

Wheat signup is reopened

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has announced wheat farmers will be permitted to enter the revised 1984 wheat program during an April 16 - May 4 signup period. President Reagan signed the new program provisions into law last week.

"I encourage wheat farmers who have not already signed up to take advantage of the revisions in this 1984 program," Block said. "A strong additional signup once again will prove that wheat farmers are willing to play a major role in solving many of their immediate problems."

Farmers with wheat bases who previously had not signed up for the 1984 wheat program are eligible to participate in the revised program, Block said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture had held a earlier signup from Jan. 16 through March 16 during which time nearly 240,000 farms — representing over 50

percent of the total U.S. wheat base acreage — signed up.

Farmers who previously signed up for the 1984 program need take no action unless they wish to change their level of participation in the revised program, Block said.

Producers who earlier signed up may change their participation in the wheat program and the payment-in-kind program by notifying their local county office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, he said.

The basic legislated program changes are:

— The target price has been lowered from \$4.45 to \$4.38 per bushel.

— Although the reduced acreage requirement remains at a minimum of 30 percent, 20 percent of the requirement must be under an acreage reduction program and the remaining 10 percent will be paid land diversion with a paid

diversion rate of \$2.70 per bushel.

— Advance diversion payments will be available.

— PIK payments are increased from 75 percent to 85 percent of the established yield times the acres diverted.

— State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees may authorize haying and grazing on acreage conservation reserve acreages devoted to wheat prior to Jan. 12. If authorized, the same rules will apply for the 1984 wheat haying and grazing program as were in effect for the 1983 wheat haying and grazing program.

Block said signup will not be reopened for the 1984 upland cotton, feed grain and rice programs.

The revised 1984 wheat program signup will be conducted at Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices.

Manbeck firm purchased

FREDERICKSBURG — Purchase of C.F. Manbeck, Inc. and its affiliated company, Farmers Pride, Inc., has been announced by Michael T. Morris, Hershey attorney, and Scott Sechler, owner of Sechler's Poultry, Strausstown.

No changes in either the name, present management or the operation of the business, including current contracted growers, is contemplated.

Scott Sechler will assume the position of Chief Executive Officer and Paul Swope and Robert Walborn will continue in their present positions as presidents of the Manbeck and Farmer's Pride organizations. Clarence F. Manbeck has agreed to act as consultant to the new owners.

The C.F. Manbeck - Farmers

Pride group, started many years ago in a small building in Fredericksburg, and today is one of the better known broiler integrators and marketers in the area. The plant has a daily capacity of approximately 65,000 birds.

Farmers Pride operates a group of wholesale and retail sales outlets in an area from Cleveland to Philadelphia, marketing both poultry and other food products.

Sechler's Poultry is a large-scale handler of live poultry and fowl. Operations mainly cover the Middle Atlantic States and Canada.

Purchase price was not disclosed. Hendrik Wentink of Walt Montgomery Associates, initiated the transaction and assisted in the negotiations.

Brooks End reports sale

BEAVERTOWN — On April 6, Brooks End and Par Kay Farms held their Spring Sale. The Auctioneer was Dan Baker Lafayette, Ind. The sale totaled \$84,420 for an average of \$347.00 for the 243 head offered.

The top-selling animal was Lot 124 RTB3 Paramount 139-13 selling for \$1200. to Zimmerman Farms, Swarthmore. The top-selling

Yorkshire Bred Gilt was Lot 19 purchased by James Harnish, Lancaster, for \$475. The top-selling Landrace Boar was Lot 136 purchased by Zimmerman Farms, Swarthmore, for \$800. The top-selling Landrace Bred Gilt was Lot 85 purchased by Karl Zimmerman, Middleburg, for \$625.

The 42 head of Yorkshire Bred Gilts averaged \$384; 41 head of

Yorkshire Boars, \$524; and 83 head of Yorkshires, \$453.

The 37 head of Landrace Bred Gilts averaged \$379; 10 head of Landrace Boars, \$468; and 47 head of Landrace, \$396.

The 113 head of Commercial Open Gilts averaged \$249.

This sale offering sold into seven different states. Much of this sale offering featured imported bloodlines.

Low path depopulation underway

BY JACK HUBLEY

LANCASTER — Efforts to eliminate all possible traces of avian influenza continued this week with the depopulation of six flocks diagnosed as having the low path, or mild form of the disease.

To date, seven farmers have volunteered their flocks, with depopulation efforts expected to continue through next week at the rate of one flock per day. Of the six flocks depopulated, two were

located in Manheim, two in Lititz, and one each in Strasburg and Shippensburg.

The primary means of determining low path viral activity is the presence of antibodies. All flocks found to possess these antibodies will be depopulated.

Officials stress that flocks diagnosed as low path are normally birds that have recovered from the disease, and such depopulation efforts will have no effect on the quarantine zone.

The only outbreak of lethal avian flu to occur thus far this month was a backyard flock of 13 layers, four turkeys, and seven ducks declared on April 10, at Blair Mills in Huntingdon County. Though no decision has been made, it is doubtful that this case will result in an expansion of the quarantine area.

Fears that a Mathias, West Virginia, flock may have contained the lethal virus have been laid to rest by serology and virus isolation tests that revealed no trace of the disease.

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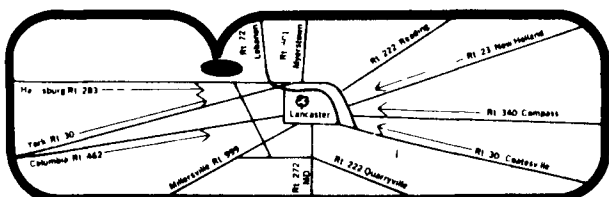
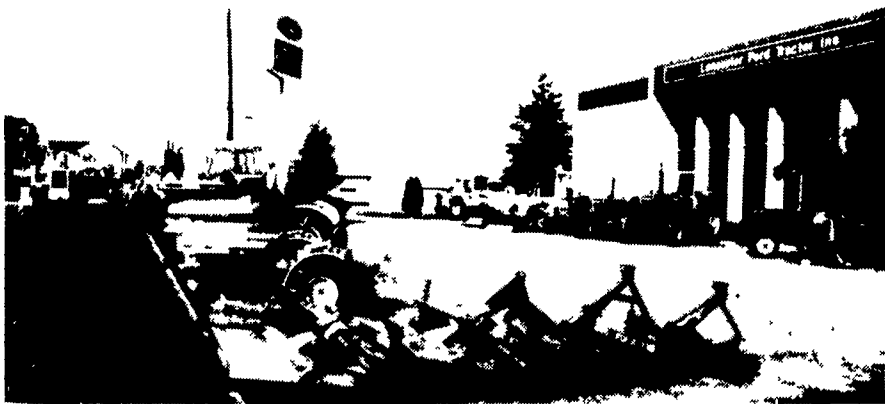
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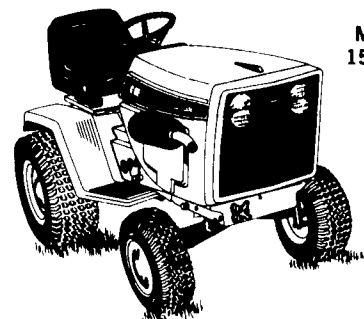
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