

New computer system can locate federal assistance for rural areas

WASHINGTON—A computer system that can locate the federal assistance available for a rural community will soon be nationwide, use, Secretary of Agriculture Earl B. Butts has announced.

Called the Federal Assistance Program Retrieval System (FAPRS), it can scan a data bank of more than 500 federal assistance programs and print out a list of those which are applicable to a community. The service

was developed cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) also has developed a similar system for urban areas.

No knowledge of computers is required to use the system. The user simply enters the name of the community and the need for which help is sought. Thereafter, the computer will locate the information and print out the available program. The process takes from five to 15 minutes and costs from \$1 to \$4 per run. This cost may be charged to the applicant at the discretion of the agency through the FAPRS service.

Forestry Incentive Program funded

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced \$197 million for the Forestry Incentive Program (FIP) at the \$15 million level authorized by Congress. The FIP is a continuing program designed to increase the production of timber products on small private timber tracts.

In its third year of operation, FIP will again be available to most states in specifically-designated counties with high resource potential for increased timber production. Both annual and long-term agreements will be offered to eligible owners of non-industrial private forest lands. Federal cost-sharing under these agreements will range from 50 to 75 percent of the cost of carrying out tree planting and timber stand improvement practices. All FIP agreements must be based on forest management plans developed by the local forester in cooperation with the landowner.

Ford calls for oversight hearings after explosions

FRANKFORT—Howard P. Hunt, State Chairman of the Kentucky Democratic Party, reiterated at the regular meeting of the Democratic State Central Executive Committee here recently that Congressional District Committee members with the delegate selection will be available in operation. Programs used on the computer printout are keyed to code numbers listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. But only those listed in conjunction with the program, an individual may identify programs of specific interest and learn how to apply for assistance. Local representatives of the Extension Service or the Farmers Home Administration can often assist in this process.

The availability of federal assistance will continue to depend on program funding levels and priorities among eligible applicants.

USDA officials expect that a new system and its capabilities of providing quick information on a wider range of federal programs will be available in the rural development effort. In the past, the lack of resources needed to

Demco workshops scheduled to explain delegate selection

Sen. Wendell Ford has seconded the call for a Congressional investigation into a pair of coal mine explosion last week at Owen Fork, Ky., urging that it be followed by Senate oversight hearings on the 1969 Coal Mine Health and Safety Act.

In remarks on the Senate floor, Ford pointed out that no formal oversight hearings have been held since 1972 on the legislation which established a federal health and safety regulations for coal mines.

"I have suggested that the investigation called for over the week of the Williams of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee (Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. D-N.J.), serve as a prelude to thorough and careful oversight hearings," Ford said. "It is imperative that Congress determine if the intent of this legislation is being fulfilled."

Ford told the Senate that last week's disaster which claimed 28 lives was the worst in the United States since one at Hyden, Ky., claimed 38 lives in 1970. The scope of this tragedy points out again that no profession poses greater risk to human safety and health than that of deep mining," Ford said. "The grim memories of what has occurred must not fade from either our hearts or minds. Rather, they should serve as a constant reminder to us in the Congress that we must continue to work to make certain our responsibility to legislate the highest mine health and safety standards unless notified by the industry."

Applications are now being accepted by the Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund for medical students entering school this fall, according to its chairman, G.I. Simpson, M.D.

The fund was created in 1946 as a means of providing a better distribution of physicians in rural areas of Kentucky and now has about 200 physicians in practice in 87 Kentucky counties, with 27 serving in critical counties. Since its beginning, the fund has loaned over 1 1/2 million dollars. Loans are available to residents of Kentucky who have attended one of the two accredited medical schools in the state. A student may borrow up to \$3,000 providing he will agree to practice in any of the over 100 rural counties of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Students interested in obtaining more information about the Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund Loan program should write to: Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund, Kentucky Medical Association, 3322 Ekman McDowell Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40201, prior to April 1, 1978.

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THE CARLISLE (KY.) MERCURY, THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1978

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By Sullivan and Wadams

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Consumer comment

By Robert F. Stephens

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