

Farmers to receive deficiency payments

Deadline nears for farm program sign-up

Although it hasn't been highly publicized, there is a 1984 federal feed grain program and the deadline for signing up for the program is Friday, Feb. 24.

According to ASCS Director Craig Hughes, this year's sign-up date is extremely early and is catching many farmers unaware of the program's potential and the deadline for sign-up. Usually the sign-up deadline for farm programs is some time during the middle of March.

The 1984 feed grain program is more of a traditional federal farm program, built around deficiency payments. There will be no paid diversion and no advance deficiency payment, but Hughes believes that the program can still be very beneficial to farmers.

"The whole key to the program is if

a farmer can live with planting 90 percent or less of his corn base," said Hughes. "If a farmer has to plant more than 90 percent of his corn base because of livestock needs, then the program may not be beneficial to him."

Hughes stressed that farmers should come into the ASCS office by next Friday, regardless of their intentions to sign up, so that the ASCS staff can work through the program formula and explain the program.

Hughes met with about 65 farmers in a meeting Monday night at the ASCS office to explain the program. He said sign-up was very slow up until that point but that interest is now picking up.

Basically the program revolves around a \$3.03 target price, a \$2.55 loan rate for 1984 and a maximum

potential deficiency payment of \$48 per bushel. The program is tied to the Commodity Credit Corporation and farmers can't put corn under loan (seal corn) with CCC unless they participate in the 1984 program.

The 48-cent deficiency payment is derived by subtracting the loan rate (\$2.55) from the target price (\$3.03). If the national average market price for corn is above the \$2.55 loan rate from Oct. 1, 1984 through Feb. 28, 1985, the deficiency payment of 48 cents will be decreased accordingly.

A farmer's total deficiency payment would equal the deficiency rate (\$48) times the yield for the farm, times the acres of corn planted. The maximum acres of corn planted on a participating farm is 90 percent or less of the 1984 corn base. If 90 percent of the base is planted to corn, the

required set-aside would be 10 percent of the base. If a lesser amount of the corn base is planted, the required set-aside would be determined by multiplying the acres planted by 11.11 percent.

Hughes said that if a farmer entered the program with a 100-acre base and a 90-bushel yield, the maximum he could plant would be 90 acres. If the farmer planted all 90 acres and earned the full deficiency payment of 48 cents, this total payment would be determined by multiplying the 90 acres, times the 90-bushel yield, times \$48, which would equal \$3,888 or \$388.80 per acre on the 10-acre set-aside.

"I think this program is a good insurance program for farmers," said Hughes. "All indications point to a lot

of corn being planted this summer and prices may not reach the \$3.03 mark. If corn stays above \$3, then farmers are better off not participating. But if prices are depressed, the program will be very beneficial."

Hughes said that the early sign-up date has been especially hard on Monroe County farmers who haven't received approval for disaster loans and don't know what kind of capital they will be working with this spring. He said the early sign-up has also caused problems for farmers buying or renting new land and haven't completed purchase or rental agreements.

He said there is some flexibility written into the program and that those farmers should come in to the

ASCS office and let ASCS personnel help work out any problems.

Hughes said that farmers should also make sure they have filed for 1982 and 1983 crop certification establishing a base for both years. The program is based on a two-year corn base average and farmers have until Feb. 24 to have both years certified.

"I think this program has some definite benefits," said Hughes. "If I didn't, I'd tell farmers to forget about it. It's not a PIK program where 45 percent of the corn ground was idled, but it does provide some insurance. The most important thing for farmers to do is come in to our office by next Friday to check the program out."

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One Section



Only when it thaws

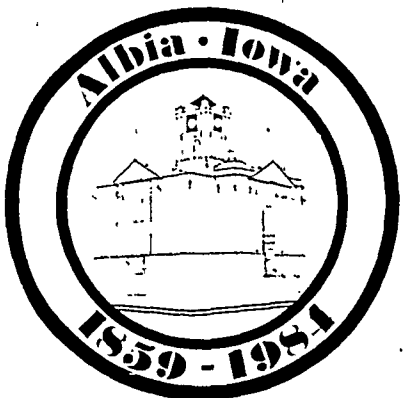
"So YOU try staying clean when the temperature hits 60 in February," a white horse seems to be thinking. Monroe County had a taste of spring this week with sunshine and 60-degree temperatures.

Committee registers logo and slogan

The steering committee of the Albia 125th Anniversary Celebration has registered its logo and slogan with the Monroe County recorder's office.

All persons, businesses or organizations wishing to use the logo and/or slogan during the quasicentennial celebration should obtain permission of the steering committee.

