

# USDA insurance coverage changed for higher production farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — High production farmers will be able to get higher crop insurance coverage next spring without paying increased premium costs to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Merritt Sprague, manager of the USDA corporation, said the higher coverage will be available to farmers who plant corn, cotton, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, wheat and barley in the spring of 1983 under changes in the corporation's individual yield coverage plan.

Sprague said the 1982 plan required farmers to provide satisfactory acreage and production records for at least the most recent three years a crop was grown out of a 10-year period. Area-average yields were used for years for which the farmer had no records.

Under the new plan for 1983 spring-planted crops, he said, the producer's records will continue to be used in the same manner except that coverage is based on a revised yield formula.

That formula: Production records for at least the most recent 3 years are compared with county yield averages to arrive at a producer yield index. This index then is applied to the county yield average as computed by the

USDA's Statistical Reporting Service for those years of the 10-year base period for which the farmer has inadequate records.

"We believe this approach will better reflect the risks taken by top producers," Sprague said. "Farmers will be able to qualify for higher production guarantees without increasing their per acre insurance cost. This plan will make crop insurance a more attractive component in a farmer's risk management plan."

Sprague said the USDA corporation has devised an additional plan on grain sorghum, corn and small grains to provide increased coverage to farmers who feed their crop production to livestock or poultry and who don't have the records to qualify for the individual yield coverage plan.

This modified individual yield plan requires actual records for only one year plus records for two years which may be certified by the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The USDA-certified records are based on the best available information.

Consideration will be given to the producer's livestock enterprises, feeding records, fertilization program, soil and water conservation practices and other management practices. The remaining years of the 10-year

base period will be calculated by adjusting the county average as computed by the Statistical Reporting Service.

The individual certified yield plan becomes effective with the 1983 crop year. Those producers who acquire acceptable yield records for three years will

become eligible for the individual yield coverage plan.

Under the individual certified yield plan, higher coverages require additional premium per acre; under the individual yield coverage plan, they do not.

For both plans the Federal Crop

Insurance Corporation will assist in maintaining the records at no charge to the producer. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices will provide the appropriate forms and assist farmers in establishing yield data.

# Sheep Council sets new directions

DENVER, Col. — American Sheep Producers Council directors and delegates unanimously approved ASPC's strategic plan as presented by a producer committee during the group's annual meeting, held here last month.

The plan, containing short term and five-year goals, charts new directions for the ASPC with more emphasis being placed on increasing producer profit opportunities. Formulated by representatives from the ASPC, Sheep Industry Development Inc., National Wool Growers Association, and the National Lamb Feeders Association, the new plan has three major result areas: lamb marketing services, wool marketing services, and producer information and services.

NLFA President Phil Huber explained that the strategic plan

puts lamb advertising and merchandising in position as part of a total marketing plan. Efforts will concentrate on marketing a quality product which is well packaged, distributed and marketed at the proper time for a fair price.

ASPC's wool area will place an increasing emphasis on raw wool merchandising, sales promotion, and trade advertising according to NWGA President Don Meike. Wool experts also will work on ways to increase the quality of American pelts and establish them as the premium standard for the pelt market as prices above the world market.

Producer information and services will contain the sheep industry development and blueprint programs, but place

more emphasis on livestock marketing and analysis. Producer services will establish a data base of crucial trends and statistics on lamb, wool, by-products, sheep, exports, and competitive meats for use by the Council and the industry.



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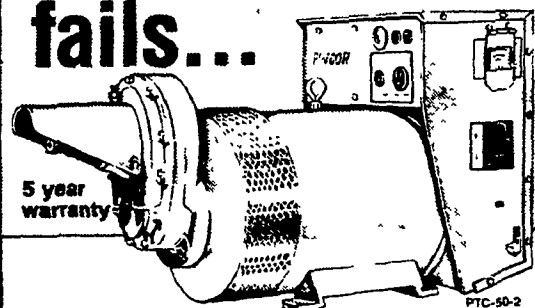
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