

New Farm Act, With Soil Bank and Crop Disposal, Explained

Washington—(AP)—The new farm law is based on the theory that the nation's most serious farm problem is a huge, government-owned stockpile of surplus crops.

The Farm Act, signed on May 28 by President Eisenhower after months of political infighting, is designed to cut down the surplus in two ways:

A soil bank program offers payments to farmers who reduce production of surplus crops.

Other provisions speed the disposal of crops already in government warehouses.

If the surplus is cut, administration leaders say that farm prices will rise.

Here is an outline of the soil bank plan and other major features of the bill:

Operation of Soil Bank

Q—What is the soil bank and how does it work?

A—It includes two separate plans. Under one — called the acreage reserve — farmers are paid for reducing their production of wheat, corn, cotton, rice, peanuts and tobacco below government acreage allotments. The government will make the payments on a year-to-year basis through 1959.

The second phase of the soil bank is called the conservation reserve. This applies to all cultivated crops, including hay. Farmers who sign conservation reserve contracts agree to reserve a specified number of acres for soil conservation rather than crop production for a minimum of three years. Contracts could run up to 10 years in most cases, up to 15 years in others. The government would pay most of the initial cost of putting the land into conservation. It also would make an annual rental payment.

Q—How much tax money will this cost?

A—That depends on how you look at it. Congress has authorized \$1,200,000,000 annually for the soil bank through 1959. But administration officials say that most, if not all, of that sum would have to be spent anyway supporting prices of the crops farmers would grow if there were no soil bank. Costs this year will be relatively small because few farmers are expected to put 1956 crops in the bank.

Q—If the plan works — reduces surpluses and raises farm prices—what will happen to retail prices?

A—Not much, predicts Agriculture department economist Don Pearlberg. He says much of the



NO DUDE — "Smile when you call me that," warns Max Baer as he throws a rope on Livermore Rodeo queen candidate Barbara Nissen. Barbara complies as Max promises to come in cowboy togs for the western affair at Livermore, Calif., June 9-10.

farm increase will be absorbed by middlemen who usually increase their profit margin when farm prices drop and reduce them when farm prices rise.

Q—What does the bill do to get rid of current surpluses?

A—The administration is ordered to sell surplus cotton at world prices. It is specifically ordered not to turn down bids at 25.5 cents a pound if nobody offers a better price.

The bill gives the Agriculture department authority to process surplus foods so they can be given away easier. It also authorizes additional foreign relief shipments.

The bill also sets up a presidentially-appointed commission to find more industrial uses for farm products.

Price Supports
Q—The first 1956 farm bill, vetoed by President Eisenhower, would have restored rigid, 90 per cent of parity supports on major crops. What does the new law provide?

A—The act leaves the administration's flexible price support system untouched. But it raises supports on grain sorghums, oats, barley and rye in 1956 to 76 per cent of parity—theoretical point at which farmers are said to get a fair return for their crops. Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson had set supports for these grains at 70 per cent of parity.

The bill also sets aside scheduled 1957 declines in the parity prices of wheat, corn and peanuts. The Agriculture department is ordered to give Congress recommendations on improvements in the farm parity formula.

Q—The bill contains a "two-price" plan for rice. How does it work?

A—The two-price plan goes into effect only if Agriculture Secretary Benson decides it is feasible and he has been cool to

it in the past. Under this provision, the government would set 90 per cent of parity price supports for rice consumed in the United States and Cuba. The remainder of the crop would move into export markets at lower prices.

Acreage Controls
Q—What does the bill do about federal planting controls?

A—The corn acreage allotment in the main corn belt is increased about 15 per cent for those farmers who agree to put a portion of their cropland into the soil bank. Before Dec. 15, corn growers will vote to decide whether to retain the increased allotment, termed a "base acreage" in the law. If they choose the base acreage, price support levels will be completely at the discretion of the secretary of agriculture. Should the farmers choose to keep the old planting allotment system, supports will

remain between 75 and 90 per cent of parity.

