

Acreage Reduction Programs

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In the case of corn, for instance, farmers must set aside 10 percent of their acreage bases. The loan rate, set nationally, is \$1.65 a bushel; local rates will differ slightly. At sign-up, farmers can opt to receive 36.5 cents a bushel on average harvest totals. This rate represents 40 percent of the 89-cent estimated deficiency payment (the difference between the \$2.84 target price and a national average market price USDA has forecast at \$1.95 for the 1989 crop).

Typically, participating farmers receive the balance of their deficiency payments sometime after harvest. However, this winter, with corn prices higher than expected because of the drought, some farmers are having to repay advance deficiency payments obtained last spring.

Target prices and loan rates for other program crops include: wheat, \$4.10 target and \$2.06 loan; barley, \$2.43 target and \$1.34 loan; sorghum, \$2.70 target and \$1.57 loan; and oats, \$1.50 target and 85 cents loan.

Participation in programs for all of these crops except oats will require a 10 percent set-aside. Oats has a five percent diversion.

Unlike past years, none of this set-aside will have payments associated with it.

In a move to encourage greater production, participants in the oats program have the option of temporarily boosting their bases by borrowing from their bases for other crops without diminishing these bases for future years. The option is designed to alleviate a current oats shortage, according to Alarie Fleming, a program specialist in the state ASCS office in Harrisburg, Pa.

The other new wrinkle in this year's programs is an option to substitute soybeans or sunflowers for 10-25 percent of the acreage of program crops without losing base acres for future years. A farmer with a 120-acre corn base, for instance, could plant 27 acres of soybeans (25 percent of 120 acres minus the 12 acres required for set-aside). Farmers must sign up for this option by Feb. 3. However, neither party will be bound by an agreement, according to Maryland ASCS official Carol Wathen.

Other provisions from last year remain in effect, such as limited cross compliance and the 0-92 option.

Under cross compliance, a farmer who participates in the program for one crop on a particular

farm cannot plant more than his base for other crops on the same farm for which he has ASCS bases, although he does not have to participate in the programs for these crops. Such compliance does not extend from one farm to another, however.

The 0-92 option, in place for the first time last year, allows a participating grower to idle all or a portion of a particular crop base and still receive 92 percent of the deficiency payments otherwise due him. This option also preserves bases for future years.

Program yields will be the same as they were in 1988. Base acres again will be determined by a five-year average of previous bases.

This year's low set-aside thresholds might entice more farmers into enrolling, but there's a catch. The averaging procedure for base acres means that a farmer without previous ASCS history will have a base established for him at one-fifth the level of his plantings the prior year.

That's one reason more livestock producers, particularly dairymen, have not taken advantage of the program even when it fits into their cropping plans. Many Extension agents recommend that all farmers take the time to register their planting intentions with ASCS regardless of whether or not they enroll in one of the programs.

Pennsylvania ASCS's Fleming said he wasn't sure to what extent local farmers will participate in the 1989 programs. While low set-aside levels encourage enrollment, lower deficiency payments should discourage it, he said.

Cargill Increases Number Of Scholarships For Rural Youth

EPHRATA (Lancaster) — Cargill is increasing the number of \$1,000 scholarships it will provide. The 200 scholarships are for high school seniors from U.S. farm families planning post-secondary study next fall.

This year's awards will place increased emphasis on need-based criteria as a means of better targeting the scholarships, according to Calvin Anderson, executive director of the Cargill Foundation.

When the Cargill Scholarship Program for Rural America was established in 1986, it provided \$100,000 in scholarship funds. The fund rose to \$150,000 last year and was increased to \$200,000 for 1989 in an effort to offer more students an opportunity to further their educations.

The program is designed to recognize and encourage academic achievement, accomplishments

and talents of young people from U.S. farm families and help them get started with their post-secondary educations.

To qualify, students must have plans for full-time enrollment next fall at an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school. An independent national scholarship service organization manages the selection process, which is based — in addition to need — on several criteria including academic records, leadership and extra-curricular accomplishments.

Deadline for scholarship applications is March 15, 1989. Students who receive scholarships will be notified by May 1. Information and application forms can be obtained from Cargill Hybrid Seeds: P.O. Box 328, St. Peter, Minn. 56082, (507) 931-2310.

York County Tree Seedling Sale

YORK — The York County Conservation District is planning for next spring's tree seedling sale. Every year the Conservation District holds a seedling sale to promote the planting of seedlings throughout the county.

Contact the York County Conservation District, 118 Pleasant

Acres Road, York, PA 17402, or phone 771-9430 to be placed on the mailing list, if you have not ordered from us in the last three years. Order blanks will be mailed to you by mid-February. Distribution of the seedling's will be April 22nd.



The Way-Har Farm of Bernville in Berks County is owned by Wayne and Shirley Leshar. The owners were incorrectly identified in last week's issue. With encouragement from the Leshars Jim and Pam Berry of Lebanon were able to get their start in farming eight years ago. Pictured are (from left): Pam, Phillip, Jamie and Jim Berry.

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