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Publications



Congress can control costs without having to forecast the economy.

Farm Production Protection

Legislation has been reintroduced in the 96th Congress that would assist farmers in protecting themselves against loss of production in the event of natural disaster. The bill provides voluntary insurance protection to farmers in all U.S. counties and would ultimately cover all commodities.

The Farm Production Protection Act would bring together under the CCC the four separate and overlapping disaster and insurance plans now in existence in the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the Farmers Home Administration, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Small Business Administration. It is estimated that the average annual cost of the program would be \$632 million, or \$21 million less than the combined average annual cost of present programs.

The Government's role in providing disaster protection for farmers stems from the fact that agriculture is faced with more uncertainties than almost any other sector of the economy. Disaster protection benefits more than just the farmer. It helps to create a more stable agricultural community since it enables farmers at least to repay their cash costs in time of trouble.

Under the bill a farmer's premium would be based on the level of protection he selects, the reimbursement rate per bushel or commodity unit he selects, and the risk involved in his operation. The protection offered farmers under the new program is estimated at \$18.3 billion, about three times the current protection available.

Three levels of protection would be offered by the plan—50, 70, and 90 percent of production costs. Premiums would be higher and the Government's share of the premium would decrease, as the level of protection increased.

The insurance would be sold by private insurance agents and at ASCS county offices, with CCC funding. ■

Publications noted in this section may be obtained by writing the sources listed. For publications without addresses, call (202) 447-7255 or write to ESCS Publications Unit, Room 0054, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. All publications are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

The Conquest of Malnutrition, by Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of UNICEF, a UNICEF reprint of an address at the 11th International Congress on Nutrition.

Labouisse discusses the nutrition problems faced by children in developing countries, the need for national and community involvement in dealing with those problems, and the role of UNICEF. For a copy write: United Nations Children's Fund, 866 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

Declining Competition in Food Retailing—An Opportunity for Consumer Food Cooperatives, by Ron Cotterill, ESCS, USDA, AER-348, October 1978.

This report examines evidence for attributing the growth of food cooperatives to declining competition in food retailing. The author finds that there is growing market concentration in the food retailing area and determines the impact of this on prices. He compares the measure of the higher prices with the barriers to market entry faced by food co-ops, and develops evidence which suggests that increased market concentration is encouraging their development.

Household Expenditure Patterns in the United States, by Larry E. Salathe, ESCS, USDA, Technical Bulletin 1603, April 1979.

The impacts of changes in income and household size on food purchases are measured in this study. The findings indicate that food spending rises as income increases, with away-from-home food expenditures rising faster than at-home food expenditures. The study also finds

that at-home food expenditures increase as household size increases while away-from-home food expenditures decrease. More than 70 percent of the average food budget is spent for food for home use.

Family Economics Review, Spring, 1979.

This quarterly publication reports on research on economic aspects of family living. This issue focuses on energy and textiles, the 1979 food price outlook, and various housing-related topics—including the outlook for 1979, Farmers Home Administration programs, and rural housing. For a copy, write: Family Economics Research Group, Science and Education Administration, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

Do Food Stamp and Other Customers Buy the Same Products in the Supermarkets? by Paul Nelson, ESCS, USDA, AER-421.

This study compares food purchases by food stamp and all other customers, including those eligible for, but not using food stamps. All customers allocated similar proportions of their food dollar among the various food groups, and they bought more meat, poultry and fish than recommended by USDA's Thrifty Food Plan. Neither the food stamp consumers nor the others bought foods providing the best possible nutrition for each dollar spent.

Statistics on Cotton and Related Data, 1960-78, compiled by Mildred V. Jones, ESCS, USDA, SB-617.

This publication provides extensive statistics on cotton and other fibers for the years 1960-78. It serves as a statistical handbook to the Cotton and Wool Situation which is published quarterly by ESCS and provides more current data.

Consequences of Dairy Price Support Policy, by James Vertress and Peter

Emerson, Congressional Budget Office, March 1979.

