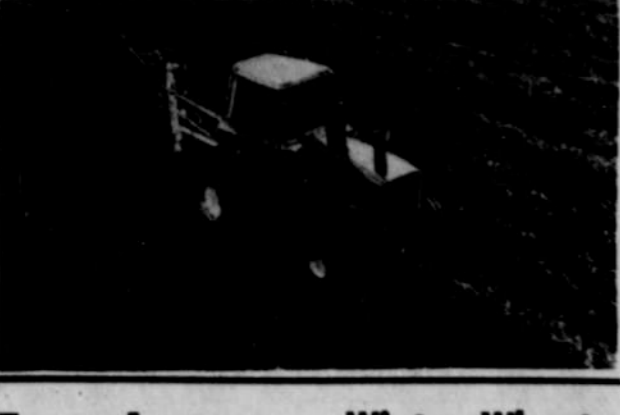


AGRI-BUSINESS NEWS



Farm Loan Size Raised

Larger size farmers are now eligible for Small Business Administration loans with the increase in size standard to \$1 million annual volume, according to Boise District SBA Director Oliver Davis.

Formerly, farmers, ranchers and livestock producers with annual volumes over \$275,000 were not eligible for SBA guarantees on lending institution financing, Davis said. This had the effect of excluding a great many agricultural operators from the lending programs of SBA.

The new volume standard of \$1 million average over the past three years was established at the urgent request of farm organizations and agricultural experts. It opens the door for reconsideration by banks and SBA for added farm financing, Davis pointed out.

The drought, combined with unsettled conditions in both crop and livestock markets, has made it extremely difficult for many farm operators to secure needed and expanded financing, Davis said. This size ceiling not only bolsters credit for bank financing, but it expands SBA ability to help with direct, low-interest economic injury loans due to the drought. These were previously confined to smaller farm operations.

SBA can share the risk of loans to farmers, ranchers, and livestockmen as well as other small business people by guaranteeing to the lender up to 90% of the full amount of loans made to eligible borrowers, Davis explained. This simply means that lenders may be able to make needed loans to small business people who otherwise would be excluded because of credit factors, loan terms, collateral, or other loan considerations.

In addition, Davis emphasized, SBA can provide interim working capital funding to help offset the economic injury effects of the drought or other declared disasters, provided the business person can assure repayment. These are direct loans at long term, low interest, he said, for drought relief only and cannot be used for growth or expansion.

Small Business Administration loan programs for southern Idaho and eastern Oregon are handled from the Boise Office, Davis said, information is available from local banks, or by contacting the Boise Office at 1005 Main, Box 2618, Boise 83701.

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Winter Wheat Survey Released

Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service's July 1 survey of winter wheat now places the crop at 41.0 million bushels, 27 percent below last year. Harvest is underway in the lower elevations of the Columbia River counties. In western Oregon, winter wheat is developing well, but more sunshine is needed. Spring wheat production is placed at 2.4 million bushels, 42 percent below last year. Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at 2,044 million bushels, 5 percent less than last year's record crop.

The Oregon barley crop is placed at 7.9 million bushels, 8 percent larger than last year. Acreage is 13 percent larger. Harvested yield is estimated at 44 bushels, 2 less than last year. The U.S. barley crop is forecast at 396 million bushels, 5 percent more than last year.

Other Oregon field crops indicate corn production for grain at 935,000 bushels, 6 percent less than last year; oat production at 4.5 million bushels, 8 percent above last year; rye production at 250,000 bushels, 11 percent above last year. Nationally, corn for grain production is set at a record 6,331 million bushels, 2 percent above last year; the Nation's oat crop is placed at 707 million bushels, 26 percent more than last year and U.S. rye production is forecast at 17.8 million bushels, 7 percent more than 1976.

