

U.S. completes flour sale with Egypt

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block last week announced an arrangement with Egypt providing for the commercial sale and delivery of one million metric tons

of U.S. wheat flour to Egypt over the next 12 to 14 months.

Block said the arrangement is a major thrust in our attempts to aggressively compete for the Egyptian flour market, the largest

in the world.

"This single arrangement represents one-sixth of the annual world trade of wheat flour, and it will generate more than \$150 million in U.S. export earnings," Block said. President Reagan said he will not allow the United States to be plowed under by foreign competition. With the use of creative credit arrangements, we are backing those words with decisive action."

Egypt imports roughly 1.5 million tons of flour annually, including 75,000 to 150,000 tons in humanitarian donations. Total world flour trade is about six million tons.

Block said export subsidies have enabled other exporters to sell

wheat to Egypt at a price which is \$100 or more a ton below the U.S. price.

Block said a flour price was negotiated with Egypt. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide, on a competitive bid basis, enough wheat from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks to enable U.S. suppliers to contract for sale and delivery to the Egyptian market at the agreed price.

The new arrangement calls for shipments to begin in March. The sale should add over 50 million bushels to the total volume of U.S. wheat exported as flour over the next 12 to 14 months.

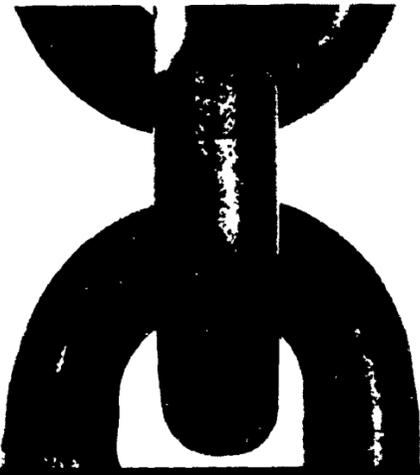
U.S. flour sales to Egypt in recent years have been limited to

P.L. 480 concessional sales. These shipments have averaged about 450,000 tons a year, or roughly 600,000 tons on a wheat equivalent basis. This year, about 370,000 tons of flour have been programmed for Egypt under P.L. 480.

Block said financing of sales under the new arrangement will be through the CCC credit guarantee program, the CCC blended credit program or a combination of both.

The arrangement will almost double total U.S. flour exports, which have run about 1.1 million tons in recent years.

Exporters can contact the office of the general sales manager, USDA for bidding details. Phone: 202/447-6301.



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Swine meetings fill next week's slate

MARTINDALE — The first annual LanChester Pork Day will be held next Tuesday here at the Martindale Firehall, located about 3½ miles northwest of New Holland. And similar swine meetings will be held Wednesday and Thursday at two locations in Berks County.

Sponsored by the Lancaster and Chester Extension Service offices, the LanChester swine meeting will feature specialists in the porcine field from Penn State. Penn State's Matt Parsons will discuss feeding swine and evaluating sow production. He will be highlighting what farmers can do to improve reproductive efficiency in their

swine herds, and will discuss the possibilities of practical swine artificial insemination.

Also on the program will be Penn State Extension veterinarian Larry Hutchinson who will be reporting on vaccines and animal rights responsibilities. Dr. George Landis, a regional veterinarian for the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture, will be on hand to discuss the ongoing swine identification program.

A panel of swine producers will share their thoughts on sow evaluations. Commercial exhibitors will be displaying their latest products.

On Wednesday the swine meeting will be held at the Kutz-

town Grange Hall, Kutztown, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Thursday meeting is scheduled to be held at the Marion Fire Company, located along Route 422, Stouchsburg.

For more information on these meetings, contact: Chester D. Hughes, Lancaster Co., 717/394-6851; Cheryl Fairbairn, Chester Co., 215/696-3500; or Clyde Myers, Berks Co., 215/378-1327.

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