

Benson Announces New Farm Crop Support Restrictions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government plans to swing the weight of its multi-billion dollar farm price support program next year behind a drive to enforce perhaps the strictest crop controls ever.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson so characterized the controls which he announced Monday in a move to reduce overall agricultural production and avert further surpluses of the type which have tied up \$1 1/2 billion dollars of federal funds.

Under the new system, a farmer will not be eligible for price support aid on any crop unless he abides by controls on all individual cash crops he raises. Farmers have leaned heavily on price supports the past two years.

The new program is designed to reduce total plantings by about 40 million acres, or one-eighth, below 1953.

Controls are in effect this year on wheat, cotton, corn, peanuts and some other crops. But a farmer who diverted land from the production of wheat, for example, could use it to grow other surplus or non-surplus crops without losing price support aid on his main crop.

The effect, Benson said, was to enable farmers to "shift the surpluses" from one set of crops to another.

In 1955, the department plans to issue individual planting allotments for wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco, peanuts and sugar crops. A farmer must comply with all such allotments that may be assigned to him or lose all price support loans.

In addition, farmers asked to reduce plantings of these allotment crops by more than 10 acres in all will be given "total acreage allotments" for their cash crops. To get price support aid, they must stay within these allotments.

In announcing the controls, Benson voiced dislike for such curbs but said he had no other "immediate" choice. The government must take steps, he said, to reduce production to the size of de-

clining post war markets.

The secretary said he had no idea how long it may be necessary to continue rigid controls. He said flexible price supports advocated by the administration would hasten the day when agricultural production matched markets.

Benson announced to the 1955 allot for wheat at 55 million acres compared with 62 million fixed for this year's crop and with 78 million planted in 1953, the last year growers were free of controls. Allotments for other crops will be announced later.

The secretary also announced that marketing quotas will be proposed for the 1955 wheat crop. Farmers will vote on them at a national referendum July 23. Approval by at least two thirds of those voting is required. The 1954 quotas were approved by 87 per cent.

Quotas are designed to limit marketings to the amount grown on the allotted acres. Wheat marketed over a farmer's quota is subject to a penalty. Quotas will apply to all farms planting more than 15 acres.

The law originally called for wheat plantings this year of 55 million acres — the amount now set for 1955. But Congress changed the law at the last minute to permit the planting of 63 million. There had been some talk earlier that a similar step would be taken for the 1955 crop.

But Sen. Young (R-ND), second ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said in an interview Tuesday he believed this would not be done.

Young, a critic of many Benson policies, denounced the strict controls ordered by the secretary as "far too tough."

Benson did not announce the price support rate for next year's wheat crop, explaining he would await congressional action on this question. This year's crop is being supported at 90 per cent of parity or \$2.21 a bushel.

Parity is a standard for measuring farm prices declared by law to be fair to farmers in relation to prices they pay. Under a flexible price support plan recommended by the administration, the support rate could drop to 75 per cent of parity or about \$1.66 a bushel.



JOHN REINARTZ will be one of the principal speakers at the Oregon Amateur Radio Association's state convention here on June 26 and 27. Reinartz is well known as a speaker in this field and has been in amateur radio since 1907.



JAMES A. TIFFIE, electrician's mate third class, USN, is serving aboard the ocean-going fleet tug USS Takelma. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Tiffie, 3008 Cortez Street.

Safflower Crop Urged

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Much of the Northwest's wheat land is suited for growing safflower and his firm would contract for it if farmers would agree to put a minimum of 10,000 acres under production, the president of Pacific Oilseeds, Inc., said Tuesday.

Carl E. Claassen, the official of the California firm, addressed the meeting of the western branch of the Western Society of Agronomy, meeting in conjunction with the Pacific division of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science.

Safflower cannot compete in price with wheat at 90 per cent of parity, he said, but would be a profitable crop for farmers who can no longer grow wheat.

In irrigated areas of California it yields from 2,000 to 4,000 pounds per acre, and farmers are netting from \$50 to \$90 per acre, he said.

The oil of safflower, used in paint making, is in great demand, Claassen said.

"The large paint manufacturers would change their formulas to use safflower oils if they could get a guaranteed supply, but production

in the United States is too low for that at the present time," he said.

Claassen said his firm has been investigating the Inland Empire for more than a year and is convinced much of the Palouse, Walla Walla and Umatilla areas are suitable for dry-land production of safflower.

The Columbia Basin irrigation area would be excellent, he said.

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