

Generic PIK plans released by USDA

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has announced details of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's advance deficiency and diversion "generic PIK" provisions, under which producers may receive certificates for commodities in lieu of cash payments for program participation under the Food Security Act of 1985.

Block said that USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation will issue payment-in-kind certificates that are generic, meaning that the certificate will not be commodity specific. The certificates will be redeemable by producers for any regular, special or farmer-owned reserve loan commodity, and by

commercial certificate holders for any CCC-owned commodity.

PIK certificates will be issued in the monetary amount due the producer and will be available for issuance by county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices beginning May 1, Block said. Each producer will have until Sept. 30, 1986, of until the maturity date of his loan, whichever is earlier, to request issuance of his certificate and to market the certificate.

Producers holding commodities pledged as loan collateral at signup must redeem that loan collateral (except peanuts and tobacco) to satisfy their PIKs. Producers may elect to use any

commodity they hold under loan as a payment-in-kind. The quantity of the loan collateral that must be redeemed for PIK purposes will be determined using the per-unit value as announced by the CCC on the day the certificate is presented for redemption.

Producers who do not hold commodities under loan or whose commodities under loan are insufficient to satisfy their PIK entitlement may sell their certificates; a commercial entity who may in turn redeem them only for CCC-owned commodities; another producer who may use the certificate to redeem his commodity loans; or producers who are co-op members who may designate an

approved co-op to market their PIKs.

Commercial holders of PIK certificates may redeem them at any time but before than Dec. 31, 1986. Commercial holders may redeem PIK certificates with the Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO), 8930 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo.

KCCO will make available a listing of locations of CCC-owned commodities for in-store delivery and the applicable redemption prices. Lot selection will be on a

first-come, first-served basis as established through the Western Union Easylink system.

Commercial certificate holders who have CCC-owned inventory may request redemption of certificates for commodities at their own storing locations even though the commodity may not have been listed as being available by KCCO. CCC reserves the right to require warehousemen who have CCC commodities to take delivery at their own warehouses when redeeming certificates.

Legislators plan new fight to boost farm income

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Berkley Bedell and six other members of the House Agriculture Committee said that they are determined to resume their fight for emergency legislation to strengthen farm income through the market.

"We are serving notice that we've just begun to fight," Bedell said. "The economic condition in our districts is continuing to deteriorate rapidly. Our farmers don't want to be dependent on the government for their income. They want a fair price from the market. We're going to continue our fight because it's possible to design a farm program that strengthens farm income through the market, not by government subsidies. And we're going to continue our fight not just because of our farmers but because this farm crisis hurts our entire nation."

Bedell was joined by Reps. Tom Daschle of South Dakota, Glen English of Oklahoma, Lane Evans of Illinois, Dan Glickman of Kansas, Tim Penney of Minnesota and Harold Volkmer of Missouri.

The congressmen said conditions have changed to make up a new approach to farm policy more attractive. Farmers need a program that will free them from dependence on government subsidies. The congressmen said they have a program that will spend a lot less money and do a better job of saving family farmers because it will use the market instead of the federal treasury to strengthen farm income.

The congressmen said the goals they want to work for in legislation this year include

- strengthening income through the market
- reducing surpluses
- encouraging lenders to restructure debt
- making sure credit is available.

"We're going the wrong direction in farm policy," Bedell said. "If we ever had an emergency it's now."

Cow mating service offered by mail

Holstein breeders may now enroll in a new sire selection service available by mail from the Holstein Association.

Dairymen enroll in the personalized sire selection program by completing a mail order form and specifying their sire selection requirements and semen price range. More specifically, breeders can indicate screening standards for TPI and/or PD\$, choice of A.I. firm and other selection standards.

After each summary run, participants in the program receive easy-to-read, computer reports that list up to 40 bulls ranked by Total Performance Index with bull identification, A.I. company, semen price, PD\$, PD Milk, PD Fat, PD SNF, PD Protein and PDT.

Participants also receive reports that highlight the top 20 bulls that

meet their requirements for udder traits, feet and leg traits, dairy capacity and form.

The personalized sire selection program has been designed to save herd owners time in searching through many bull lists to find proper sires to mate the herd. With the Association's capacity to gather the latest performance data on all available bulls in America, the information becomes readily accessible to breeders in the mail-in program.

Bull proofs are summarized twice a year, in January and July. Reports will be issued at \$15 after each sire summary run.

For their order form and to learn more about the program, dairymen should call the Holstein Association's Member Service Department at (802) 254-4551 or your area Holstein Association office.

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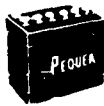
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