The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that farmers will take 82 million acres of farmland out of production in 1983 under various acreage reduction programs.

USDA said the programs include the voluntary acreage reduction programs, the paid diversion program, and the payment-in-kind (PIK) program.

The Department said the idled acreage for corn and sorghum totals 39.4 million acres; for barley and oats 2.3 million acres; for rice 1.7 million; for wheat 32.1 million; and for upland cotton 6.1 million acres.

The USDA figures tend to show a much heavier-than-expected participation in the program as USDA was previously expecting that about 23 million acres total would be taken out of production under the PIK program.

Secretary of Agriculture John Block told reporters that the large amount of land taken out of production will continue to help strengthen commodity prices but will have a minimal effect on consumer food prices. Even if the U.S. should experience bad weather this summer, Block said U.S. and world grain supplies are more than sufficient. "We are going to have enough commodities," he told reporters.

Here is Louisiana, farmers will idle 754,472 acres, according to Willie Cooper, State Director of the ASCS Office in Alexandria. The Louisiana idle acreage again includes the three programs under which farmers may take agricultural land out of production.

Cooper said Louisiana rice farmers will lay aside 301,875 acres or 42 percent of the base acreage of rice in the state. Cotton farmers have decided to idle 339,202 acres or 46 percent of their base. The state wheat farmers will take out of production a little over 113,000 acres or about 35 percent of the base. The percentage indicates heavy participation in all of the acreage reduction programs, including PIK.

Traders at the Chicago Board of Trade were confused initially by the PIK sign-up results due to unknowns surrounding the base acreage, but various calculations for planted corn and wheat acreage gradually turned up extremely bullish conclusions.

Part of the confusion was based on USDA lumping together corn and sorghum acreage. Traders had to subtract sorghum acreage which has been underestimated around 16 million.

Cotton brokers initially viewed the cotton figures as neutral. Market sources had estimated that plantings will total about 11.6 million acres, matching expectations. Since the report did not produce any surprises for cotton, it will likely have a neutral short-term impact in the market.

Under the PIK program, which involves giving farmers surplus government-owned commodities in return for leaving land idle, the acreage taken out of production must be devoted to a conservation use.