

County Farmers

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Farmers' concern is agricultural research—or the lack of it. Act Number 298 of the 1967 General Assembly provides \$400,000 annually from the harness racing funds for agricultural research. This money had been allotted by an agricultural research committee each year for just these purposes.

Then, in 1971, Secretary McHale was fit to change all this. He took charge of such decision making, abandoning the committee. He talked of rural health projects. Then he needed a ruling. Physical exams of rural people, it was concluded, is agricultural research.

That's when McHale released approximately \$90,000 to a rural health program at Coudersport and another \$37,000 for a Green

Thumb employment program. "We are sympathetic with the needs for improved health services and with the attempt to upgrade the lives of the rural elderly," stated Gene McDowell of PFA. "But we feel such programs should continue in more knowledgeable departments such as Health, and Labor and Industry. Why the duplication?"

"Our objection today is the expenditure of agricultural research funds for such purposes."

"Agricultural research is too important to be slashed or compromised. I realize it can seem whimsical at times. Yet a study of why dairy cattle slobber while grazing clover eventually led scientists to new drugs for the treatment of certain respiratory diseases. And research in behavior of hogs has helped medical doctors better understand ulcers of humans."

"And despite the screams

about beef prices today, it has been agricultural research over the years that has made food the best buy in America today. Americans feed their families with only 15.5 per cent of their take-home pay—after taxes. In 1961, we spent 19.8 per cent of our take-home pay for food. In Russia—if I recall correctly—the average citizen spends something like 40 per cent of his take-home pay for groceries. That is if they can even find what they want in the market.

"But, alas, Mr. McHale wishes to change all this."

"Surely \$400,000 won't make all that much difference. It's the principle here."

With H. B. 1343, the size and composition of the committee would be locked in by law. A wide cross section of agriculture opinion would be represented and the end result would be worthy and a vital research project, he said.

Erwin Named to Head U. S. Rural Development Program

William Erwin, Indiana farmer and consultant to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, recently was named Deputy Under-Secretary for Rural Development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz said that Erwin, 46, who

has served in appointive posts under three Presidents, will take office immediately.

Erwin served on President Nixon's Task Force on Rural Development, on President Johnson's Committee on Community Relations and on President Eisenhower's Com-

mittee on Programs and Progress. He has served as special consultant to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for the past year.

Erwin succeeds Henry Ahlgren who resigned last October to return to the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



At what age do you want to retire?

How much monthly income will you need to live the way you want?

How much will social security provide?

Do you intend to sell your farm and reinvest the proceeds?

Or do you want to pass the farm along to your children... free and clear?

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Minnichs Return From Texas

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Minnich returned from Houston, Texas, last week where they attended the 70th annual national convention of the Farmers Union.

More than 2,000 delegates and guests at the farm organization conference heard presidential candidates Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern attack Administration policies for agriculture.

Humphrey charged that "the administration is trying to peddle a phony election year line that these are good times on the farm... the Nixon record on the needs of farmers is one of failure and neglect."

McGovern added, "Someone hasn't been paying attention to the struggle to save the family farm," and said that "the parity ratio has fallen as low as 67 per cent, the lowest since World War II."

While President Nixon was unable to attend, a telegram of greeting from him was read.

Delegates adopted resolutions calling for a new approach to farm policy that would assure parity income for small and medium-sized farms and cut off payments to large corporation farms. The national president of Farmers Union, Tony Dechant, called the plan "a complete turnaround from present policies" and said that it is needed to halt the disappearance of the family farm.

In other convention action, delegates picked Omaha, Nebraska as the site of the 1973 convention and re-elected Dechant as president, and elected E. W. Smith, Jamestown, North Dakota, as vice president.

Pennfield, Ag Teachers Meet

Pennfield Corporation hosted 21 local teachers of agriculture and Henry Givler, area agricultural consultant, at a dinner meeting at Bird-in-Hand Motor Inn this week.

Purpose of the meeting was to share some of the practices important to the farmer and his business, and to become better acquainted in sharing mutual concerns for the farm industry.

Among areas of presentation were veal calf raising practices,

They heard panels on the invasion of farming by off-farm corporations headed by Governors William Guy of North Dakota and David Hall of Oklahoma, and a panel on local taxes headed by Governors Robert Docking of Kansas and Patrick J. Lucey, Wisconsin.

E. G. Marshall, television personality and expert on medical care, addressed the convention banquet on "National Health Insurance—A Must for the American People."

U.S. Senator Gal McGee (D-Wyo.) headed a panel on voter registration and Nebraska Governor J. James Exon spoke on state legislatures.

Agway Names 2 Sales Executives

Two key appointments involving feed and crop sales executives have been announced by Agway, Inc., Syracuse, N.Y.

Marshall W. Backus, feed and crop sales manager for the 12-state cooperative, has been named market information manager, a new post.

Succeeding him is Charles J. Shenot, formerly feed and crop sales manager for Agway's Northern Division with headquarters in New Hartford, N.Y.

In his new assignment, Backus will be responsible for gathering and analyzing market information for use by Agway management in current and long range planning.

manure handling procedures, economics of the feed industry, and the growing and production of eggs and meat birds. Encouragement was offered to the agriculture teachers present to feel free to use Pennfield's facilities when needed in the instruction of students and Young Farmers.

Those present from the Pennfield staff were Robert Gregory, Dr. Tom Coulton, Glenn Herr, Ira Wenger and Gene Bailey.

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