Team Reports on Soviet Wheat Crop

U.S. Winter Grain team reports on Soviet crop--USDA's winter grain team returned from Russia this week with the report that weather will be the major factor in determining whether the 1977 winter wheat yields in areas visited will exceed those of last year. The three-man team spent 19 days touring Soviet winter wheat regions subject to the most variability. These areas account for 25-30% of the total Soviet crop, and the team observed that production could be up 10-15%, depending on weather, because of expanded acreage and increased yields. Soviet policy, they said, was directed towards increased area and yields, and also gluten content, by means of economic incentives.

Good weather and seeding conditions favored the Soviet winter wheat crop last fall, and a favorable winter resulted in very little winter-kill. However, the team reported that rain and cool temperatures which began in May have persisted, and both yields and crop quality will suffer if these conditions continue. Leaf rust and mildew were common observations, and the team indicated that wind and rains had caused severe lodging in all winter and spring small grains. USDA forecast 1977 Soviet wheat production earlier this month at 105 million metric tons (compared to 95 MMT last year). A second estimate will be issued July 8.



THE COMBINES are beginning to roll again as the grain harvest in the Treasure Valley is underway. Early reports of the harvest indicate erratic yields some as high as 150 bushels per acre and others so low they are hardly worth harvesting.

Brand Recording Period Changed

Owners of livestock brands in Oregon will receive notification of a new recording period for their brands early this fall.

The notice that will be mailed, says Wilma Russell, assistant administrator of the Livestock Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture, is the result of the passage of House Bill 2767 by the 1977 Legislature.

The bill, which had an emergency clause, changes the rerecording period for livestock brands from every five years to every two years, with the rerecording period starting September 1, of every uneven year and ending January 1 of the following even year. The rerecording fee of \$10 per location was unchanged.

The September 1, 1977-January 1, 1978 rerecording period will be the first one under the new law. The notices informing brand owners of the change in registration dates are now being prepared by the department.

Need for Acreage Reports Explained

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has asked farmers to report 1977 wheat and feed grain acreages. Russell Fulleton, Chairman of the Malheur County ASC Committee, explained the reason for this request and the significance of the report.

Under proposed farm legislation, reported by Senate and House Agriculture Committees, and effective for 1978 and succeeding crop years, the Secretary would have authority to require a set-aside of cropland as a condition of eligibility for program benefits, if the supply situation for a program crop warrants it. "In the event a set-aside is deemed necessary for any program crop in 1978, the proposed bills provide that the amount of set-aside may be based upon either 1978 or 1977 plantings," Fulleton said. "Because of these alternatives, it is important that farmers who are interested in participating in future programs voluntarily report their acreages, so that the Secretary of Agriculture would have both options available if a set-aside decision is made," he explained.

However, farmers are urged not to plant additional

program crop acreage this year solely in anticipation of additional benefits which may be gained under proposed legislation in 1978 and subsequent years. Under both farm bills, 1977 crop acreages would have no effect on the 1978 program acreages eligible for target price guarantees and disaster program protection.

Fulleton pointed out that the acreage report is not a precedent because in prior years crop acreages have been reported which had no effect on program participation. Farmers have been reporting acreages of upland cotton, peanuts, rice, and tobacco. "We're encouraging a voluntary response to also obtain acreages involving wheat, corn, grain sorghum, and barley."

Crop acreages in Malheur County should be reported before harvest begins. Farmers who have harvested their crops can still report the acreage as long as there is evidence of the crop in the form of residue.

"If there were a set-aside based on 1977 plantings for one of the crops in 1978 and we had no report," Fulleton said, "we would have no crop acreage on which to base the set-aside, and this could hamper the farmer's ability to participate in a program."

First class mail will be used for these notices. The department reminds that, despite the use of first class mail there is no guarantee they will be delivered if a brand owner's address has changed, either as the result of having moved or of changes made by the post office.

Those who have had address changes are being urged to immediately send their new address to the Livestock Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Building, Salem, OR 97310.

