

USDA exercises PIK option for 1983 wheat crop

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today said it will be necessary to require wheat producers who do not have sufficient quantities of wheat pledged as price support loan collateral to meet their payment-in-kind requirements to obtain loans on their 1983-crop production.

Producers who have no 1983-crop wheat planted for harvest or who do not have sufficient wheat planted for harvest to meet their PIK requirements will receive payment-in-kind from other wheat in Commodity Credit Corporation inventory, he said.

Block said all producers who signed a contract to participate in the 1983 PIK program agreed to obtain a loan on their 1983 production for PIK purposes to satisfy program needs if required by CCC. USDA decided to exercise this option after determining there is an insufficient quantity of wheat currently available to CCC to meet PIK needs, he said.

CCC has developed special provisions to permit producers to use their 1983 wheat production for PIK purposes even though they do not have warehouse or on-farm storage available, Block said. The producer must certify to the local county office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and

Conservation Service that the required quantity was harvested from an eligible farm and has not been sold prior to the certification.

The producer can obtain the loan, redeem the loan collateral

and sell it to CCC. The producer then will be eligible to immediately receive the payment-in-kind from CCC inventory. However, these producers will not receive the proceeds of the sale of the wheat to

CCC until their PIK availability date, Block said.

Producers with eligible 1983 crop wheat stored in an approved structure on the farm or in a warehouse covered by uniform

grain storage agreement may receive a regular price support loan for the wheat and earn storage payments for up to five months beginning on the PIK availability date.

Produce hotline marks fourth year

products," Hallowell added. "Through promotional and informational campaigns, we are also trying to show the Pennsylvania consumer the great diversity and availability of Pennsylvania food products."

In addition, the Department has published a Consumer's Guide to

Direct Marketing which identifies nearly 900 direct farmer-to-consumer markets throughout the state.

The produce hotline was initiated as a pilot project in cooperation with the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service in 1980. Since 1981, the program has

been funded and operated by the State Department of Agriculture.

Information on retail price is tallied by the Bureau of Marketing and revised twice weekly, on Monday and Thursday. As new crops come into season, they are included in the pricing information available through the hotline.

USDA revises grade standards for frozen beans

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised U.S. grade standards for frozen green beans and frozen wax beans to promote efficient marketing of the products.

Charles Brader, a marketing official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the changes deal with technical points and do not affect the quality requirements of the frozen bean standards. The revised standards will become effective July 10.

The revision separates

"character" attributes such as tenderness, maturity and firmness, from classified defects such as blemishes, mechanical damage and presence of stems. Separate definitions of green and wax bean character classifications are provided.

An objective step-by-step procedure for continuous reporting of on-line product quality is provided so that product acceptance can be determined at any stage of production, Brader said.

To simplify grade nomenclature,

the revised standards eliminate the optional use of "U.S. Fancy" for Grade A, "U.S. Extra Standard" for Grade B and "U.S. Standard" for Grade C.

The revised standards were published in the June 10 Federal Register, available at many public libraries.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service establishes grade standards and provides official grading for many food products. Use of the grading service is voluntary and paid for by the user.



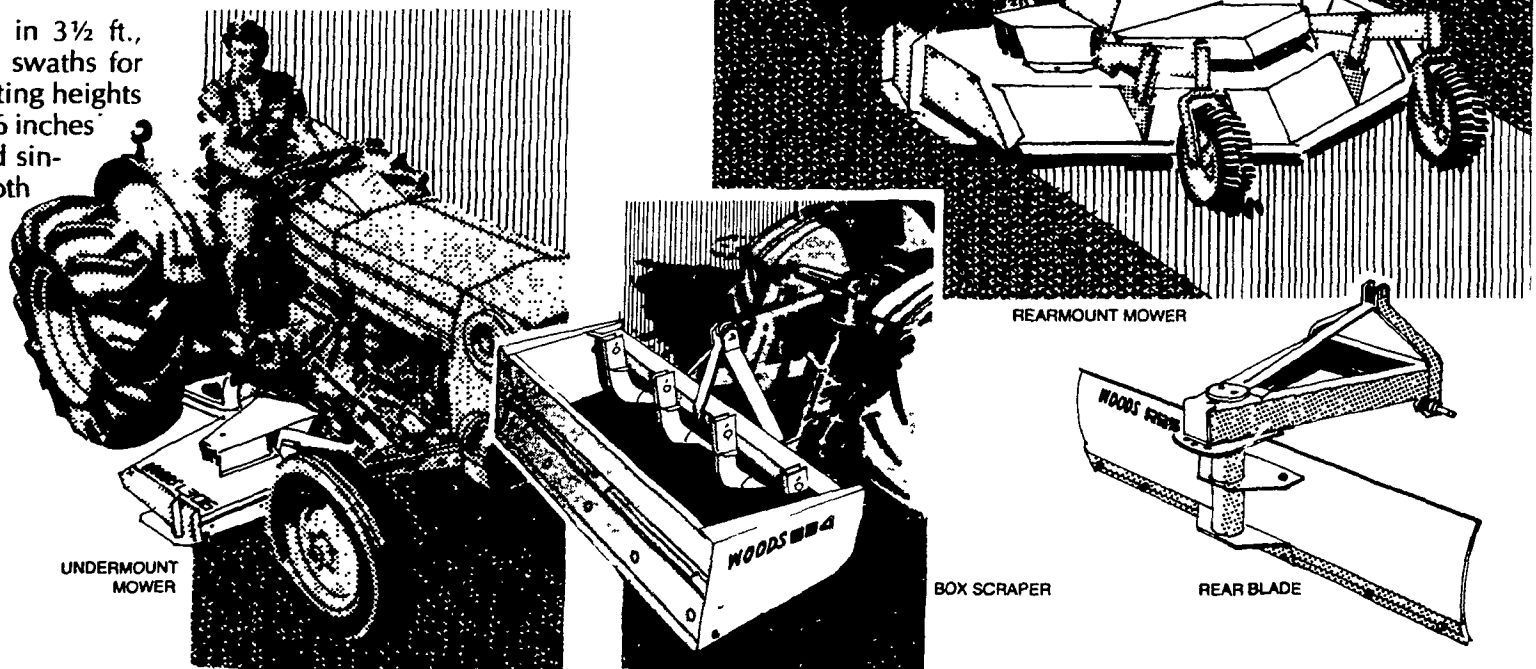
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