

New Acreage Serves Needs, Says Harrill

Ins'te — NEW ACREAGE — Acreage set-aside provisions of the new farm legislation will serve national needs as well as benefit participants in the farm programs, according to Ralph Harrill, County Executive Director for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

By putting cropland into conservation uses, farmers will help prevent production of farm products beyond domestic use and export market needs while at the same time saving good cropland for future use when needed, says Mr. Harrill.

He also pointed out that the U. S. Department of Agriculture has eliminated for 1971 the requirement that set-aside acres must have a certain number of acres within one of the three categories.

These requirements were changed, he said, because many producers have already made their farming plans for 1971 and in some cases have proceeded with land preparation, including fertilization, based on their familiar with previous operation of the programs.

By all producers have made credit arrangements, purchases of machinery, and other financial obligations based on prior program regulations regarding land set aside from production. Under these circumstances, enforcement of the new regulations for 1971 would have created an undue hardship on many U. S. producers.

Harrill said that while the set-aside land need not have been in crop production during the last three years, it is required that the acreage have a production potential equal to the average productivity of the farm. ASC county committees, he said, have the responsibility for seeing that this requirement is met by farmers participating in the wheat, feed grain, and cotton programs for 1971.

Many practices and uses approved for the set-aside acreage and the conserving base remain basically the same as in recent years. Eligible uses will continue to include grasses and legumes, green manure crops, small grain cover crops, summer fallow,

wildlife practices, and other conservation practices.

One major change in the uses approved for set-aside acreage permits the planting and grazing of sweet sorghums, except for the five-month prohibited grazing period established by the County AEC Committee. In past years producers were not allowed to use sweet sorghum planted on diverted acreage for grazing at any time of the year.

In line with growing recognition of the need for environmental improvement and pollution abatement, water storage facilities developed in the current year or

fall of the preceding year, and filter strips seeded along a stream or ditch to prevent siltation may qualify under the new rules.

"Producers will still be required to properly maintain their set-aside and conserving base acreage throughout the program year," Mr. Harrill said. He added that this means adequately controlled erosion, insects, weeds, and rodents on land taken out of production to meet farm program requirements.

Harrill reminded farmers that sign-up for the 1971 program for wheat, feed grain, and cotton begins March 1 and continues

Winter Feeding Is Critical For Cattle

Prospects appear bright for a strong demand for North Carolina's over-wintered cattle. The most critical time for producers, however, is the late-winter feeding period coming up.

Sam Buchanan, extension livestock specialist at North Carolina State University, said stocker owners have less than 100 days left in their normal feeding period. "These cattle should be gaining about 1 1/2 pounds a day during this period," he said.

Many of them may not be doing this well. They need supplemental grain or good grain-rich silage to put on this kind of gain. With grain prices high and silage quality down, both due to effects of corn blight last summer, many stockers may be receiving in inadequate diet.

"Stockers shouldn't be on field cleanings at this late date," Buchanan suggested. "If there is anything left in these fields, it is of such poor quality that it is of little if any value to the cattle."

Much the same thing could be said of small grain pasture that has been grazed down to the ground. "Cattle not only will not grow but will actually lose weight under these conditions," Buchanan warned. "The small grain provides good grazing, if it isn't overstocked and over-grazed. If it has been eaten down, about the only thing the cattle are get-

ting is plenty of exercise and a lot of internal parasites."

Poor quality silage will not do the job alone, either, he pointed out. Neither will hay. The silage can be enriched by adding grain. If hay is being fed, it should be supplemented with about five pounds of corn per head per day.

"Even with the high grain prices, it is apparent that stocker operators can well afford to invest a little more in these cattle and get them in top condition for the spring sales," Buchanan said.

He added, "It looks like numbers are going to be down and

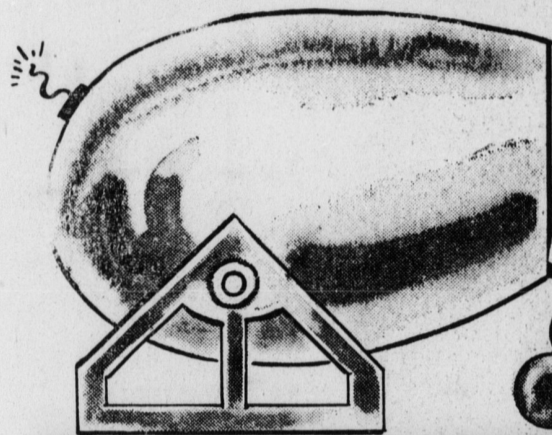
prices at least as strong as last spring." The state-sponsored sales last year averaged \$33.44 per hundredweight.

Farmers with over-wintered calves should consider marketing them through the graded sales, the NCSU specialist believes. To do this, they need to make arrangements with local sales managers or with county extension agents.

The stocker sales schedule is as follows:

April 1 — Rocky Mount; 7 — Clinton; 8 — Mineral Springs; 13 — Canton; 14 — Stateville; 15 — Wilkesboro; and 16 — Greensboro.

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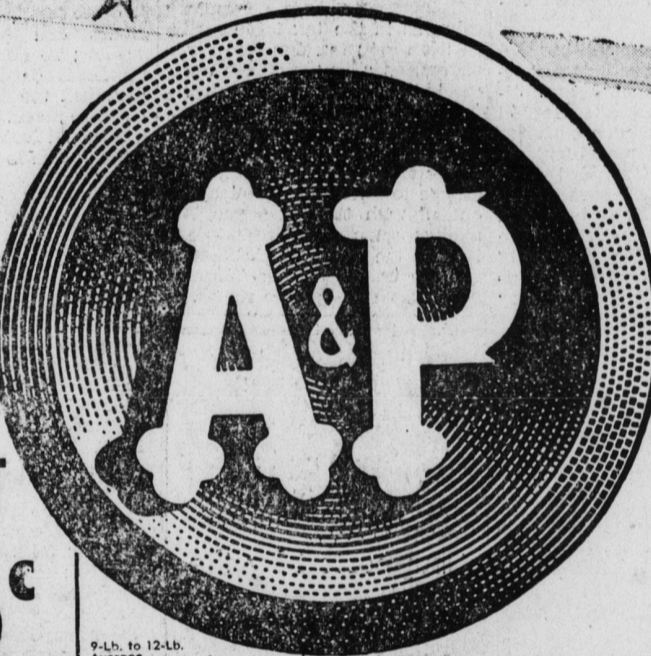
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Portland, Oregon — 1970 revenues of \$560,782,000 and net earnings of \$11,390,000 were announced today by Monford A. Orloff, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Evans Products Company. Net primary earnings of \$1.90 per common share were up from the Company's previously announced 1970 estimate of \$1.80-\$1.85 per share. These results compared with restated 1969 revenues of \$56,210,000 and net earnings of \$16,406,000 or primary earnings of \$2.87 per common share.

Mr. Orloff said that the Company operated efficiently in 1970 and that its results were achieved in spite of difficult conditions. Lagging housing activity during 1970 and low prices of lumber, plywood, and particleboard adversely affected the Company's building products lines. However, revenues and earnings from home building, retail building material sales, and international operations achieved all-time highs. The Homes Group reported increased revenues and earnings for the 25th consecutive year and the Retail Group with 15 new store openings in 1970 and improved operating efficiencies enjoyed increased sales and profits. The Industrial Products Group, despite a prolonged strike at one of its operations, almost equalled its record performance of the prior year.

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