

Dechant Calls For Action By Congress

The Executive Committee of the Farmers Union is calling for action by the Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in four strongly worded resolutions today.

The national president of the Farmers Union, Tony Dechant,

said "Agricultural Conservation Program funds should be restored to \$220 million a year. The special milk program for children should be restored and extended. The Metcalf-Culver 'tax loss farming' bills should be enacted into law to halt the conversion or ordinary income by non-farmers into capital gains in order to avoid paying taxes. The USDA should publicly explain the limitations on a 'misleading' survey of corporation farming that is being widely publicized to indicate no substantial control of agriculture by corporations."

Dechant said the Farmers Union is alarmed at the proposal of the Nixon Administration to eliminate the ACP program under which farmers carry out conservation practices on a cost-sharing basis. "Understanding of the importance of the ACP to the nation's present and future has been demonstrated by Congressional support on numerous occasions when attempts to cut the program have been rejected," Dechant said. "It is an investment in the future to assure the agricultural productive capacity needed to feed and clothe future generations."

Dechant expressed approval of the House action last week to restore and extend the special milk program for children. He said it is imperative that the Senate do likewise in order to close the "nutritional gap" for the nation's school children.

Dechant said the Farmers Union considers the Administration's proposals to limit tax loss farming to be "completely inadequate." The Metcalf-Culver bills now before the Congress deal with the problem much more directly, he said. He said the Administration proposal will also work a hardship on legitimate farmers when disastrous losses have occurred as a result of such natural causes as floods.

Dechant was especially critical of a study on corporation farming by the USDA. He accused the USDA of rushing into print with its findings even before the survey is complete, and without explaining its limita-

tions. A commentary on the study in the Farmers Union's Washington Newsletter, being distributed today, calls it "sleight of hand" in which the agency attempts to direct the attention of the public to the amount of land being farmed by corporations. Closer to the heart of the question, said the Newsletter, are questions excluded from the study—the impact of corporations on markets, efficiency of operation, and tax shelter advantages used by non-farm interests to avoid paying legitimate taxes.

Wild geese have been clocked flying 60 miles per hour, and planes have observed them at elevations above 29,000 feet.

HUNTERS CHALK UP ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GOBBLER SEASON

Pennsylvania hunters added another chapter of successful outdoor recreation to the history book with their second spring gobbler season in 1969, according to preliminary Game Commission field reports.

The turnout of hunters during the May 3—May 10 season was almost double the response in 1968. The harvest of birds ranged from "higher than 1968" in some areas to "rather disappointing" in other sections.

Sportsmen are finding that techniques used in spring gobbler hunting are considerably different from those used during the fall season.

It is expected that expertise in

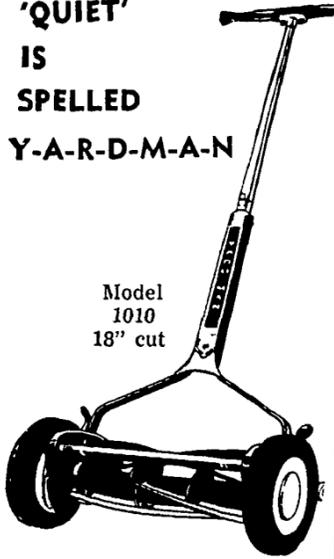
the art of calling birds will be developed as hunters gain experience through spring seasons, and that the success ratio will mount among dyed-in-the-wool turkey hunters.

A number of sportsmen who bugged gobblers during the spring season were able to complete their requirements for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Triple Trophy Award. To be eligible, a hunter must harvest an antlered whitetail deer, a black bear and a wild turkey during a single hunting license year.

A friend says the company where he works needs an air-conditioning system before the boss' kid takes over.

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