

Need For Changes In State's Water Resources Laws Cited

"Pennsylvania needs to modify its laws in allocating water resources," declared an authority on legal studies involving land and water research recently Benjamin V. Dall of the Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources, Penn State University, discussed aspects of water resource management at a training program for the Cooperative Extension Service.

Dall stated that "our present definition of progress is seriously undermined by the economic and legal uncertainties caused by the Riparian Doctrine."

He said "the Riparian Doctrine, in its strictest sense, grants property owners a right to have water flow through their land undiminished in both quantity and quality. Under this doctrine, landowners bordering on a stream have rights to use water, but do not own the water itself," he added.

Dall predicted that the Riparian Doctrine would soon be found inadequate in solving the problems of water rights with respect to domestic water use, public water supply, recreation, and irrigation.

The situation will become critical, he stated, as large numbers of farmers turn more to artificial irrigation of crops especially in dry years.

He recommended that the

problem be approached by integrating scientific knowledge with economic analysis. Such an approach should be stimulated by government at the state level he affirmed.

The Penn Stater said legal and economic questions regarding water resources will become more severe as the population explosion requires greater food production from reduced farm acreage. More and more, he cautioned, the farmer who needs costly irrigation equipment will hesitate to buy when he is not sure of his rights to water.

Dall pointed out that attempts to legislate changes in the Riparian Doctrine will have to pass a test of constitutionality. As an example, the state of North Carolina repealed a statute in 1961 which had set up a procedure for issuing permits to farmers using water for irrigation. Too many problems arose to make the statute workable under all conditions. Dall concluded



SHOWN AT NORTHERN DISTRICT ABC MEETING Thursday night are, from left, retiring director Abner Risser, Bainbridge; new director Clyde W. Martin, East Earl; Elam Bollinger, Manheim, Holstein committeeman; Jesse Balmer, Lititz R4, Guernsey committeeman.

• Northern ABC

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Greiner, Manheim; Henry W. ville, James Martin, Stevens, Martin, Ephrata, Robert and John N Landis, Lancaster, Joan Book, Bareville, Hiram Carl L. Martin, Ephrata; John S Aungst, Elizabethtown, Mel M King, Lancaster; and Paul vin M Groff, Lancaster, John B Zimmerman, Ephrata

M Nissley, and Mervin Nissley, both of Bainbridge.

And, John S Yost, Kinzer; Henry Kettering, Lititz R8; Samuel Dum, East Petersburg; Titus Stoner, Manheim; Willis Martin, New Holland R2; and Red Rose Research Farm, Lancaster.

Flame Control For Alfalfa Weevil

Alfalfa weevils must be controlled if alfalfa is to continue as a forage crop. Flaming is one of the best control methods yet developed, according to Dr. Jack Rowell, entomologist from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, and Dr. Warren Thompson, extension agronomist at the University of Kentucky.

Flaming is cheaper than chemical control which requires two sprays followed by later weed control sprays. One flaming to control both insects and annual weeds costs \$9 per acre, while the chemical controls cost \$11 per acre, according to Rowell.

He told the audience at the agronomy sessions of the University of Delaware's Farm and Home Week that flaming in January or February will control weevils, meadow spittle bug and pea aphids. It also kills such annual weeds as common henbit, german moss, mustard and common chickweed, if it's not too matted. Of course flaming will only kill weeds actually growing at the time, not the weed seeds still unspouted in the ground. Thompson also pointed out that flaming even controls some plant diseases, including black stem.

Alfalfa comes back after flaming in good shape. Thompson and Rowell emphasized. The 2200 degree temperature of the flaming gas moves swiftly enough that the alfalfa crown is undamaged and the plant starts growing in a few days. Flaming must be done while plants are still dormant, but after weevil eggs are laid. Rowell recommended flaming between January 15 and March 1, under Virginia conditions.

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