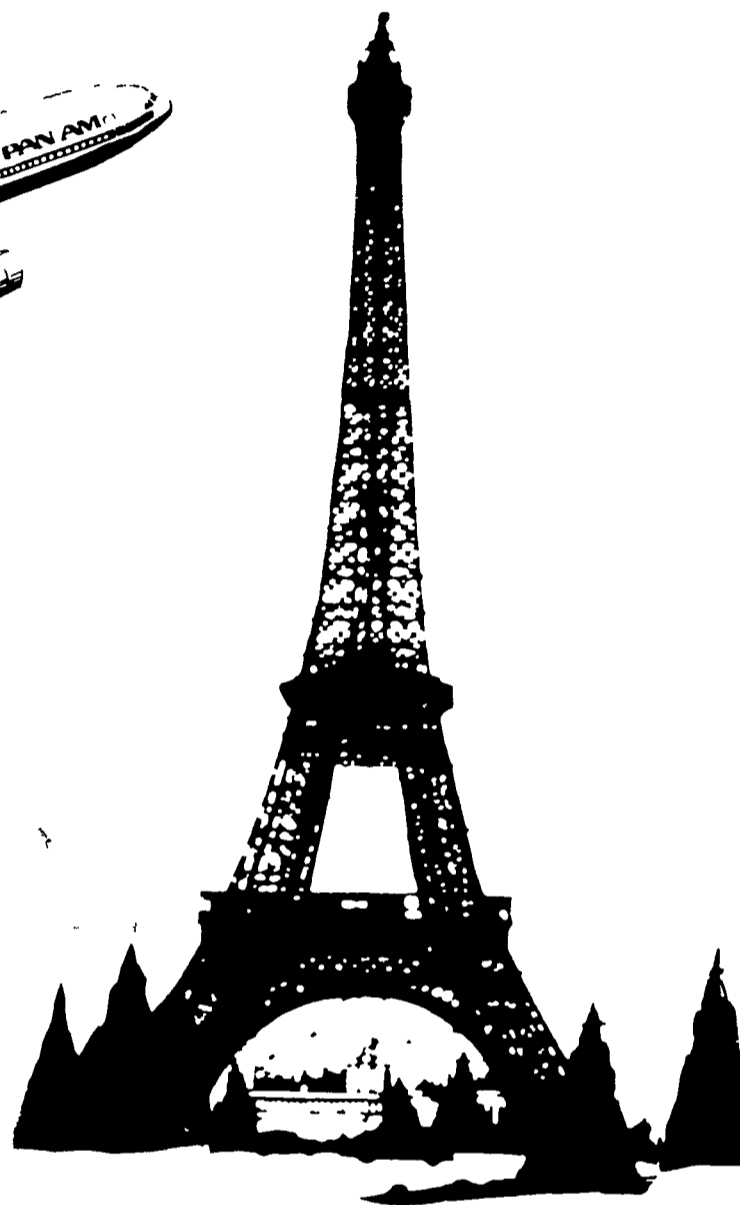
—designation of commercial wheat-producing areas.

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 September 29, 1977, suspended marketing quotas through the 1981 crop.

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