

Farmer-owned oat reserve in release status thru Feb. 28

WASHINGTON — Oats in the farmer-owned grain reserve will remain in release status through Feb. 28, according to Everett Rank, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Rank said CCC officials made the decision on the reserve oats following their review of CCC's average market prices Feb. 1, as reported by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, adjusted to reflect the market price received by farmers.

On Feb. 1, the adjusted price for oats was \$1.69 per bushel, 4 cents above the release level of \$1.65 for reserve oats.

Effective Jan. 1, storage payments stopped and interest began to accrue for oats in the reserve for more than one year.

Last week, the USDA allowed feed grain producers with maturing 1984-crop barley, corn and sorghum regular loans to place their crops in the farmer-owned reserve.

"Producers with 1984-crop oat regular loans may place their crops in the reserve if the oat reserve is not in release status when the regular loan matures," Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said.

The oat reserve is currently in release status. Current provisions-

-a storage rate of \$.265 per bushel for corn and barley, \$.20 per bushel for oats and \$.4732 per hundredweight for sorghum and no reserve minimum-will apply.

USDA had said it would review the size of the reserve before the regular 1984-crop loans matured.

"Because some barley and oat

loans will begin to mature on February 28, an announcement on reserve availability must be made now," Block said. "With this action, it is not likely that the feed grain reserves will reach 1 billion bushels before 1984 regular loans begin to mature." Block said.

Farmers will not be permitted to convert existing and maturing feed grain reserve loans into the current reserve. The trigger release level will be \$3.25 per bushel for corn, \$2.65 per bushel for barley, \$1.65 per bushel for oats and \$5.54 per hundredweight for sorghum. Interest is charged on

reserve loans during the first year in the reserve. No interest is charged after the first year, except during certain release periods.

Producers should contact their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices for further details.

Governor's product awards

product or technology.

"The state's agribusiness community has a tradition of new product development that has helped make agribusiness the state's number one industry, employing more than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians," Hallowell said. "I urge any agribusiness firm now seeing results from recent developments in product or technology to apply for this prestigious honor."

Hallowell said that the economic contribution of the new technology is the most important factor in determining award winners, in keeping with the Thornburgh Administration's priority to promote job-creating opportunities for Pennsylvanians. Five judges named by the governor and PSPE also evaluate entries on innovative use of engineering principles, improved function or savings as well as product appearance,

packaging, safety and marketing.

Entries must have been on the market for at least one year and not more than five years before the judging.

Applications may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers or the

Pennsylvania Department of Commerce, Bureau of Technological Development. Winners in each category are entered in the National Society of Professional Engineers' competition.

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell today urged state agribusinesses which have developed a new product or process that created jobs and benefits to enter the third annual "Governor's New Product Awards" competition. Applications will be accepted until June 1.

The program was established in 1938 in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) to reward the innovations of Pennsylvania firms which have helped to "diversify our economy and modernize our traditional industrial base," according to state Commerce Secretary James O. Pickard.

Every year, one award each is made to a small, medium and large state business which has created and marketed a new

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this course, which costs \$10.75, covers location, planting, soil management, pruning, packing and marketing.

• Diseases and Insect Problems in the Commercial Orchard. Available at a cost of \$5.25, this course concerns disease and insect problems in orchard management.

• Home Garden Fruits. This course covers underlying principles of fruit culture, soil treatment and fertilization, pruning, harvesting, diseases and insects and storage. It costs \$6.75.

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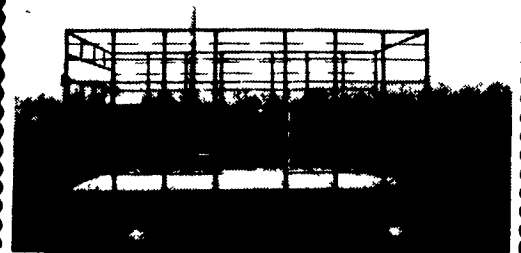
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