Oregon has approximately 14,000 owners of livestock brands, some of whom have more than one brand registered. The total number of brands registered is over 17,500.

US Position On Wheat Presented

The U. S. Government's position on a new International Wheat Agreement was presented this week at sessions of the International Wheat Council in London. The current agreement, which has been extended three times since taking effect in 1971, will expire June 30, 1978.

Moderation of price swings reduction of trade barriers and improved world food security were the major objectives outlined by Brice Meeker, leader of the U.S. delegation. He said that U.S. believed that both major exporting and importing nations should be involved in any world grain reserve system, and he indicated that the U.S. was prepared to accept price rather than supply triggers as the governing mechanism for reserve stocks. Another basic U.S. position calls for nations participating in a new IWA to agree to share the burden of shortage and oversupply conditions through production and consumption adjustments. The U.S. will offer a more detailed statement of its position at forthcoming meetings scheduled for September. U.S. wheat producer advisors to IWC sessions were Don Woodward, NAWG Trade Affairs Representative Gene Vickers, Western Wheat Associates; and Mike Hall, Great Plains Wheat.

As soon as the small heads begin to form (when they are about the size of a quarter), tie the wrapper leaves around the head.

"Tying the leaves will keep the head white and tender," says Hatch.

It's also time for a second planting of cauliflower, which will be ready to harvest in mid-September. Summer plantings require more vigilance in keeping the seedbed moist, but the cauliflower will germinate much faster than it did in early spring.

The snowball varieties (strains XYM) and snow crown are recommended.

Congressman Bergland Cites Possibility of Set-Aside

Bergland cites possible 1978 wheat set-aside--Ten to 20 percent of 1978 planted acreage is the amount of set-aside that might be sought by the USDA, according to remarks this week by Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland, but the Secretary needs the 1978 crop authority provided in new farm legislation before taking action.

Bergland has continually indicated displeasure over the level of wheat prices, and a set-aside program is one of the alternatives under consideration within USDA to achieve price improvement. However, unless new program authority is adopted by Congress before the month-long August recess, a decision to implement a 1978 crop set-aside will have to wait.

This means that many farmers could likely not have the program signals they need before making crop decisions. If House-Senate conference sessions on the new farm bill produce legislation that President Carter will sign, then Bergland could decide that he had enough to go on to announce set-aside intentions before the bill reaches the President's desk. Still, passage of farm legislation before the Congressional break would provide the best set of circumstances for wheat producers and Government planners alike.

Dairymen Tour Planned

All Malheur County dairymen are urged to attend the annual dairy tour planned for July 28, 10 a.m. at Bountiful Farms, near Nyssa, according to Ray Novotny, county agent. David Dalling, a relatively new dairyman has many new concepts in the business and this offers an outstanding stop, Novotny emphasized.

The group will then visit the David Wynn dairy - observe how he uses the Harvester feed system. The agent stated, this stop offers many new innovations in the dairy business.

The noon-time potluck will find the dairymen at the Laan and Martin, Adrian Dairy operation where "challenge" feeding and haylage will be highlighted.

Dairymen are to bring covered dishes and eating utensils with a "family style" potluck planned - Novotny emphasized.

The final stop will take place, according to the agent, at the Arlee Sipes, 150 cow dairy - where the milking parlor (eight to side) feeding and management will all be discussed.

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G-78x15	\$42 ⁴²	\$2 ⁷⁹
D-78x14	\$37 ⁰⁰	\$2 ²⁷
H-78x15	\$44 ²⁴	\$2 ⁹⁶
E-78x14	\$38 ⁰²	\$2 ⁴¹
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F-78x14	\$40 ⁶³	\$2 ⁵⁴
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BECKY SISSON, daughter of the Stanley Sissons of Nyssa appears to be checking over the premium books for the 1977 Malheur County Fair to see where her entries should go. Becky is the granddaughter of Mrs. Mildred Sisson of Nyssa and the Russel Girvins of Vale.

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