

Average Soil Bank Payments to Farmers for 1957 Crops Explained

Editor's note: Some confusion has arisen over the scale of increases in soil bank payments for 1957 announced last week by the Agriculture Department. Inquiries have been received as to why average soil bank payments will go up even though unit rates for 1957 remain the same as in 1956. The following dispatch explains why.

By **CAYLOR F. GODWIN**
United Press Correspondent
Washington — U.P. — Average

Soil bank payments to farmers in 1957 will be considerably higher than in 1956 even though unit rates remain the same. For example, the national average soil bank payment for wheat in 1956 was \$3 an acre. In 1957 it will be about \$20.04. However, the base unit rate per bushel for each year was \$1.20. The higher 1957 payments are explained by three provisions of the soil bank law as applied to the 1956 crop.

These provisions stipulated that:

1. A farmer who did not plant wheat in the fall of 1956 for the 1956 harvest because his land was dried out by drought was eligible for a soil bank payment of \$4 an acre.
2. If a farmer planted either winter or spring wheat and it was damaged or destroyed by natural causes such as drought, waterkill, flood, and hail, his payment was based on an appraised yield but not less than \$5 an acre.
3. If a farmer complied with soil bank requirements after his wheat was up by rowing, or otherwise disposing of the crop, he was paid on the basis of an appraised yield but not less than \$5 an acre.

No Average Cutters

These provisions are not in the soil bank act of 1956. The yield will be based on average production. Therefore, the so-called drought relief benefits of the soil bank are not scheduled to cut into the 1957 wheat payments to lower the average as they did in 1956.

The same principle applies to other crops whose acreage is put into the soil bank, including cotton, \$24 and rice \$30.

The 1957 rates, based on announced yields, are cotton, \$54-

15 and rice, \$63.18. An Agriculture Department official said if 1956 soil bank payments had been made under "normal" conditions, and if agreements had been signed before planting time, the national average per acre payments would have been wheat, \$20.04; cotton, \$46.35 and rice, \$59.17.

The department explained that 1957 payments for corn, cotton, and rice will be based on an average county dollars-and-cents rate to be established for each crop. While the county rates will vary considerably, they will average out to about the national rate for the crop. Relative productivity, distance from markets, and historic local prices will determine the county rate.

From these county average payment rates for each of the three crops, individual farm per-acre rates will be established by the county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee. They will vary up or down from the county, in accordance with relative productivity and farming methods.

For wheat in 1957, farmers participating in the soil bank will receive payments based on normal crop yield of the land placed in the acreage reserve, the unit rate for the county, and the number of acres planted in the reserve. The department said individual farm rates in general will average out to about the national rate.

The department's goal for all-wheat acreage in the soil bank is 12-15 million acres.

Other acreage goals for soil bank participation are cotton, 3.5-4.5 million acres; rice, 175,000-222,000 acres; tobacco, 125,000-140,000 acres. The total soil bank goal is 20-25 million acres. There are no plans to include peanuts and extra long staple cotton in the 1957 soil bank.

No date has been set for contract sign ups for any crop except winter wheat.

Washington — U.P. — Federal funds for support of schools in Astoria, Gearhart and Seaside have been forwarded to school districts in the three Clatsop county communities.

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Kidnaper of Young Bride Wrecks Car in Police Chase; Both Hurt

Denver — U.P. — Michael Wiegner, 16, fugitive from a California mental hospital, and his 17-year-old estranged wife, whom he kidnaped Monday at gunpoint from her parents' home, were hospitalized here today following a police chase and auto wreck.



CLO ANN WIEGNER
Condition Serious

Portland — U.P. — Douglas Huegli, Portland, has been elected permanent director of the Oregon Museum and Science and Industry.

Thus ended a search that began Monday night when Wiegner and his companion broke into the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Mowatt in Daly City.

Brandishing a .22 rifle, they tied up the Mowatts and forced Clo Ann to go off with them.

The car, a Mercury, believed stolen by Wiegner after his escape from Napa State hospital, was completely wrecked.

A second fugitive from the mental hospital, identified as 35-year-old Jesse Eastman, a Sioux Indian also known as Jesse Red Cloud, Oakland, was not found when police arrived.

Detective Lt. Roy Tangye said Eastman might have left the car before the police chase began or might have fled after the car plunged into the gully.

He said a citywide search had been started for the missing mental patient, labeled an alcoholic by California authorities. Tangye said he had been able to question Wiegner but the young fugitive "doesn't want to remember anything that happened in California."

Parents Relieved
The detective said Wiegner did tell him they came across Nevada but refused to elaborate. Parents of both youngsters went to the police station at Daly City to get details when they were advised their children had been found in Denver. "They seemed relieved that the youngsters were found," police said.

Tight Money Market Delays Astoria Bridge

Portland — U.P. — Astoria's hopes for a bridge over the Columbia river have been set back because of a tight money market, the State Highway Commission has been told.

An Astoria delegation told the commission that "the position of the money market now has priced us right out of the picture."

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