

FmHA changes income definition

NEWARK, Del. — The Farmers Home Administration (USDA) has recently changed its definition of income used to determine levels of assistance in the form of loans and grants to support community facilities, and water and waste disposal.

The incomes of single-person households will now be included when determining interest rates and the size of grants for community programs, according to Daniel S. Kuennen, University of Delaware extension specialist for community resource development. The new FHA regulations also eliminate the term "non-farm family" as a resident category.

"Basically," says Kuennen, "FHA has substituted census data on median household income for median family income in deciding the level of grants. For many rural communities the category 'household' better reflects incomes of residents. This change in income definition will in many cases lower the median income figure—thus reducing the interest

rate on loans to these areas," the specialist says.

The regulation making the eligibility definition change went into effect Oct. 3, 1984.

FHA community water and waste disposal grant programs will also be affected. As Kuennen explains, "Communities are eligible for grants only when the debt service portion of the average annual user cost for water or waste disposal service goes above 0.5 percent of the median household income in the service area. No grants are available to areas where the median household income exceeds 85 percent of the state median."

According to Kuennen, the eligibility change occurred because of the difference in census definition of the terms "family" and "household." "not all households contain families, since a household can be composed of one person living alone, or a group of two or more unrelated people," he says. "Furthermore, many single-person households have very low incomes."

Crop management meeting Tuesday

BLUE BALL — The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program will conduct a Fall Crop Management meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Blue Ball Elementary School.

Pennsylvania's new "Right-To-Know" law will affect agriculture and area farmers using chemicals in any phase of their farming operations and they need to be aware of the new regulations. State Sen. Noah Wenger will be present at the meeting to explain the details of the law and how it pertains to agriculture.

Private Applicator Pesticide

Licenses that have expired may be recertified by this meeting. Additional topics that will be discussed will include: the new Penn State Soil Test report, fall forage crop management, new pesticides coming on the market, and winter manure management.

The Blue Ball Elementary School is located on Ewell Rd. between Routes 23 and 322, about ½ mile east of the village of Blue Ball. The meeting will be held in the All-Purpose Room just inside the front door. All interested persons are invited. For further information call the Adult Farmer Office at 354-4525.

Semen imports approved

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. cattle breeders can now make use of semen from top-quality bulls from Europe and other countries where foot-and-mouth disease, exists, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

Foot-and-mouth disease is a highly contagious viral disease that affects most domesticated livestock, but not humans. "The disease does not exist in the United States. Research shows that semen from infected animals may carry foot-and-mouth disease organisms."

"Approval of bull semen imports is made possible by more sensitive tests that can determine whether bulls vaccinated for foot-and-mouth disease are actually free of the disease," said Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Until now, the health status of vaccinated bulls could not be accurately determined because antibodies resulting from vaccination could not be distinguished from antibodies resulting from foot-and-mouth

disease, Hawkins said. "We therefore limited bull semen imports to semen from unvaccinated bulls."

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IH 574 diesel row crop tractor, 16.9x30 rear rubber, front and rear weights, 1800 hours. New heavy duty clutch and pressure plate just installed. \$5950. Model 2250 quick tach loader and cab available for same. Call after 6 p.m., 215-967-1821.

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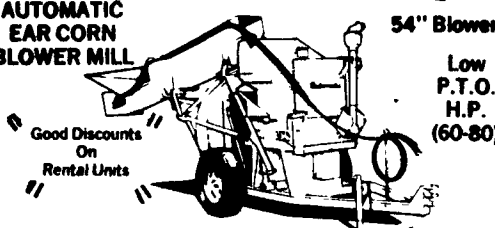
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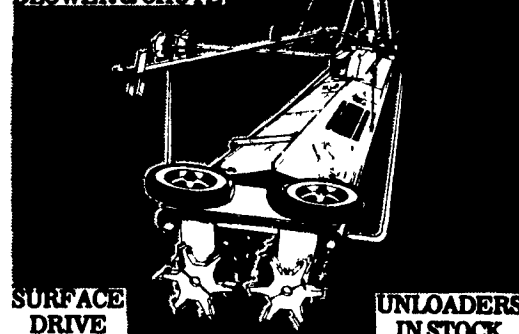
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