

Block announces wheat, feed grain program provisions

KANSAS CITY, MO. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently implemented and outlined the provisions for a voluntary 15 percent acreage reduction program for the 1982 wheat crop. He also said USDA would allow immediate entry of the 1982 crop into the farmer-owned grain reserve.

To become eligible for government price support loans, target price protection and the farmer-owned reserve program, farmers must reduce their plantings 15 percent from an established base. No direct payments will be made for the acreage reduction.

The target price for 1982 wheat will be \$4.05 per bushel. Loan rates will be \$3.55 per bushel for grain placed under the regular loan program and \$4 per bushel for 1982-crop wheat entered into the farmer-owned reserve.

Farmers can enter the 1982 crop immediately into the reserve without waiting for their regular loans to mature. USDA storage payments will be 26½ cents per bushel for wheat placed in the reserve. Wheat will be released from the reserve when the average price received by farmers reaches \$4.65 per bushel.

Block said U.S. wheat supplies are 14 percent above last year and next June's carryover is expected to be nearly 1 billion bushels. This is the result of two successive record U.S. wheat crops and a record-setting 1981 world harvest. Block said the reduced acreage program — coupled with an aggressive export program — will strengthen prices by reducing the 1982-83 marketing year supplies.

Participating farmers must reduce their acreage of wheat planted for harvest by at least 15 percent from an established wheat base. Generally, the base will be the higher of either the 1981 wheat acreage or the average of the 1980-81 wheat acreages. However, for farms that have been following a

definite crops rotation pattern, the base will reflect such rotations.

The acreage taken from production must be devoted to conservation uses. For example, a farmer with a 1981 planted acreage of 100 acres must plant no more than 85 acres of wheat for 1982 harvest, for program eligibility. The remaining 15 acres (17.65 percent of 85 acres) must be devoted to conservation.

If the farmer plants fewer than the permitted 85 acres, he or she will be permitted to devote fewer acres to conservation. For example, if only 50 acres are planted, only 8.8 acres (17.65 percent of 50) will have to go to conservation.

The land taken from production and devoted to conservation must be eligible cropland protected from wind and water erosion. Acreage which has already been planted to wheat, and then designated as reduced acreage, may be cut for hay or grazed.

Otherwise, acreage designated to meet the conservation requirement may not be mechanically harvested and grazing will not be permitted during the six principal growing months. No payments will be made for land devoted to conservation.

At the same time, John R. Block announced a voluntary 10 percent reduced acreage program for 1982-crop feed grains. He also announced that 1982 feed grains may be entered immediately into the farmer-owned reserve.

Block said a member of market factors, including the record 1981 U.S. corn harvest of 8.2 billion bushels and instability in the export market, make the reduced acreage program advisable. Feed grain supplies are about 13 percent above last year. Corn carryover at the beginning of the next marketing year (Oct. 1, 1982) could be around 2 billion bushels, the largest since 1960.

Only those who participate will

be eligible for program benefits such as target price protection and Commodity Credit Corporation commodity loans.

Participating farmers must reduce their acreage planted to feed grains (barley, corn, oats, sorghum) by at least 10 percent from the established feed grain bases. Two bases will be established—one for corn and sorghum, the second for barley and oats. Generally, the bases will be the higher of the 1981 base average or the average of the 1980-81 base acreages. However, for farms that have been following a definite rotation pattern, the bases will reflect such rotations.

Participating producers will receive the following target price (per bushel) protection: corn, \$2.70; sorghum, \$2.60; barley, \$2.60; oats, \$1.50. Participants will be eligible for the following CCC loan rates: corn, \$2.55; sorghum, \$2.42; barley, \$2.08; oats, \$1.31.

Here is an example of how the programs will work. A farmer with a base of 100 acres must plant no more than 90 acres of feed grains for 1982 harvest. The 10 acres reduced (11.11 percent of 90 acres) must be devoted to a conservation use. Farmers planting less than the full 90 acres to feed grains would be permitted to devote fewer acres to conservation. If only 50 acres were planted, only 5.55 acres (11.11 percent of 50) would have to go to conservation.

