



**On being
a farm wife
-And other
hazards

Joyce Bupp**

Months of devastatingly bitter, chilling-cold winter.

Depression, economic instability, budget deficits.

Shadows of escalating nuclear armament ever darkening the horizons.

Lowest farm income since the Great Depression and highest unemployment since the Great War.

And yet, struggling through the murkiness of modern times still shines this ever-present ray of hope.

Hope for those who steadfastly cling to the ancient promises of

Spring - of rebirth - of renewal - of Easter.

For behind the bleakness of wind-swept hillsides of white, of ice-crusting branches and muted landscapes, explodes the throbbing, vibrant brilliance of grass so green it makes the heart sing just to see it.

From beneath layers of brown rotting leaves and tired crackly weed stems push the slender tips of daffodil foliage, soon followed by a burst of sunshoney yellow-like golden coins cast across the wayside.

And in a protected nook, one

LEESPORT — Sorghum producers will receive an estimated \$200 million in deficiency payments on their 1981

early hyacinth takes a brave peek at April's uncertainties, the clear blue defying the fury of unseasonal snows.

Thus each year, the promise is renewed. The birth of soft baby bunnies, the unfolding of delicate blossoms and the stretching forth of leaves and grass again reminds us of the victory of the resurrection, of new life over the silent entombment of death.

So let us remember! And let us celebrate. Let us renew our faith, our hope for the future in the promise that comes with this blessed season.

May Easter bring its joy, its hope, its promise, to you and yours.

Have a blessed Easter!

No corn payments necessary

Sorghum farmers to receive '81 deficiency payments

crop, reports Donald Lutz, chairman of the Berks County ASC Committee.

There will be no 1981 crop deficiency payments made to corn producers as the five-month weighted average market price was \$2.43, three cents above the target level of \$2.40 per bushel, Lutz says.

Sorghum deficiency payments are required under the 1981 feed grain program because the average market price received sorghum farmers during the first five months of the marketing year — which for sorghum is October through February — was below the established target price level of \$2.55 per bushel.

Under the 1981 program eligible sorghum producers receive the difference between the \$2.55 target level and the higher of either the national average \$2.28 loan rate or the five-month national weighted average market price of \$2.22. Thus, eligible sorghum producers will be paid 27 cents per bushel for their 1981 crop, the difference between the loan and target levels, the maximum possible payment rate.

Deficiency payments will be

made to sorghum farmers who reported their 1981 crop acreage and filed an application for payment with their local office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. These offices also will issue payment checks as soon as possible after April 10, Lutz reports.

The final 1981 national program acreage for corn was revised from the preliminary estimate of 90.1 million acres to 80.5 million. The sorghum preliminary national program acreage was revised from 15.4 million acres to 14.3 million.

The national program acreage represents the number of acres of a crop needed to meet estimated demand and assure desirable carryover levels, Mr. Lutz said.

Factors associated with the deadline in the national program acreages were a sharp decrease in projected corn exports and a 20 percent reduction in projected sorghum feed use, Lutz said.

The allocation factor for corn is 97 percent and for sorghum 99 percent. The allocation factor is computed by dividing the national program acreage for a crop by the harvested acreage.

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