The winning logo was designed by Brent McManus and the slogan was submitted by Marshal Crowell of Adel.



Pride and Progress
at Work

Public hearing set for assessor's budget

A public hearing on the 1984-85 proposed budget for the Monroe County assessor's office will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, in the assessor's office in the Monroe County Courthouse.

The proposed budget calls for an increase in expenditures of \$15,706 over the current budget. Proposed expenditures are \$110,236 and the current budget is \$94,530.

The amount to be raised by taxation is \$91,734 with a taxation rate of \$.48658 per \$1,000 valuation.

In the assessment expense fund, proposed expenditures are: assessor's salary, \$17,400; other personnel, \$20,160; FICA, \$4,276; IPERS, \$3,654; telephone, \$3,000; printing, \$540; equipment maintenance, \$770; insurance, \$7,186; continuing education, \$1,200; legal, \$500; conference board, \$150, and a closing cash balance of \$1,000.

Expenditures in the special appraisers fund are listed at \$51,400 for 1984-85 as opposed to \$29,126 for the current year. The proposed budget lists a closing balance of \$1,500.

Included in the special appraisers budget are deputies salaries, the board of review, mileage and travel,

Ottumwa homes searched—

Sheriff executes search warrants as murder investigation continues

Dennis M. Carr, Monroe County sheriff, said today (Thursday) that the investigation into the murder of Timothy C. Earney, 29, of Albia is continuing.

Carr said that no arrests are planned at this time and all leads in the case are being pursued.

Earney was found dead in his home at 322 N. Eighth St. on Feb. 2 shortly after noon by Dorothy Kempf, a woman who lived with Earney.

On Feb. 4, Carr obtained three search warrants for property of Mrs. Kempf's estranged husband, Harold Kempf, 48, of 317 W. Fifth St. in Ot-

tumwa. Carr later asked for and received a fourth search warrant.

In the applications for the search warrant, officers indicated that they were looking for guns, ammunition and clothing as well as various other items.

In the application for the fourth warrant, officers said they were looking for boxes of cleaning supplies and toilet paper addressed to Kendall School where Mrs. Kempf worked.

According to reports filed Tuesday with the Wapello County clerk of court, items seized included ammunition, clothing, papers, a gun,

cleaning supplies, toilet paper and trash bags.

The Monroe County sheriff's department was assisted in executing the search warrants by the Wapello County sheriff's department, Ottumwa and Albia police and agents of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

James L. Mitchell, superintendent of the Albia Community School District, said that Earney was a school bus driver and also helped deliver hot lunches from Lincoln Middle School to three elementary schools. On the

day of his death, Mitchell said that Earney drove his school bus route in the morning but failed to show up to deliver lunches at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Kempf was employed as a custodian at Kendall School Mitchell said that Mrs. Kempf has not returned to work since Earney's death and that he does not know where she is.

An autopsy on Earney was conducted by Dr. Thomas Bennet, state medical examiner. The autopsy report indicated that Earney died from a gunshot wound.

President's Day to be observed here Monday

Federal, state and county offices and financial institutions will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of President's Day.

Classes in the Albia Community School District will not be held.

The Albia Post Office will not make deliveries Monday. The lobby will be locked and there will be no mail dispatches.

First Iowa State Bank, Peoples National Bank and Trust Co., and First Financial Savings and Loan will be closed Monday.

The Monroe County Courthouse will also be closed.

The Albia City Hall will be open and city employees will not observe the holiday.

Most businesses will be operating on their normal business day schedule.

Cranston's sister uses book on the senator to campaign

By DAVE PAXTON

If you want to know anything about California Senator Alan Cranston, you could go to one of two places: Either to the senator himself or to his older sister, Eleanor Cranston Fowle, author of the book "Alan

Cranston—The Senator from California."

Mrs. Fowle was in Albia Sunday for a noon luncheon and reception at the Rathbun House Restaurant campaigning for her brother. Of the book that was written in 1980 and newly

updated recently, she says it is the first piece she has ever finished writing, although she studied writing in Stanford University.

The book outlines Cranston's life up to his 1980 Senate victory and the update brings the reader to the start of his campaign for president.

Although a career housewife, Mrs. Fowle is no stranger to Democratic politics, having served as women's state chair of the Democratic Party in California, and a member of Cranston's executive campaign committee through the years.

Mrs. Fowle calls the book a handy tool as she campaigns for her brother, although she said when she started writing the book Cranston was not planning to run for president. It took her over six years to write the book.

