

## Block sets '83 grain target prices

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently announced a 10 percent acreage reduction and a 10 percent paid land diversion for the 1983 feed grain program. Block also announced an additional \$60 million allocated to the fiscal 1983 farm storage facility loan program beyond the \$40 million originally allocated.

Block said current law requires for him to announce only a 10 percent acreage reduction and 5 percent paid land diversion program for feed grains. But, with such large supplies, he said an additional 5 percent paid diversion would help bring supply more in balance with demand.

"We must do everything possible to reduce carryover supplies and increase commodity prices," Block said.

Block said the per bushel target prices for 1983-crop feed grains will be: corn, \$2.86; sorghum, \$2.72; barley, \$2.60; and oats, \$1.60. Regular Commodity Credit Corporation price support loan rates,

per bushel, will be: corn, \$2.65; sorghum, \$2.52; barley, \$2.16; oats, \$1.36; and rye, \$2.25.

The signup for the 1983 feed grain program will be Oct. 1 through March 31. Producers may request 50 percent of their projected 1983 deficiency payments and 50 percent of their 1983 diversion payments when they sign up.

USDA estimates per-bushel deficiency payment rates will be: corn, 21 cents; sorghum, 20 cents; and barley, 15 cents. Advance deficiency payments to eligible farmers will be half these rates. Advance deficiency payments are not authorized for oats.

Land diversion payments have been established at \$1.50 per bushel for corn and sorghum, \$1 for barley and 75 cents for oats. The land diversion payment is based on the per bushel payment rate times the farm yield times the acres diverted.

Farmers who request advance diversion payments at the time they sign up for the 1983 program

will receive a payment equal to half the established payment rates.

A producer who accepts an advance payment, but who later does not comply with program provisions, must refund the amount of the advance payment with interest. Interest charged will be the rate in effect for commodity loans on the date of the advance payment, plus 5 percentage points.

To be eligible for these benefits as well as for price support loans, a producer must agree to limit corn, sorghum, oats and barley acreage planted for harvest to not more than 80 percent of the farm's feed grain base.

As under the 1982 program, two bases will be established: one for corn and sorghum, the other for barley and oats.

Producers also must devote to conservation uses an acreage equal to both the acreage reduction and land diversion requirements.

Land designated for conservation use must have been devoted to row crops or small

grains in two of the last three years except for a summer fallow farm, for which the cropping requirement is for only one of the previous two years. Mechanical harvesting is not authorized and grazing will not be permitted during the six principal growing months on the acreage taken from production, Block said.

The 1983 feed grain bases will remain the same as the 1982 feed grain bases with adjustment for crop rotation. Neither cross

compliance nor offsetting compliance will apply to the 1983 feed grain program.

Block said USDA is delaying decisions on the 1983 feed grain reserve program until the domestic and world supply and demand situation is studied.

He said the additional \$60 million for the farm storage facility loan program is necessary because record corn, wheat and soybean crops have created widespread tightness in storage availability.

### Pa. steel shot zones continue

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Game Commission this week reminded waterfowl hunters that the steel shot zones in the state are continuing on a permanent basis.

Steel shot has been required since 1977 to hunt ducks, geese

and/or coots in three locations in Pennsylvania. The areas are Crawford County, the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties, and on and within 25 yards of the Susquehanna River between Northumberland and the Maryland line.




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