

WIFE Lauds Change In Farm Payment Regulations

OGALLALA, NE. — Farm women are a giant step closer to being treated equally under USDA farm program payment regulations, thanks to a decision made yesterday by Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter.

"Secretary Yeutter called January 7 to let me know that he would use his discretionary authority to provide for a much more reasonable and equitable treatment of farm spouses. This will correct part of the inequity that has plagued farm spouses, and particularly women, for many years," said Elaine Stuhr, president of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE).

"This decision does not mean spouses are automatically considered separate persons," adds Stuhr. "But it will give many qualified individuals a chance to see if they are eligible to be compen-

sated for their contributions. Husbands and wives who are both actively involved in their farming operations should recheck their 'person status' at their local ASCS office when they sign up for farm programs this spring."

After repeated attempts to persuade USDA to analyze a women's contribution just as they would analyze the contributions of a husband, son, or non-farm investor, the national farm women's organization sued the agency in 1987. WIFE members argued that USDA regulations discriminated against married couples because they basically treated a husband and wife as one person when they applied for farm program payments — even though two unmarried individuals who farmed together, such as two brothers, would qualify for two separate payments.

The group won their case in district court, but the decision was reversed by an appellate court and upheld by the Supreme Court one year ago today.

Since that time, WIFE members have worked with Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-NE), Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS), Rep. Ron Marlenee (R-MT) and several other Congressmen to make changes through the legislative process. The 1990 Farm Bill contained a provision that would allow qualified farm spouses to be eligible for separate payments if they agree not to receive farm program payments directly or indirectly through any other entity. But because of budgetary concerns, this provision was made discretionary for the Secretary of Agriculture.

Yeutter also announced that individuals who inherit land that is

enrolled in the long term Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will get some relief under this rule change.

"In the past, heirs affected by the payment limitation were put in the difficult position of either selling the land or terminating the CRP contract when a family member died. The new procedure allows that payments received with respect to the inherited land will not be charged against the heirs own CRP payment limita-

tion," Yeutter said.

Stuhr said there will undoubtedly be many questions about how these new rules will actually work once all of the final rules are written. She anticipates that Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Chief Keith Bjerke will address some of these concerns when WIFE's Board of Directors meets in Kansas City, January 25-27. Bjerke's speech is scheduled for Jan. 26, at the Embassy Suites Airport Hotel.

You are what you



Estate Planning

ELIZABETHVILLE (Dauphin Co.)— You can help your survivors through a difficult time upon your death if you deal with the hard financial facts before you die. Through careful estate planning and discussion of these

plans with your spouse, parents, children, or others whom you want to share in your estate, you minimize and perhaps eliminate the confusion of settling financial affairs which must be settled soon after your death. You can also help prevent many bitter family quarrels.

A special estate planning seminar will be held on Thursday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m., in the Upper Dauphin High School, Elizabethtown.

Patricia Powley, financial management agent with Penn State Cooperative Extension, will discuss wills, record keeping, estate planning strategies, and tax laws in regard to estate planning.

Anyone, age 18 and older, should plan to attend (especially if you have children). There is no registration fee; however, to adequately plan for attendance, please call (717) 921-8803 to register.

Sampler Quilt Class

YORK (York Co.)— If you have admired the beautiful sampler quilt displayed at fairs and quilt shows, here's your chance to learn to make one. The Penn State Cooperative Extension Service is offering an eight-session class "Let's Make a Sampler Quilt" starting January 29, 10:00 a.m. at the extension meeting room in the County Departments Building, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York. The class will meet every other week until May 7. Sheila Arnold, a member of the local Quilters Guild will teach advanced piecing and applique techniques as well as methods for marking and setting lap-quilted squares together. This whole quilt will be made without using any quilting frames. A knowledge of basic quilting skills is required.

Advanced registration is required. Call 757-9657 for more information on cost and registration.



4-H Organizes Wildlife Conservation Club

On Saturday, January 19, 1991, a new 4-H Wildlife Conservation Club formed. The new group will meet at 9 a.m. at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, in Dauphin. All youth ages 12 to 18 are welcome to join.

This new 4-H Club will concentrate on educational and hands-on experiences with wildlife conservation. Some possible experiences include the eagle restoration program and the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.

This group is to be held by Keith Snyder, wildlife conservation officer for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Joel Myers, agronomist for the Soil Conservation Service, USDA. These two men bring a wealth of knowledge to our Pennsylvania wildlife and habitat group.

4-H Potato Team

The Adams County 4-H Potato Judging Team placed first at the annual state 4-H potato judging competition held at the 1991 Farm Show. The A Division team members were Mike Linebaugh, New Oxford; Todd Racey, New Oxford; Abe Bucher, New Oxford; and Dawn-Renea Hoffman, Gettysburg.

The individual placing for combined divisions are as follows: Mike Linebaugh was first place individual with 454.5 points; Abe Bucher was sixth place individual with 438 points; and Todd Racey was tied for tenth place individual with 427.5 points. The Adams County first place A Division Team score was 1,320. The score was seven points higher than the second place team.

The teams have been practicing for the contest for the last 12 weeks. The contest consists of: 1) deciding if each of 100 potatoes is either in or out of grade - a time and accuracy relationship; 2) identifying 20 potato defects on 40 potatoes; and 3) placing 2 classes of 4 plates of potatoes.



Announcement

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