

David McLeod Explains 1970 Wheat Program

Many provisions of the recently-announced 1970 wheat program are required by law while others are optional with the Secretary of Agriculture, according to Manager David McLeod of the Morrow Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

"I think it would be helpful to farmers to understand just what the law spells out," the ASCS manager said. "For instance, many farmers I have talked with didn't realize the required non-payment farm acreage diversion is written specifically into the law.

"Of course all the provisions of the wheat program are authorized by Congress. But the law-makers made some of the provisions mandatory, reserved others for determination by the Secretary of Agriculture," he added.

McLeod gave the following summary of the 1970 wheat allotment and program, highlighting the requirements of the law and the options exercised by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin.

The nation wheat allotment for 1970 was set at 45.5 million acres by the secretary. But he was required by law first to set a quota, which is the amount of wheat needed to meet export and domestic requirements, taking into account the wheat held by the Commodity Credit Corporation as carryover stocks.

Requirements for 1970 were estimated to be 1,310 million bushels. This was adjusted downward by 55 million bushels, as a desired reduction in CCC stocks. So a quota of 1,255 million bushels was arrived at for 1970.

The law provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall set as the wheat allotment the number of acres which will produce the amount of wheat equal to the quota.

The law also provides that projected yield per acre and normal underplantings must be considered in setting the nation wheat allotment. Underplanting as the result of paid diversion cannot be considered in establishing the allotment. All other factors which would result in underplanting or overplanting must be considered.

The 1970 projected yield was determined to be 28.9 bushels per acre. Net underplantings were determined to be 2 million acres.

Taking into account, as required by law, the national quota of 1,255 million bushels, the projected yield of 28.9 bushels per acre, and the estimated net underplanting of 2 million acres, Secretary Hardin set a 1970 national wheat allotment of 45.5 million acres.

Just as in setting the national wheat allotment, so in setting wheat program provisions some are required by law, some are optional with the Secretary of Agriculture.

Substitution between wheat and feed grains is optional when a feed grain diversion program is in effect. The decision was to include substitution in the 1970 program.

Farms with a wheat allotment and a feed grain base may use the substitution provision by diverting the minimum of 20 percent of the feed grain base. The remaining base may then be used for wheat. This is the same as required in the 1969 program.

Participants who substitute wheat for Oat-Rye in 1970 will also be required to divert 20 percent of their Oat-Rye base. In 1969 the diversion requirement was 15 percent.

The overplanting provision is specifically required by the law. This allows wheat farmers to overplant allotments by 50 percent and then store the excess wheat for use in a subsequent year.

The law requires as a condition of eligibility for participating in the wheat program an acreage diversion whenever the national allotment is reduced below a base figure of 59.3 million acres. (This figure is a 55-million-acre base plus small farm acreage, in compliance with the law). The acreage difference between the farm allotment based on the 59.3-million-acre figure and the lower national allotment, (45.5 million acres in 1970) shall be diverted

to conserving use. No payment has been made for this qualifying diversion since 1965.

Optional with the Secretary of Agriculture, however, is diversion for payment in addition to the qualifying diversion. It is included in the 1970 program. A farmer may earn payment for diverting up to half his wheat allotment to conserving use.

The maximum diversion payment rate permitted by law is 50 percent of the county loan rate multiplied by the farm projected yield. Secretary Hardin has set the diversion payment rate for 1970 at the permitted maximum.

Regarding price support, the law provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the price-support loan rate at a level which takes into consideration world market prices of wheat, the feeding value of wheat in relation to feed grains, and the level at which price support is made available for feed grains. The 1970 national average loan rate was set at \$1.25 a bushel, as it has been since 1966.

The law sets up provisions for the domestic marketing certificates which are part of the price-support program. The certificates must be based on the estimated percentage of the crop on participating farms which will equal expected domestic food use. The estimate for 1970 is 48 percent of the crop—530 million bushels.

The law also provides that value of the certificates must be the difference between parity on July 1, 1970, and the 1970 loan rate. For 1969 the value of domestic marketing certificates as \$1.52 per bushel.

Not all the legal provisions affecting the 1970 wheat allotments and program could possibly be summarized, said McLeod. However, he said the preceding included the key points of most interest to wheat farmers planning for the future.

Documents Needed For Wool Payment

Wool producers were reminded today they should bring sales documents for shorn wool and unshorn lambs to the Morrow County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office to earn incentive payments for the 1969 marketings. Sales of both wool and unshorn lambs may be included in a single application for payment, according to David McLeod, manager.

Producers also were reminded that purchases of all unshorn lambs, including the lambs in ewe-lamb pairs, must be reported when application is filed for wool incentive payment. McLeod said wool producers occasionally overlook reporting purchases of replacement stock, but the ASCS county office must have an accurate record of purchases as well as sales of unshorn lambs.

Wool delivery expenses not shown in the sales documents should be reported when producers apply for incentive payments.

The ASCS manager pointed out that under the National Wool Act all producers who market wool and mohair in 1969 are eligible for incentive payments.

Shorn wool payments to a producer are equal to a percentage of his returns from sales. The percentage is that required to raise the national average price received for shorn wool by all producers up to 66 cents a pound. Mohair payments are determined in a similar manner, with the national incentive price set at 77.4 cents a pound.

Sewing Club Meets

Needle Threaders 4-H Club of Irregon met at the home of Mrs. Vern Evans. Officers elected were Karen Richards, President; Peggy Hinkley, Vice President; Debbie Grochowski, Secretary; Kathleen Evans, Treasurer; Erin Evans, Sergeant-at-arms. Edie Brasel, news reporter. We discussed what to do at the next meeting. We decided we could meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month at 1:30. Edythe Brasel, reporter

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