

Maturing loans approved for farmer-held reserve

WASHINGTON — Producers who have maturing 1985-crop wheat and feed grain Commodity Credit Corporation loans, may place the loans into the farmer-owned reserve program, USDA officials said.

Provisions for 1985-crop grain placed in the reserve include:

- Farmer-owned reserve loans for a 3-year period.

- Reserve contract number 6 will be in effect for wheat and number 5 for feed grains (barley, corn, oats and sorghum).

- Annual storage payments (prepaid) will remain at 26.5 cents per bushel for all commodities except oats for which the rate is 20 cents per bushel.

- Interest charged by the Commodity Credit Corporation on commodity loans will be applied to the loans during the first year of the farmer-owned reserve contracts.

Interest charges will be waived for the second and third years of the farmer-owned reserve contract. Interest will be charged whenever market prices are above the release "trigger" price.

- The per-bushel release "trigger" prices will remain unchanged at \$4.45 for wheat, \$3.25 for corn, \$1.65 for oats, \$2.65 for barley and \$3.10 for sorghum (\$5.54 per hundredweight).

Officials said that maturing 1985-crop wheat and feed grain loans are being allowed entry into the farmer-owned reserve since current reserve quantities are not in excess of the statutory 700 million bushel minimum for wheat and 1 billion bushels for feed grains. The minimum and maximum reserve levels provided by the Food Security Act of 1985 will not become effective until 1986 grain crops are eligible to enter the reserve.

USDA ups grading fee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is increasing the hourly fee it charges for meat grading and certification services, and establishing separate fee rates for different types of service, a USDA official announced.

Paul Fuller, an official with the Agricultural Marketing Service, said the changes are needed to offset substantial program operating losses in fiscal year 1985.

Meat grading and certification are voluntary services provided to meatpackers and processors for a fee that is required by law to be approximately equal to the cost of providing the service. Fuller said the new fees are being implemented on an interim basis because of the need to cover program operating costs.

Fuller said establishment of separate fee rates for different types of service will distribute more equitably the program's


operating expenses to meatpackers and processors.

Currently, there are two types of applicants — commitment and noncommitment. Commitment applicants agree to guarantee 40 hours of revenue for service per week. Noncommitment applicants request service for a particular day and for the amount of time necessary to complete a specific task. The cost of providing service to noncommitment applicants is substantially higher than the cost of providing service to commitment applicants.

Under the new fee schedule, the base rate for commitment applicants will be \$27.40 per hour, and the base rate for noncommitment

applicants will be \$29.80 per hour. All applicants will be charged \$35.40 per hour for services performed during premium hours (time in excess of eight hours per day between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and for hours worked before 6:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and anytime on Saturday or Sunday) and \$54.80 per hour of services performed on federal holidays.

Notice of the interim rule was published in the Feb. 12 Federal Register. Comments on the interim rule may be sent until March 15 to the Livestock and Seed Division, Room 2638-S, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

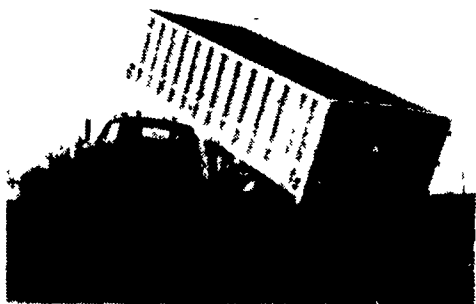


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