

Elevator task force reports tentative findings

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Tentative findings of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's elevator task force executive committee were presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 18 by Ray Lett, executive

assistant to Agriculture Secretary John R. Block.

Lett, who chairs the committee formed last February, said the approach to problems of grain elevator bankruptcies should in-

volve efforts by both the federal and state governments.

He ruled out establishing a new federal agency and also said revision of federal bankruptcy laws would not be a total answer.

"These laws are aimed at solving the problem after it happens," he said. "We're concentrating more on preventing it in the first place."

Options being considered are:
—more active USDA in-

volvement when bankruptcies are threatened;

—amending the Commodity Credit Corporation's standards of approval for warehouses to require submission of an unqualified financial statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant;

—increasing net worth and performance bond requirements;

—requiring warehouses to be licensed under the U.S. Warehouse Act provisions or by a state which has laws and regulations comparable to the Act, as determined by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service; and

—focusing USDA attention on areas where inadequate state legislation or enforcement exists.

Lett said some options could be handled administratively, while other options would require new legislation.

Winter wheat crop is bin buster

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The nation's winter wheat crop is expected to be another bin buster.

The USDA's Crop Reporting Board puts the expected harvest at just above 2 billion bushels.

The anticipated harvest of 2.08

billion bushels would be 10 percent higher than last year's crop and up some 30 percent from the total harvested in 1979.

It would be a record high crop for the second straight year.

Two reasons are accounting for the expected bumper harvest, according to the USDA. The total of harvested acreage is higher and the yields per acre are seen at near-record levels.

Winter wheat acreage is set at 57.8 million, a sizable increase from the 51.5 million acres harvested last year and a substantial jump from the 43.4 million acres cut in 1979.

The 57.8 million acres for 1981 is

the largest number of acres in winter wheat since records started being kept back in 1929.

The yields per acre are expected to range from 20 bushels in the arid sections of New Mexico to 76 bushels in the irrigated areas of Arizona and California. The national average is expected to be 36 bushels per acre. At that level, it would be the third highest on record, below only the 36.9 bushel average of 1979 and last year's average of 36.8 bushels.

Catalogs available for Expo

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Orders for 1981 Premium Catalogs for the North American International Livestock Exposition are now being taken. The announcement was made by Harold Workman, Manager of the Expo.

Premium catalogs will be mailed beginning July 1.

When making the announcement, Workman noted that early placement of premium catalog orders will assure early delivery to those interested.

Premium catalogs for the North American International Livestock Exposition are free on request.

A general guide to all activities during the giant expo, the premium catalog offers a wealth of information pertaining to all show rules and regulations, health requirements, premiums and general schedule of events. The

book is the only comprehensive volume which will be available prior to the exposition this fall. During events of November 7-20, supplemental breed catalogs will be made available.

Premium catalogs may be obtained by contacting: North American International Livestock Exposition, Box 36367, Louisville, KY, 40233, Phone: 502/588-3166.



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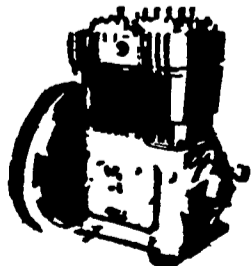
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