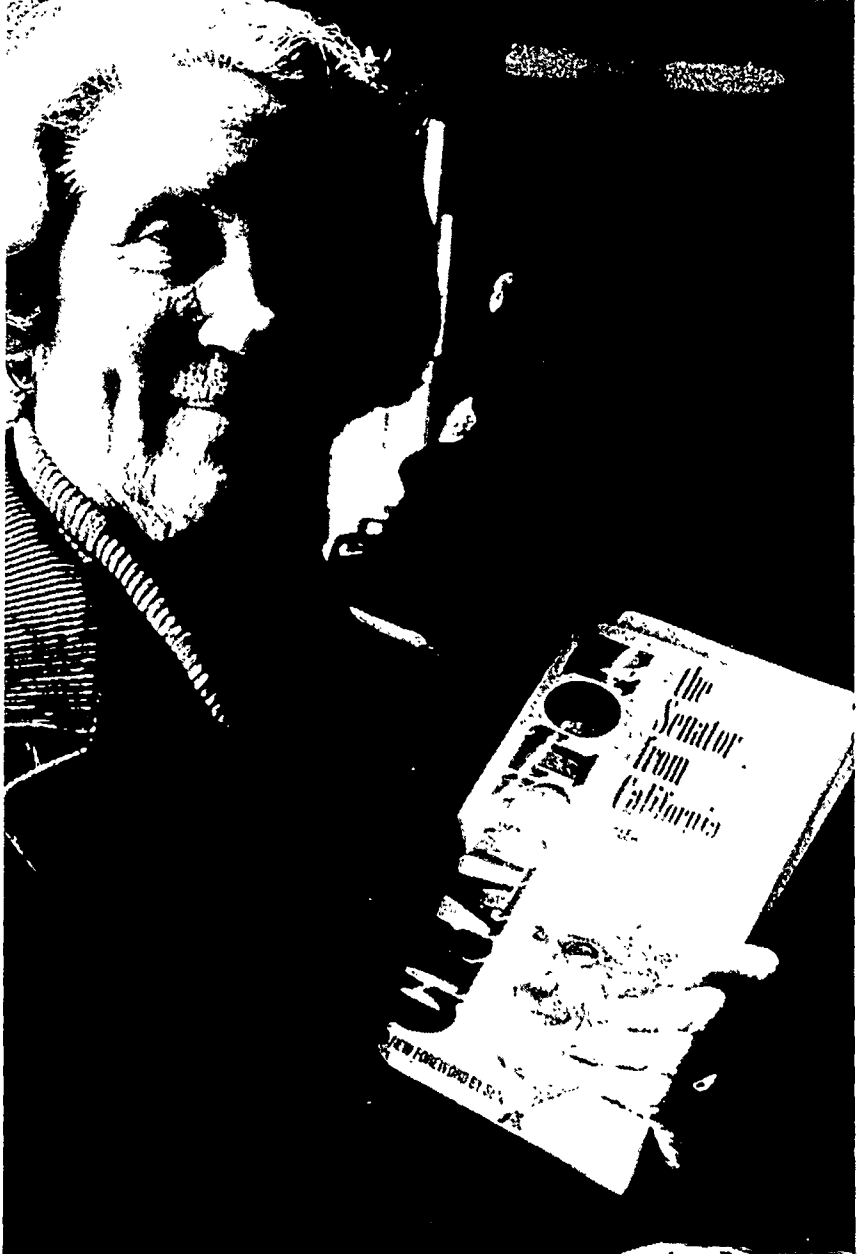
The one thing Mrs. Fowle is not doing is promoting better book sales. In fact, she gives the book away to people she thinks might read it and become convinced of backing her brother. She is working to get her brother into the White House. Notoriety as an author is of secondary importance.

She uses the book as a tool to tell people that Alan Cranston is better qualified for the presidency than the other Democratic candidates. She says the 69-year-old senator has more energy than Jesse Jackson, a champion vote-getter, not tied to special interest groups like Walter Mondale, more experienced than Gary Hart or John Glenn, and the man with the best chance of beating Ronald Reagan next November.

She likes to talk about her brother's successes as a Stanford track star, a foreign correspondent covering pre-WWII Germany and Italy, as a California real estate broker and businessman, as the California state controller and as U.S. Senator.

She says that unlike Mondale, her brother is not promising A to Z. Only A to B. Peace and Jobs. "I feel Alan has the best chance to win the West and his nuclear freeze stance will appeal to progressive states," she said.

"Alan wants this country to be known for its human rights, its sound economic environment, equal opportunities for all and to have America a symbol of peace in the world, not of military might," she said.



Eleanor Cranston Fowle