...istribution and retailing of food are expected to continue to rise this year at high rates. President Ford's energy tariff and tax proposals also are expected to add higher fuel costs throughout the food industry that would be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices, officials say.

The Agriculture Department also reported that prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and wages was unchanged in the latest month.

The parity ratio dropped in the latest month to 72 from a revised figure of 74 at mid-December. The ratio is a favorite indicator of how farmers are faring in relation to the rest of the economy and is derived from a formula that equates the indexes of prices paid and those received and compares them with a 1911-14 base period. According to the parity theory, farmers currently have 73% of their 1911-14 purchasing power.

Prices received by farmers for their principal crops compare as follows

	Jan. 15,'75	Dec. 15,'74	Jan. 15,'74
Wheat, per bu	4.11	4.65	5.29
Rye, per bu	2.50	2.66	2.74
Rice, rough, per cwt	10.30	10.50	15.80
Oats, per bu	1.62	1.70	1.32
Corn, per bu	3.07	3.27	2.59
Barley, per bu	3.17	3.30	2.32
Sorghum grain, per cwt	4.96	5.33	4.03
Hay, baled, per ton	50.10	50.70	47.10
Cotton, per lb	.421	.437	.507
Cottonseed, per ton	128.50	130.00	100.00
Soybeans, per bu	6.30	7.03	5.87
Peanuts, per lb	.175	.186	.166
Flaxseed, per bu	8.63	10.50	9.36
Potatoes, per cwt	3.32	3.45	4.88
Hogs, per cwt	38.20	38.30	40.10
Beef cattle, per cwt	27.60	27.60	44.40
Calves, per cwt	23.90	24.80	53.90
Sheep, per cwt	9.60	8.70	14.20
Lambs, per cwt	36.90	36.10	39.20
Butterfat, per lb	.616	.633	.648
Milk, wholesale, per cwt	8.29	8.23	8.89
Chickens, live, per lb	.242	.219	.209
Turkeys, live, per lb	.318	.313	.354
Eggs, per doz	.510	.518	.589
Wool, per lb	.405	.434	.749

World Wheat Market Is Easing as China Cuts Australian Order

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

NEW YORK – Considerable easing in the world wheat situation became apparent Friday when news from Australia suggested that China trimmed a three-year wheat agreement with that country.

J. P. Cass, chairman of the Australian Wheat Board, said Australian and Chinese officials met in Melbourne last week and set prices on 37.3 million bushels, which were part of a three-year wheat pact agreed on in 1974.

Mr. Cass valued the agreement at $150 million. However, officials from the People's Republic of China didn't exercise an option to buy up to 67.2 million bushels, an exporter said, presumably because they didn't need that much grain.

Earlier last week China canceled a U.S. wheat order of 22.4 million bushels. Russian officials who also placed orders for 37.3 million bushels of Australian wheat in 197- have been talking with Australian Wheat Board officials during the past several weeks. So far there hasn't been any new from the meetings.

Russia has already canceled some wheat orders in the U.S. that called for deliveries before the end of the June 30 crop year. Exporters say the Soviet officials are still conferring with U.S. exporters to cancel more orders or defer shipments until later in the year.

civil suits against the six defendants and a separate civil suit against Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. and the National Sugar Beet Growers Federation, all seeking to prohibit price-fixing.

Vinyl Chloride Firms Lose Appeals Court Ruling on New Curbs

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

NEW YORK – A special federal appeals court panel denied an industry challenge to new stringent government regulations that would limit the exposure of workers to vinyl chloride, a common industrial chemical that has been linked to more than two dozen cases of a rare liver cancer.

In a 22-page decision Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit upheld standards developed by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration that would require companies to hold levels of vinyl chloride to one part vinyl chloride per million parts of air in the atmosphere that workers breathe. Vinyl chloride gas is used primarily in the plastics industry, to make polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, a plastic with wide application in consumer products and in the construction industry.

The OSHA standards had been scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1 but were challenged by the Society of the Plastics Industry and eight companies. The industry contends that the cancer-causing effects of the chemical occurred only when workers were exposed in years past to very high levels of vinyl chloride, and that meeting the stringent one-part-per-million standard is technologically infeasible and too costly. The government has countered that no safe limit for vinyl chloride is known and that meeting the new standard is feasible.

The appeals panel, consisting of retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark and judges Frederick van Pelt Bryan and Kevin T. Duffy, had delayed imposition of the OSHA standards until they could rule on the merits of the industry appeal. In denying the appeal, they ruled that the regulations could go into effect in 60 days.

Ralph L. Harding, president of the Society of the Plastics Industry, declined full comment on the ruling until the SPI and industry lawyers have reviewed it. But he said, "We're shocked at the news and the implication for the industry."

If the industry decides to continue its legal action against the vinyl chloride standards, it can ask the full court of appeals to review the special panel's decision, or it can go to the Supreme Court. "Our subsequent course of action hasn't yet been determined," Mr. Harding said in a statement.

The companies that participated in the appeal are the Hooker Chemical Corp. subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corp., Union Carbide Corp., Air Products & Chemicals Inc., B. F. Goodrich Co., Uniroyal Inc., Dow Chemical Co., Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. and Tenneco Inc. The companies are the major U.S. manufacturers and users of vinyl chloride.

There are about 6,000 workers employed in plants that make vinyl chloride gas or turn it into PVC plastic.

NOTICE TO THE HOLDERS OF MORTGAGE BANK OF COLOMBIA
(Banco Hipotecario de Colombia)
Twenty-Year 7% Sinking Fund Gold Bonds of 1926
(Dated November 1, 1926,
Due November 1, 1946)

Notice is hereby given that United Americas Bank has on deposit certain moneys which it holds in trust for the redemption or other payment of the issue of bonds (cedulas) known as the Mortgage Bank of Colombia's Twenty-Year 7% Sinking Fund Gold Bonds of 1926 and for the payment of coupons or interest on these bonds. These moneys have not been claimed by the holders of such Bonds or coupons and, after February 21, 1975, the balance of such moneys then unclaimed by those entitled thereto will be delivered to the Bank for Agriculture, Industry and Mining (Caja de Credito Agrario, Industrial y Minero), which is the liquidator of and has succeeded to all the rights, duties and liabilities of the Agricultural Mortgage Bank (Banco Agricola Hipotecario), which is the assignee of the interest of Banco de los Andes (formerly known as the Mortgage Bank of Colombia) in the trust fund.

Any holder of such Bonds or coupons should immediately contact UNITED AMERICAS BANK, Corporate Trust Department, 50 Broadway, New York, New York 10004 [telephone (212) 269-9682].

UNITED AMERICAS BANK

Wall Street Journal 2/3/75