The land taken from production and devoted to conservation uses must be eligible cropland and protected from wind and water erosion. The land may not be mechanically harvested. Farmers will be permitted to graze this acreage, except during the six principal growing months.



What You Should Know About Swine Health

by Glenn Shirk
Lancaster Extension Agent

Editor's Note: This is the 12th of a series of articles on swine health. This article was written by Dr. Henry W. Kulp, Sectional Veterinarian of the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. It deals with the problem of proper disposal of dead animals.

Disposing of Dead Animals

Many times we are tempted to believe laws and regulations are something to be tolerated and are potentially restraining. However, when we examine it and give it some thought, we find many are useful and we can apply them to relieve a serious situation.

One law which comes to mind is the "Dead Animal Law."

One of the ways of bringing an infection or disease to a farm is a carcass dragged there by a predator or dog. This can easily happen when the carcasses of piglets are put out in the field along with manure.

If this problem exists in your neighborhood, and if it continues to exist after speaking with the offender and making a sincere effort to stop the practice of improper disposal of carcasses, there is 'good old' Pennsylvania Act #317 which was enacted in May 1945.

The act states: "No person caring for or owning an animal that has died shall allow the carcass to lie about his premise. Such

carcass shall be disposed of within forty-eight hours after death by burying, burning or by disposition within said time to a person engaged in the disposing of the bodies of dead animals."

Here we have a regulation that can be helpful when a difficult situation arises. It is regulation you have to bring to the attention of the offender. The choices are to bury, burn or take the carcass to the rendering plant.

Bury does not mean just scratching enough dirt to cover the carcass. It means that the carcass shall be covered with at least two feet of ground and not be accessible to dogs or other animals. It also means burying the carcass at least one hundred feet from any water course, well, spring, public highway, house or spring.

Burning can be a real task. It is surprising the amount of heat, time and effort it takes to completely burn a carcass. Any unburned portions must be buried.

If the solution to the problem is taking the carcass to the rendering plant remember to transport the carcass in a good, tight drum or a vehicle which will not drip. Do not forget to thoroughly wash and disinfect all equipment used.

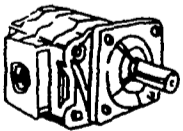
And you should think twice before inviting a potential infected, dripping truck onto your farm; perhaps you can arrange for carcasses to be picked up at the end of the lane or at some other appropriate location.

No one wants livestock losses but they do occur. Let's all do our part when it comes to proper disposal of losses.

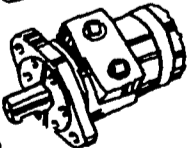
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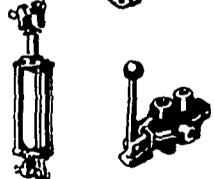
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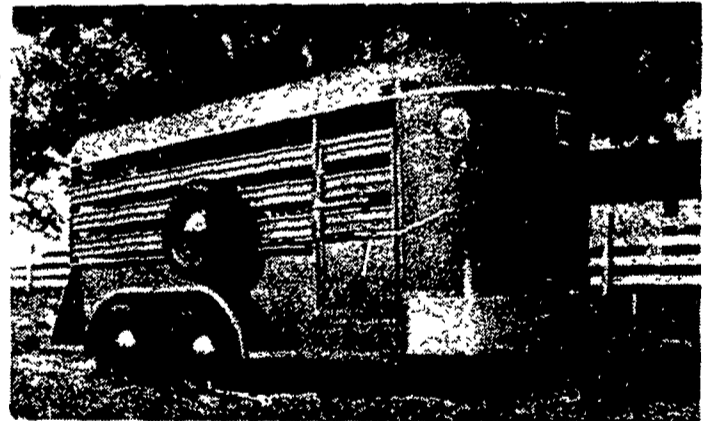
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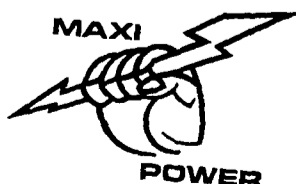
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