

farmers today that they have less than one month to sign up for the Reduced Acreage Program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By taking advantage of the acreage reduction program for wheat, feed grains, rice and upland cotton, farmers will know what the minimum return

for their products will be

Acreage Program

WASHINGTON - Senator

reminded

Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture

Committee,

later this year, Helms said. "The signup period for the acreage reduction program expires April 16. I would caution farmers that it will be very difficult for Congress to be able to open up benefits later this year for those who do not take advantage of these programs. Given the size of budget deficits and the fiscal austerity we all must. abide by, farmers must not expect Congress to provide additional benefits," Helms said.

The North Carolina Senator said that a co modity producer can lock in a loan at a level specified by the 1981 Farm Bill and qualify for deficiency payments, as well. Farmers can also put their grain in the farmer-held reserve and immediately receive a payment of 261/2 cents per bushel for the first year's storage. The grain can remain in the reserve for three years or until market prices reach the reserve trigger level. Farmers can also collect storage payments of 261/2 cents per bushel for the second and third year.

"The current economic situation in American agriculture is deeply disturbing. Not only are farmers facing problems brought about by overproduction, they are still paying for the devastating effects of the 1980 grain embargo to the Soviet Union combined with inflation and interest rates. The programs offered by the Administration provide protection for farmers and remain within the budgetary restraints necessary to bring Federal spending under control, he added.

Helms noted that large inventories of grain are already on hand and that

rain in producing regions has been ample this spring, which could lead to another very large harvest. He said participation in the reduced acreage program should reduce the size of this year's harvest and therefore stimulate prices received... "It is vital that every

"It is vital that every farmer who can see his way to participate this year should do so," the Agriculture Committee chairman said.

"Secretary Block has done the very best he can in designing a workable program within the censtraints established in the farm bill. President Reagan has done his part in emphasizing his three-point national agricultural trade policy to strengthen expart markets. Now it is up to farmers to participate the best they can," Helms said.

Weather Service

Residents and visitors to North Carolina can now get information on coastal weather conditions, salt water fishing, upcoming coastal events, ect., by calling 1-800-682-3934. This number will put inquirers in contact with the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce information center in Morehead City. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Chamber Vice Chairman of Tourist Development A. C. Hall reports that the service is not a new idea but rather a reinstatement of the number that was used two years ago. The toll free information line has been dubbed The Crystal Coast Line to associate it with the on going Crystal Coast theme used to identify the Carteret County area. Continued On Page 9-8