

## Farmers Union Re-Elects Its Top Leaders

Delegates at the 66th national convention of Farmers Union re-elected without opposition the two top officers who have served since 1966.

President Tony T. Dechant of Denver, Colorado, and Vice President Edwin H. Christianson of St. Paul, Minnesota, were re-elected to two-year terms.

President Dechant had served as national secretary-treasurer for 20 years before being elevated to the presidency upon retirement of the long-time head of the "family farm" organization, James G. Patton.

In his annual report to the convention, Dechant had reviewed progress of many of the "target issues" which had been set forth by the 1966 and 1967 conventions.

Among the accomplishments he listed influencing of the 1968 administrative decisions on feed grains and wheat programs, restoration of advance payments in the feed grains program, improvement of the cotton program, and substantial gains in both fluid and manufacturing milk prices.

Other legislation adopted with the support of Farmers Union included extension of the special milk program, strengthening of commodity exchange authority to regulate futures trading, and extension and expansion of the food-stamp plan.

Social legislation, strongly backed by Farmers Union, included the Social Security benefit increase, Truth-in-Lending, and aid to education.

Vice President Christianson has been president of the Minnesota unit of the Farmers Union since 1950 and has served on the national executive committee since 1956, being chairman from 1962 to 1965.

Since 1966, Christianson has been delegated by President De-



CLEANING UP AFTER A BARN FIRE at the Clarence Shultz Farm located just off Route 324 south of Marticville. The barn and livestock were destroyed

late Saturday night and voluntary workmen worked Sunday to bury the animals and clean up the debris. L. F. Photo

chant to coordinate the program of Farmers Union "legislative Fly-Ins" to Washington, D.C. This is a program, launched in 1965, in which tours are arranged so that farm men and women can fly to the national capitol to speak for themselves on farm and economic matters to members of Congress and administration officials.

"This new dimension in lobbying has proved effective in several instances in obtaining the few additional votes in committee or on the floor of Congress to get needed legislation approved," Christianson said.

He announced that two such national legislative Fly-Ins will be held this spring and perhaps more trips in summer as legislative efforts of farm bills come to a head.

Christianson said that a Young Farmers Fly-In for men 18 to 40 years will take place March 31 to April 3, with representation from several states. Besides the major agricultural priorities, such as extension of the 1965 agricultural act, adoption of a national grain reserve and action for farm bargaining, the Young Farmers contingent will also stress provision of special credit program to assist young men to finance and develop adequate farming units, and a revision of the G.I. Education bill of 1967 to make it possible for veterans to use their educational eligibility in farm training.

"A Ladies Fly-In will take place May 5-8 and is expected to bring as many as 500 women from more than 12 states to the capitol," Christianson said.

## PENB Announces May Egg Festival

"It will take more than 21 days of incubation—more nearly a 9-month gestation period, but the SPRINGTIME EGG FESTIVAL will burst forth on May 1," declared Earl Hess, Ephrata, Pa., Chairman of the Poultry & Egg National Board. He said that in keeping with the purpose of PENB "to create a climate for egg sales" and to "stimulate the consumer to buy and use more eggs" this promotion will be aimed at the consumer through the press, radio and television... and also through the retailer.

The retailer approach is a new and different one for PENB and is possible through the excellent working relationship developed with the Food Trades section, Plentiful Foods Division of the Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The SPRINGTIME EGG FESTIVAL, Hess revealed, envisions some 40 to 50 Egg Retail Clinics held in some of the Top 100 Food Markets of the U.S. The "clinic plan" calls for attendance to be limited to 100 people. Some 75-80 of this group will be store or dairy case managers, plus 10-15 egg distributors actually delivering eggs to the stores. The balance will be packers, producers, State Department promotion people and egg and poultry association personnel.

The local Food Trades staff members, who routinely call on food retailers, are taking the lead in developing the local meetings. Area associations and

local promotion-minded producers and packers will be enlisted to assist.

"This is the greatest egg promotion ever conceived on a National basis," declared William "Bill" Owens, Dahlonga, Georgia, PENB 1st Vice Chairman. "We have the opportunity of enlisting the direct help of 150 highly skilled C&MS workers—plus many other talents available in C&MS."

"The timing is also important! The egg producer and the egg packer really needs the help after Easter. This promises to be one of the best examples of Government-Industry cooperation of the century," he said.

Owens added that this type of a promotion could only be done by a strongly state-supported National organization like PENB—and there would be plenty of work for everyone.

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