

## USDA announces more 1982 wheat program provisions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently outlined the U.S. Department of Agriculture's reduced acreage and conservation plans for the 1982 wheat crop. Block said these decisions are contingent on the U.S. Congress passing a new farm bill which authorizes the actions.

Block said farmers who wish to become eligible for price support loans, target price protection and the farmer-owned reserve program must comply with all reduced-acreage requirements. There will be no payments for reduced plantings, Block said.

Block said participating farmers must reduce their acreage of wheat planted for harvest by at least 15 percent from their established wheat acreage base. The base will be the 1981 planted wheat acreage adjusted in cases where there is a regular crop rotation for wheat, he said.

Secondly, farmers must devote to conservation uses an area equal to 17.65 percent of their 1982 wheat acreage planted for harvest (planted 1982 wheat acreage times 17.65 percent equals acreage devoted to conservation uses).

For example, Block said, a

farmer with a 1981 planted acreage of 100 acres must plant no more than 85 acres of wheat for 1982 harvest to become eligible for the program. The 15 acres reduced (17.65 percent of 85 acres) must be devoted to a conservation use.

If the farmer planted fewer than the allowed 85 of wheat acres, he or

she would be permitted to devote fewer acres to a conservation use. For example, if this farmer planted only 50 acres of wheat, he or she could devote only 8.8 acres to conservation uses (17.65 percent of 50 acres).

The land taken from production and devoted to conservation uses

must be eligible cropland, must be protected from wind and water erosion and may not be mechanically harvested. However, farmers will be permitted to graze this acreage except during the six principal growing months.

Farmers participating in the reduced acreage program on one

farm must assure USDA that they are not exceeding the 1981 wheat base on any other farms they own or operate.

Farmers are not required to participate in the wheat program to qualify for program benefits on other crops grown on the farm, Block said.

## PDA names Harness Racing Commission ex-secretary

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hollowell today announced the appointment of Benjamin F. Mader as Executive Secretary of the State Harness Racing Commission.

Mader's appointment was made by the commission during a meeting Saturday, September 19, at the Keystone Racetrack in Bucks County. The commission members include Chairman Jesse L. Crabbs of Hanover, York County; Francis J. Fitzpatrick, Jr. of Broomall, Delaware County; and James B. Eckenrode, Jr. of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

Mader, 50, of Grantville, Dauphin County, assumed the post yesterday. Prior to his appointment to the State Harness

Racing Commission, Mader as Administrator of the Pennsylvania Fair Fund, a post he held since early 1979.

"I am extremely pleased that Ben has accepted this position," Hollowell said. "He has an excellent record in the Department of Agriculture and I feel his experience in working with the fair fund made him the best choice for the job."

As Administrator of the State Fair Fund, Mader was responsible for overseeing the distribution of monies, derived from horse and harness racing revenues, to the 107 county fairs in the Commonwealth. The money was used by fair officials to cover the cost of events, exhibitions and premiums.

Mader, as head of the harness

racing commission, an independent unit within the Agriculture Department, will oversee the regulations of harness racing with pari-mutual betting throughout the state.

The State Harness Racing

Commission also administers for Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Fund, licenses harness racing corporations and supervises harness racing at 22 county fairs in the Commonwealth.

## Dauphin Farmers Assoc. annual meeting Oct. 10

HARRISBURG — The Dauphin County Farmers' Association will be holding their annual dinner meeting on Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Lower Swatara Fire Hall. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

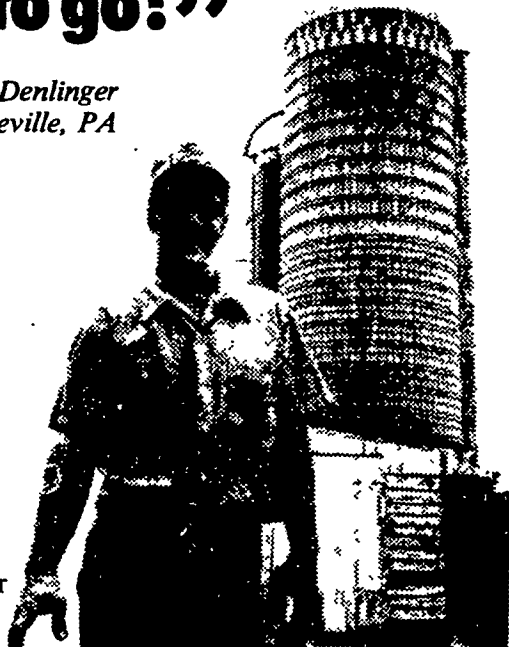
Deadline for ticket reservations

is Oct. 4. Contact Sam Demey at 717/564-3495 or any other board member for additional information.

A business meeting and awards program are planned.

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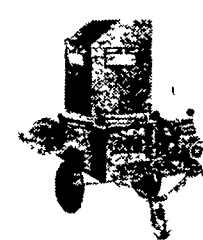
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