

USDA estimates wool payments at \$41.9 million

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sheep producers will receive about \$41.9 million in federal incentive payments on wool they sold in 1981, while mohair producers will receive about \$1.6 million. According to Everett Rank,

administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, mohair payments are being made for the first time since 1971. The 1981 national average

market price for shorn wool was 94.5 cents a pound, 40.5 cents less than the \$1.35 per pound support price, Rank said. Dividing the difference (40.5 cents) by the average market price (94.5 cents) results in the 1981 payment rate of

42.9 percent, compared with a payment rate of 39.6 percent in 1980, he said. The payment rate is the amount required to bring the average market price up to the support price.

For mohair, the 1981 average market price was \$3.50 and the support price \$3.72, making the payment rate 22 cents per pound, or 6.3 percent, Rank said.

The wool and mohair programs encourage the production of higher quality fibers because the more producers receive from sales, the more they receive in government incentive payments. Producer payments are determined by multiplying the payment rates (42.9 percent and 6.3 percent) times the net dollar return received by producers from wool and mohair sales.

Producers will receive \$1.62 per hundredweight in federal payments for unshorn lambs they sold or slaughtered in 1981. This payment is to compensate growers for wool on live lambs they marketed. The payment is based

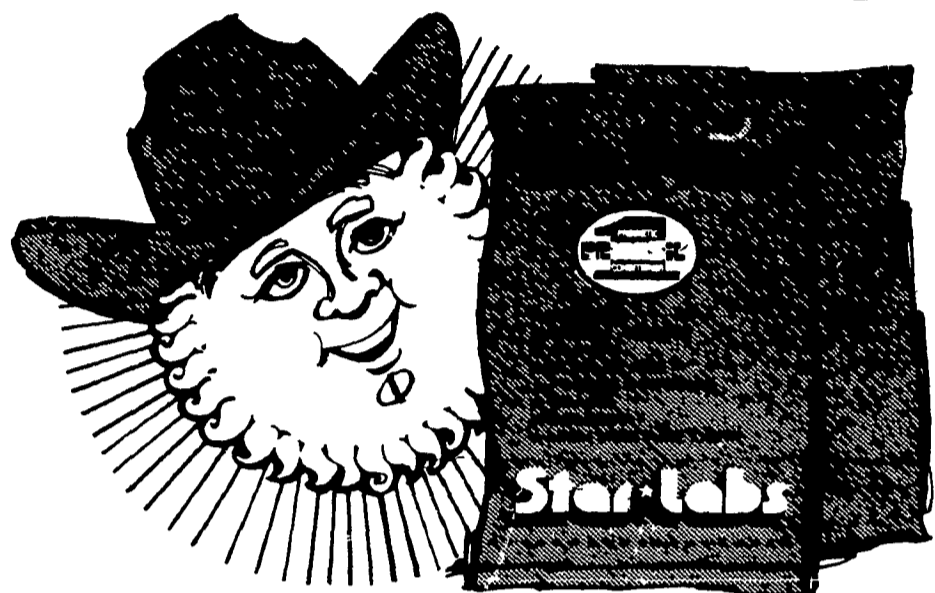
on the shorn wool payment rate, the average weight of wool per hundredweight of lambs and the price of lamb's wool relative to the national average price for shorn wool, Rank said.

Incentive payment checks are prepared by USDA's Kansas City Management Field Office. When payments are computed, the office withholds 2-1/2 cents a pound from wool payments and 12-1/2 cents per hundredweight from lamb payments. This money later is forwarded to the American Sheep Producers' Council to finance advertising, sales promotion and related market development activities. No deductions are authorized from mohair payments.

These wool and lamb deductions were approved by a 75.3 percent favorable vote by sheep producers voting in a referendum in August 1978.

Payments will be made soon through county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Rank said.

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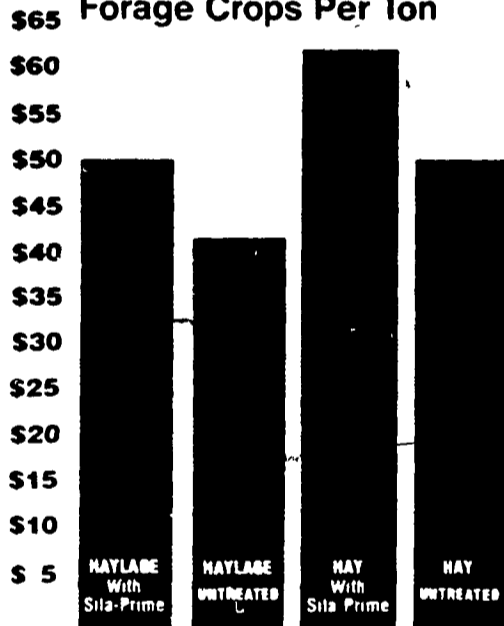
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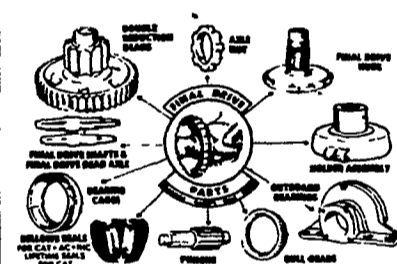
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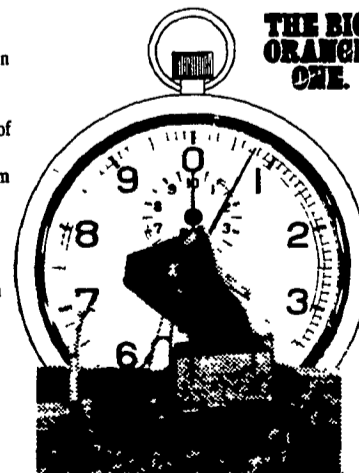


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