

# FHA Can Finance Housing Developments

The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced start of a conditional commitment program that will permit it to finance small subdivision type housing developments in the nation's small towns.

Previously, the Department's Farmers Home Administration could finance the building of the new homes only on a single-unit-at-a-time basis.

In issuing instructions for the new conditional commit-

ment program, agency Administrator James V. Smith asked housing constructors, developers and other segments of the construction industry to engage in a stepped-up program to upgrade low-and-moderate cost housing in rural communities.

"At long last we can put to work a tool that enables the Farmers Home Administration to deal effectively with the deplorable condition of rural

housing," Mr. Smith said.

"Instead of building new homes on a single-unit-at-a-time basis as in the past, the conditional commitment now makes the building of a dozen modest homes in an area practical," he said.

The conditional commitment does not reserve funds for a loan nor does it provide for construction financing.

The FHA will issue a commitment on each proposed house, but will hold builders to 15 commitments at any one time. The commitment will be effective for 12 months unless extended.

The agency will require builders to submit plans, specifications, proposed selling price and other information relating to proposed construction at the time of application.

The application fee for a commitment on a new house is \$45 and \$35 for rehabilitation of an existing house.

Administrator Smith explained that it is impossible to determine how much new construction will be started in the small rural communities because of the commitment, but pointed out that the agency's housing funds for the current fiscal year stand at \$821 million. It is estimated that about 80,000 housing starts will be made this year, compared to 50,000 in 1969.

He also pointed out that there is a great need for housing in rural areas where only 30 percent of the nation's population lives but more than half of the substandard housing exists.

In 1960, Farmers Home Administration made \$40 million in rural housing loans. By 1968 that figure had increased to \$494 million. Last year that figure reached \$512 million, which provided new or

improved housing for over 57,000 rural families.

In addition to individual housing loans, Farmers Home Administration advances funds to construct housing for migratory farm labor and rental and cooperative housing units. It also manages a program of self-help housing, under which low-income families build new homes under the direction of experienced supervisors.

## School Superintendent Wilson Attends Workshop

Landrum Wilson, local planner of occupational education for Yancey Public Schools will attend a two-day workshop on March 12 and 13 at Waynesville.

A. G. Bullard, Associate State Director of Occupational Education; W. W. McClure, Program Analyst; Robert Williams, Research Associate at the Center for Occupational Education and Fred Bishop, Area Director for Occupational Education will conduct the workshop.

This is one of a series of workshops to be held in each of the State's eight educational districts.

"The main purpose of this workshop," states Bullard, "is to help local planners of occupational education in each administrative unit look at the needs of their students and the needs of the labor market for the next decade as a basis for occupational education decisions."

"During this two-day workshop, local planners will identify occupations where there is a critical shortage of manpower and also emerging occupations in our State's rapidly changing economy," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Craig Phillips.

## Savings Bonds Planning Thrift Education Program

The U.S. Savings Stamp program passes into history on June 30, 1970, but the Treasury Savings Bonds Division will continue to encourage efforts to teach thrift and good citizenship in the classrooms of the schools of the nation.

As he announced the end of the Savings Stamp sales, Secretary of Treasury David M. Kennedy urged youngsters to continue to save through the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds. "There is no better way for young people to save," he said, "than by buying and holding U. S. Savings Bonds."

A select committee of volunteer educators has been plan-

ning a new curriculum approach to pupils from kindergarten all the way through high school. The new program will be more sophisticated in content and oriented toward more in-class teaching.

In the meantime, Secretary Kennedy encourages parents and teachers to stimulate school students to complete their unfilled stamp albums, and exchange them for U. S. Savings Bonds.

The Savings Bonds Division will be counting on its thousands of long-time Stamp Program volunteers to assist in getting the new educational materials into the hands of the classroom teachers.

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**59<sup>c</sup>**  
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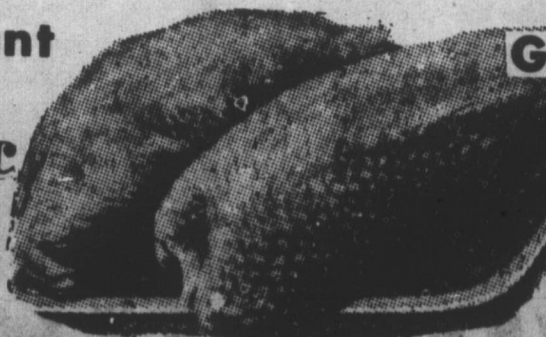


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