

## Shuman Says Farmers Want Profit-Oriented Business

"It is time to change agriculture from a subsidy-oriented to a profit-oriented business," Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said recently in his annual address to the 49th annual meeting of the Federation held in Chicago.

The head of the nation's largest general farm organization with a membership of more than 1,700,000 families in 49 states and Puerto Rico, said that government farm control, direct payment and price support programs are being used to hold farm prices down and to force farmers to accept payments in lieu of the full market price.

"Approximately 20 percent of net farm income," he reported, "now comes from direct subsidy payments from the federal treasury and cotton farmers get almost half of their total crop returns from this source."

"American agriculture has been rapidly converted by the Great Society planners and politicians to a subsidy-oriented business. It is time for a change. Farmers want their industry profit-oriented," he said.

The national farm leader said that there is good reason to believe that with proper transitional protection against dumping of government-held commodity stocks and other temporary hazards, government farm programs could be terminated quite rapidly with market gains rather than losses accruing to farmers."

Shuman termed "ridiculous" statements by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman and others that the 1967 surplus grain production and farm

price disaster is a sample of what would happen with a no controls-free market operation in agriculture.

"The wheat and feed grain production binge of 1967 was not a product of the free market, but must be charged to the mistakes of the Administration in promoting an extensive 'feed the hungry world' campaign coupled with rosy price predictions," he said.

"Farmers feel," he added, "with some justification, that they were double crossed. I am confident that producers can, and would, balance production with effective market demand at acceptable prices under a market system. Producers of livestock (which has no government supply-management programs), and soybeans (which generally have sold for more than the support price) have repeatedly demonstrated an ability to operate under a market system."

Shuman pointed out that the disastrous farm price collapse of 1967 occurred with "the costly and complicated farm programs that were supposed to bring prosperity to farmers in full operation" and the programs were being run by an Administration pledged to make them work.

"We are completing the harvest of the largest crop in history, produced at the highest cost on record, and selling at the lowest prices in a decade."

"Those who have been predicting that farmers would drown in a sea of surplus production with depression-level prices, if farm programs were ended, must be embarrassed to discover that this result has

## Ag Teachers Hold Monthly Business Meet

The Lancaster County Agricultural Teachers held their regular monthly meeting at the Pequea Valley High School on Thursday afternoon.

Ivan Yost, Regional Young Farmer vice president, asked that all clubs in the county pay state dues to make the association stronger.

Henry Givler, area director, said 528 county members are paid in the National and State FFA Association.

The local association's budget was discussed and accepted.

## Distribution Of 4-H Shorthorn Calves Set For Today At 1 P.M.

Distribution of Shorthorn calves for members of the Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef and Lamb Club will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Mylin R. Good farm, Manheim R1.

been achieved under the Great Society's supply-management programs. The parity ratio, a measuring stick that tells how farmers are doing, has dropped to 73 percent as compared with 71 percent in 1934 in the depths of the depression," he said.

The Federation president also said that the Administration's policy of holding down market prices and making supplemental payments to farmers as a partial offset to low prices represents a brand of "protectionism" that is jeopardizing America's farm export market.

## Farmers Invited To Management Meetings

Jay W. Irwin, assistant agricultural agent, this week invited farmers to attend a series of three meetings on farm management. The meeting information is as follows:

January 10—"Pennsylvania's Agricultural Electronic Records Program" Information concerning this modern record-keeping system that is easy to learn, inexpensive, flexible and confidential. TIME 8 p.m. PLACE Penn Manor High School Agricultural Dept., Millersville. SPEAKER William Dickinson, Farm Management Extension, Penn State University.

January 11—"Farm Transfer Arrangements" Partnerships & Compatibility - Installation. Sales - Tax Advantages - Con-

porate Farms. TIME 8 p.m. PLACE Farm Credit Building, 411 W. Roseville Road, Lancaster. SPEAKER Fred Hughes, Farm Management Extension, Penn State University.

January 25—"Legal Problems with Wills, Estates and Farm Transfers" Why Plan an Estate? - Death and Gift Taxes - Why Bother with a Will? Time 8 p.m. PLACE Farm Credit Building, 411 W. Roseville Road, Lancaster. SPEAKER Edward Pawlick, Extension Service Attorney, York.

"The number of questions relating to these topics indicated a need for these meetings. We hope you'll attend and feel free to invite any of your friends and neighbors to come with you," Irwin said.

It's not the initial skirt length, it's the up-creep



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