

News From ASCS Office

CERTIFY WHEN PLANTING COMPLETED

Producer certification is required before a producer receives his set-aside program payment. To certify, a farmer comes into the ASCS Office, designates his set-aside acreage on a photocopy of his farm, certifies his conserving base acreage and compliance with other program provisions.

After certification, ASCS begins processing the data for that producer's farm program payment. Also, after certification his farm is subject to spotcheck. Farmers should be sure planting operations which are affected by program provisions are completed before they certify, since no changes can be made after certification. Once planting operations are completed, it is to a producer's advantage to certify as early as possible, since this will help assure receiving payment as early as possible after July 1.

NEW LEVERAGE IN THE MARKETPLACE

Farmers can benefit by looking over new marketing techniques now that farm prices are well above loan levels and CC-owned grain stocks are at near zero levels for the first time in years. This is the message that is now coming through loud and clear from Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz.

At Memphis, Tennessee early in May, the Secretary stated: "We want to give farmers the chance to maximize their muscle in the marketplace." He pointed out that much of the perennial farm problem through the past four decades can be blamed on the fact that government--instead of farmers--has exerted leverage in the marketplace.

"As soon as Government influence in the soybean industry was diminished, soybean production and soybean sales skyrocketed," the Secretary said. "Continuation of Government domination would have killed the American cotton industry and prevented meaningful expansion of soybean production," he said.

The alternative? Muscle in the marketplace by farmers,

the Secretary said. He added that farmers can now contract for future sale of their commodities and carry them under loan until delivery, without loss of loan eligibility. The Secretary also said that Government regulations have been changed to allow this practice. And he added: "This gives farmers greater leverage in taking some of the risk out of price changes, while they maintain control and seek the best terms of sale."

REMINDERS:

Use of DDT and TDE is prohibited on tobacco.

If small grains are to be left on set-aside for reseeding, this should be reported when certifying.

Grazing of set-aside acreage is prohibited between the period of May 1 through October 1, unless prior approval is given by the Chowan County ASC Committee.

Know Your Social Security

By DONALD S. MORRIS
Field Representative

Sixty per cent of adults getting monthly social security payments are women.

Twenty-three million adults are paid social security benefits, and 13.8 million are women. About 6-million women get monthly retirement benefits based on their own social security work records--20 times as many as in 1950.

About half of the women getting retirement checks became eligible on their husbands' earnings records.

A working woman can retire at 62 and get reduced monthly payments on her own record. Or she can wait until she's 65 and get full benefits as well as Medicare coverage.


But if she's entitled to higher benefits as a wife or a widow on her husband's record, she'll be paid the higher amount.

The working woman has both disability and survivors protection from social security. If she becomes severely disabled and cannot work for a year or more, she and her family may be eligible for monthly cash payments from social security. And starting July 1, 1973, workers of any age who've been getting social security disability payments for 2 years or more may be eligible for Medicare.

About 460,000 children get monthly social security payments based on their mother's work records. A child who is entitled to monthly social security payments based on the mother's record can get them even though the child's father may be working at a full-time job.



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