Cotton acreage allotments for 1957 and 1958 will be 100,000 acres above the 1956 level. The extra acreage goes to the small farmers. The act also provides that no state allotment may be reduced more than one per cent in 1957 and 1958.

Rice acreage allotments for 1956 may not be more than 15 per cent below last year, and 1957-58 allotments are frozen at the 1956 level.

Federal Aid for Forestry
Q—Aside from soil bank payments for tree planting as a conservation measure, what does the new law do for forestry?

A—It authorizes federal aid to states which plan reforestation programs. Where trees are planted on non-federal land, the Agriculture department could match state spending on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The bill sets no definite sum for the program, leaving this for a later decision.

The bill also orders the Agriculture department to study price trends and relationships for forest products. The information is to be reported to Congress in one year.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Easton, Pa. — Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, on winning "the minds and hearts of men" in neutral nations:

"The uncommitted nations are not going to be frightened into alliance with the West by military power, nor can their allegiance be purchased by dollars."

Washington—Max West, on whether Wednesday's battle between two of the musclemen in her nightclub act was the first time two men had fought over her:

"No, but not in public like this before. I prefer doing things behind closed doors."

New York—Tenor Frank Parker, on his decision to leave the Arthur Godfrey television shows after a six-year association:

"It is most gratifying to me, not losing Arthur's friendship, which goes back long before I started working for him."

Miami—The Rev. Theo R. Gibson, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on a plan to ask an end to bus segregation in Miami:

"If they (the bus company) don't come across we will call a boycott or go to the courts or both."

Washington—Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) chairman of the Internal Security subcommittee, on the background of Seweryn Bialer, a Polish refugee who testifies today before the committee.

"He was an emissary in the Polish Communist party to Moscow in 1954 and was able to observe first-hand many Soviet secrets."

Jeanne Crain Seeks Action Against Mate

Hollywood — (UP) — Actress Jeanne Crain today sought court action against her estranged husband, manufacturer Paul Brinkman, on her charges he carried a gun and might use it.

Miss Crain Thursday filed a petition for Brinkman to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court for violating a court order restraining him from molesting or annoying her.

The actress claimed in her plea that she feared for her own physical safety and that of her four children.

The actress said Brinkman told friends he had the gun and "might use it." Miss Crain also charged that Brinkman tapped her telephone line and cashed checks on their community property in violation of court orders.

Grange Maintains Strong Opposition To State Sales Tax

Pendleton—(UP)—The Oregon State Grange today still maintained its historic opposition to a sales tax.

Delegates to the 83rd annual convention of the Grange yesterday turned down three resolutions calling for indorsement of a sales tax for school support. There had been speculation that the opposition to a sales tax was weakening.

A resolution which received favor called for no more increases in freight rates. Speakers said high rates already were shutting Oregon farm products out of many markets.

James T. Marr, executive secretary of the State Federation of Labor, told Grangers that labor has been accused unjustly of being a major contributor to the farm problem. He cited figures to refute claims that high industrial wages are raising farmers' costs. He said falling farm prices were the basic cause of the current farm problems.

A special runoff election was

Elton Waldron Joins Milling Firm Here

Elton Waldron, who has been associated with the seed, feed and garden supply business in southern Oregon for several years, has become a member of the firm of Morton milling company, according to Oliver Morton.

Waldron, who will be vice president and sales manager, was formerly southern Oregon representative from the Charles H. Lilly company. Before that he was with the F. E. Samson company for 17 years.

held and Susie Wells, Pine Grove Grange, Hood River county, was elected chaplain of the State Grange.

Roy Battles, assistant to the master of the National Grange, told the group that Oregon growers "lead the nation by far" in the field of sound, progressive wheat programs.

Floyd Root, Wasco grower and vice-president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, suggested the "domestic parity" plan would help use up the wheat surplus and get rid of acreage controls through increased feed, export and food markets.

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