



Who is eligible for ACREAGE RESERVE... all farms with allotments for

All farms with acreage allotments for cotton, wheat, peanuts, rice and tobacco, or base acreages for corn, are eligible to take part in the Acreage Reserve of the Soil Bank. Farmers who participate will receive their 1957 acreage of one or more of those crops below the allotment or corn base. All farmers who wish to participate in 1957 should work out their plans with the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announces. Payments will be made to compensate farmers for loss of net income resulting from crop acreage reduction. These payments will be based on normal crop yield for the reserved land, as determined by the County ASC Committee. Farmers may leave this land idle, or apply soil or water conservation practices on it. This land cannot be cropped or set for hay during 1957 calendar year, and may not be grazed unless the Secretary of Agriculture determines an emergency exists. Farmers also may participate in the Soil Bank's Conservation Reserve for which all farm land regularly used to produce crops is eligible.

### Soil Bank Reserve Program Is Directed At Conservation

The recently announced conservation reserve program of the new soil bank could affect Oregon farm production, prices, and costs for some time to come, believes Marion Thomas, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the conservation reserve is designed to help farmers shift land regularly used serving uses. And Thomas thinks many Oregon farmers can use the for crop production into soil-conservation program to add soil-saving practices on their land with little if any loss in current net income. At the same time, they would be bolstering prices on what they sell by helping to check the build-up in national supplies.

Under the newly announced program, cost-sharing assistance will be available to farmers in making the shift, and farmers will also get annual "rental" payments on land set aside in the soil bank.

All farm land regularly used in the production of crops, except bearing orchards and vineyards, is eligible to be placed in the conservation reserve program, according to Arnold Bodtker, administrative office of the state agricultural stabilization and conservation (ASC) committee. The one exception is land placed under the acreage reserve program of the soil bank. In Oregon, the acreage reserve program is open only to farmers with established wheat allotments.

To take part in the conservation reserve, farmers must sign contracts with USDA through the county ASC committee. Generally, at least five acres must be put under the program, Bodtker says. But a minimum of two acres will be eligible if trees are planted, and special provisions are made for small farms.

Contracts will run from 3 to 10 years—usually at the option of the farmer—depending on whether the land placed in the conservation reserve needs cover crops established. In the case of land planted to trees, contracts will run 10 to 15 years.

Land in the conservation reserve must not be cropped or grazed while the contract is in force, Bodtker says. Violation of the contract may result in its cancellation, in which case the farmer will have to pay back all payments made under the program. And in addition, Bodtker warned that intentional cropping or grazing of conservation reserve land makes the farmers subject to a civil penalty.

The cost-sharing payment to assist in the establishment of soil and water conservation practices

on land placed in the conservation reserve may be as much as 80 per cent of the cost in many cases. The annual "rental" payment is determined by multiplying a conservation-reserve-per-acre rate by the number of acres the farmer has in the conservation reserve program. Bodtker reports that the national average per-acre rate is \$10, but this will vary among states and counties. Oregon's average rate has been set at \$12, next to highest in the nation.

Both cost-sharing and annual payments will be made the year a conservation practice is established, and the annual payment will be continued each year the contract is in effect and contract conditions are met. However, total annual payment to any one producer, for any year, and with respect to all farms in which he has an interest is limited to \$5000, Bodtker says.

Information on how the conservation reserve can be applied on individual farms is available through county ASC offices. And county extension agents will be able to help farmers make best use of land placed in the reserve. Farmers considering putting land in the reserve are urged to contact their county ASC office and county agent soon.

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### Feed May Cost More

There should be plenty of feed for Oregon livestock this winter, but much of it is likely to cost a little more than last winter, reports Marion Thomas, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

This will probably be true even though Oregon's supply of feed grain per grain-eating animal is at an all-time high—10 per cent above a year ago—Thomas says. Indirectly, anything that helps corn prices helps prices of other feed grains, he pointed out. And corn prices will be bolstered this year by the broadening of the support program to include loans to Midwest corn growers who exceeded their allotments.

This, together with higher supports on barley and oats, a big export movement, and smaller grain crops over the nation, is pushing price tags upwards on feed, Thomas reports.