This study describes major Government regulations affecting milk pricing, reviews the historical consequences of milk pricing policy, and examines alternative future levels of price support. In addition, it discusses the trade-offs among dairy farmers, consumers, and taxpayers involved in different levels of price support. Copies are for sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Problems in Preventing the Marketing of Raw Meat and Poultry Containing Illegal Residues, General Accounting Office, HRD 79-10.

This report examines Federal efforts to protect consumers from raw meat and poultry containing illegal residues of animal drugs, pesticides, and environmental contaminants, and finds that Federal efforts have not been effective. It gives recommendations for USDA and the Food and Drug Administration to improve their procedures and for Congressional action to provide more effective enforcement mechanisms. Available from U.S. General Accounting Office, Distribution Section, Room 1418, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20548 or call (202) 275-6241.

Food Safety Policy: Scientific and Societal Considerations, Part 2 of a Study by the Committee for a Study on Saccharin and Food Safety Policy, National Academy of Sciences, NTIS#PB292-069.

Prepared under the requirements of the Saccharin Study and Labeling Act, this report provides a structure in which to develop a national food safety policy. It recommends development of a single policy for all foods and food additives and contaminants, and it advocates giving policymakers flexibility so that they can look at the individual risks and benefits of each substance they consider. In addition, they recommend that policymakers be able to choose from options other than to ban or not to ban and that

materials being considered be labeled as low, moderate, or high risk. Copies are for sale by the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161 (Attention: Order Dept.).

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and children (WIC)—How It Can Work Better, Government Accounting Office, CED 79-55, February 27, 1979.

Many local WIC programs provide needed health services and operate as adjuncts to good health care, but this GAO report finds that some programs are not working effectively. The report lists the problems and makes recommendations for stronger legislation and better administration. For a copy, write U.S. General Accounting Office, Distribution Section, Room 1518, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20548 or call (202) 275-6241.

National Consumer Buying Alert, White House, Office of the Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs, April 1979.

This new monthly publication is a guide for consumers. It provides information about marketplace trends and conditions for food, energy, housing, and health care. In addition, it attempts to identify the factors causing price fluctuations and informs consumers of means to control their rising expenses by selective purchasing. For a copy, write: Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

FAO Commodity Review and Outlook: 1977-1979, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1979, P-70, ISBN 92-5-100731-4.

This publication provides an overview of the world commodity market situation in 1977 and 1978 and discusses trade and other policy issues. In addition, it provides situation and outlook information by commodity, and includes a special section on the world oilseeds and oils economy. To purchase a copy write UNIPUB, P.O. Box 433, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10016.

To order the following working Papers, write: Food System Research Group, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 905 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Recent Developments in Agricultural Law, Dale C. Dahl, March, 1979, WP-26.

This report reviews recent and possible future developments in agricultural law which is divided into five categories: 1) agricultural resource use and planning; 2) agricultural business and estate planning; 3) antitrust and market regulation; 4) food protection programs; and 5) traditional agricultural policy, and agricultural taxation and planning. It also provides a summary of State law developments.

Federal Milk Marketing Orders, by Willard F. Mueller, February, 1979, WP-28.

Federal milk orders establish minimum prices to be paid by processors for milk purchased from producers and regulates other terms under which grade A milk is marketed. The author discusses the cost of these marketing orders and finds that the welfare losses resulting from them are modest compared with the average for all regulated and unregulated industries.

Competition and the Role of the Largest Firms in the U.S. Food and Tobacco Industries, by John M. Connor, February, 1979, WP-29.

The major features of the industrial organization of food and tobacco processing in the United States are discussed in this report. Information is provided on structural characteristics as well as on several behavioral dimensions. The report focuses on the roles played by the largest food and tobacco manufacturers. The findings indicate that concentration, merger activity, firm diversification, product differentiation, and profitability are all increasing in the food and tobacco industries and that, on the average, wholesale food prices are higher as a result.