

Grain crops under commodity loans may be placed in reserve, Bergland says; no set aside for feeds

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has announced all 1978 grain crops currently under loan to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and all 1979 grain crops eligible for CCC loans may be placed in the farmer-owned reserve program. The only grain not affected is barley, which currently has a market price above the department's "call" level, thus making it ineligible for the reserve.

Bergland also announced there will be no set-aside or diversion for 1980 feed grain crops.

"I would remind producers about the importance of good farming practices as they plan for 1980 and I would recommend against bringing fragile lands into production. Farmers who plant these lands in 1980 will not have this acreage added to their farms' normal crop acreage in subsequent years," Bergland said.

Bergland said the program decisions were based on projected supply and demand factors for 1979 and 1980. "We see a tighter supply situation in the future. The actions we are announcing today will help meet domestic and export requirements and reduce the risk of rapid food price inflation."

Under the announced actions, all producers of barley, corn and sorghum will be eligible for target price protection, loans and for participation in the farmer-owner reserve in 1980. Oat producers will be eligible for loans and the reserve program in 1980.

"We will assure producers at least the same 1980 feed grain and soybean loan rates as in 1979," Bergland said. This means loan levels of at least \$2.00 for corn, \$1.90 for sorghum, and \$1.63 for barley and \$1.03 for oats, \$1.70 for rye and \$4.50 for soybeans.

"I will be asking for public comment on possible changes in the operation of the farmer-owned reserve program in the next few weeks," Bergland said. "Therefore, no changes in the reserve management rules are being made at this time."

Preliminary feed grain target price ranges will be announced by March 15. Current estimates based on the formula in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 indicate these prices would be \$2.08 per bushel for corn, \$2.46 for sorghum and \$2.35 for barley.

In order to qualify for full target price protection, farm-

ers cannot plant more corn, sorghum or barley in 1980 that was considered planted and set aside from these crops in

1978. Farmers who exceed this acreage will be subject to an allocation factor that can reduce any target price pay-

ment by up to 20 percent. National program acreages (NPA) of 82.1 million acres for corn, 13.9 million for sorghum

and 7.9 million for barley were also announced today. The NPA is the number of acres for each crop needed to be

planted to meet projected domestic and export requirements as well as provide for an adequate carryover.

Crops eligible to move immediately into the farmer-owned reserve are 1978 and 1979 crop wheat, corn, sor-

ghum, oats and rice under CCC loan. Barley will be eligible for entry when it is no longer in a call status.

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The state of Oregon, Employment Division, CETA Programs unit, announces the availability of approximately \$210,452 to conduct Youth Community Conservation and Improvement projects in 27 Oregon counties including Morrow County.

These projects are designed to be labor-intensive, community conservation projects that provide constructive work for 16 to 19 year-old youths. They are expected to be conducted by youth under the guidance of skilled supervisors. Projects must result in a tangible output, assist youths to improve work habits, and be completed prior to Sept. 30, 1980.

Deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Employment Division, CETA Programs Unit office, 240 Cottage Street, S.E., Salem, OR 97311.

CETA has been used before by the county court and by the school district but according to both offices, plans are not being made right now to apply for CETA funds.

"In the past, the problem has not been getting the funds (from CETA) but to get a student who can qualify from an income standpoint and an employer who will hire an untrained person," said John Edmundson of the school superintendent's office.

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