Hay may be an exception to the higher prices, Thomas believes, because hay supplies have improved. Supplies in Oregon and the Northwest are about a tenth larger than a year ago.

Hay prices are a little lower than last summer, and Thomas says they aren't likely to rise unless purchases for drought relief in Texas and other dry areas become large. Safest bet though, he thinks, is to be sure of enough hay before snow flies.

Cull potatoes have found an increasing use as cattle feed. And while cull potato prices may start a little higher than last winter, Thomas says there should be about as plentiful a supply as usual in Oregon potato counties. Recent feeding trials indicate potatoes are economical to feed up to prices of \$8 to \$10 a ton when hay is around \$25 and grain around \$50 a ton.

### Animal Diseases Talled By State

Hog cholera and infectious keratitis were the two diseases which hit Oregon livestock the hardest in August, according to the current report of communicable diseases compiled by the state department of agriculture.

Infectious keratitis, the pink eye disease of livestock, topped the list with more than 200 cases reported. The department's animal industry officials point out that this is not an unusual number of infectious keratitis cases, because the disease is at its peak during the fall months.

Second disease in number of cases reported in August was ovine ecthyma; 140 cases of this were reported. Hog cholera was in third place with 130 cases, all of which resulted in death.

### Rancher's Report

By BILL DECKER

This year we will see a change in the marketing of the grass-fat steers and heifers coming off our range. Up until now any of the young stock which did not meet the requirements for USDA Good were stamped Commercial and relegated to just such outlets. With the new Standard grade, which young cattle will be marked if they do not show enough finish to make Good, a great deal of lean, tender beef will be available at reasonable prices.

Consumers have shown their preference for lean meat in the past and perhaps the introduction of this new grade will prove to be a factor in raising the per capita consumption of beef. A little publicity regarding the fact that lean beef contains more nourishment, pound for pound, than fatty beef, and a program designed to educate the public as to how leaner cuts should be prepared, may result in making Standard carcasses popular.

A report from the Department of Agriculture shows that Oregon's dairy farms have continued in their downward trend in milk production. Nationally the production is higher than it was last year, but in this state the output for September was three per cent below what it was for the same period a year ago. It was the lowest September record since 1932, the report said. This is in keeping with a pattern which has shown up over the past several years and most of the western states have switched from exporters of dairy products to importers.

With the rodeo season drawing rapidly to a close there seems to be little doubt that Jim Shoulders will wind up with the bareback and bullriding crowns as well as the all around championship. The only question is: will he be able to crack the \$50,000 mark. No one ever has, and it begins to look as if he will fall short of the goal if he does not step up his winnings. The race for the bull-dogging title is still the closest one of this season. Harley May, Benny Combs, Wayne Dunafon and Willard Combs are involved in a four way race for the top prize for steer wrestling. May is still on top and the rest follow in the order that their names were listed above.

Deb Copenhagen stands high in the saddle bronc contest and Ray Wharton is top man in calf roping.

The USDA reports that beef production per cow is up 38 per cent from what it was 30 years ago. In 1924 each cow produced 539 pounds live weight of cattle and calves. This was 148 pounds more than the average for 1924.

The explanation for this increase is to be found in the factors of better animals, more care; better feeding, a higher calf crop percentage, reduced death losses, a swing to better types and greater attention to characteristics in the genetic history of breeding cattle.

Average US carcass weight at slaughter has risen from 474 pounds in the 1920-24 period to 511 in 1950-54. In 1924 only 25 per cent of all cows were of beef type as compared with about 50 per cent today.

The Oregon Potato Commission reports that last year this country produced 227 million hundred-weight of potatoes, or 387 million bushels. This year the crop is greater by some 15 to 16 million hundredweight and we have about 242 million hundredweight, or 403 million bushels. Normal consumption, the report states, is around 210 million hundredweight or 350 million bushels per year. Therefore, the commission warily has a surplus which could ruin the potato market. It is up to the individual grower to divert a portion of his crop to either livestock feed or starch to avoid a marketing catastrophe.

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