

ASA Selects Officers

USDA Moves Operations West

W. B. Tilson, Plainview, Texas, was elected national president of the American Soybean Association (ASA) at the group's annual meeting last week in Des Moines, Iowa.

In partnership with his two sons-in-law, Tilson farms 1,200 acres including soybeans, grain sorghum, cotton and wheat. He was the first president of the Texas Soybean Association. With his new assignment, he starts his eighth year on the ASA board having previously served as secretary and vice president.

Seymour Johnson, Indianola, Mississippi, moves into Tilson's previous post as vice-president. Johnson formerly served as secretary.

The new national ASA secretary is Dennis Lundsgaard, Cherokee, Iowa, who also represents his home state as a national director. Howard Adler, Sharpville, Indiana, was re-elected ASA treasurer.

During the meeting, the Virginia Soybean Association contributed \$600 to the ASA Market Development Foundation, the non-profit and non-political ASA arm for financing foreign market development activities.

The three-day annual meeting attracted 1,700 soybean growers and industry representatives from 26 states and four foreign countries.

ASA is the national organization that conducts foreign market development, production research and government relations programs for all U. S. soybean growers.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz announced that he and his top staff will move Department of Agriculture office operations to the western United States from August 24 to September 2. Headquarters will be on the University of California campus at Davis, a land-grant institution.

The purposes of USDA-West are: 1) to examine Department of Agriculture programs and activities in the field; 2) report to the people; and 3) to discuss with farmers, consumers, and the general public ways to improve Department of Agriculture services.

"American agriculture is gearing up for a massive increase in production in 1974," Secretary Butz said. "We have set a zero acreage set-aside for next year. We are asking farmers to take on a very heavy production load. The Department is determined to support that effort, and so we are going out into the field to see how we can best serve this need."

Noting that President Abraham Lincoln first referred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the "People's Department," Secretary Butz said that the trip is part of the historic and continuing effort of the Department to "bring its services to all the people."

Enroute to Davis, and throughout the 10-day operation, the USDA top staff will take a firsthand look at agricultural production operations—including areas of recently expanded wheat acreage, cattle feeding operations, and some of the highly specialized crops which are unique to the West. Observations and data gathered will help the Secretary to evaluate 1973 farm production and place 1974 crop prospects in perspective.

Special attention will be paid to agricultural research projects and solutions to environmental problems.

Officials will inspect agricultural research projects that use biological, mechanical, and other methods to supplement or reduce pesticides.

Top Department of Agriculture staff members will also inspect water and sewer systems that are cost-shared or built with USDA funds or loans, and will evaluate community improvement projects funded and assisted by Rural Development programs.

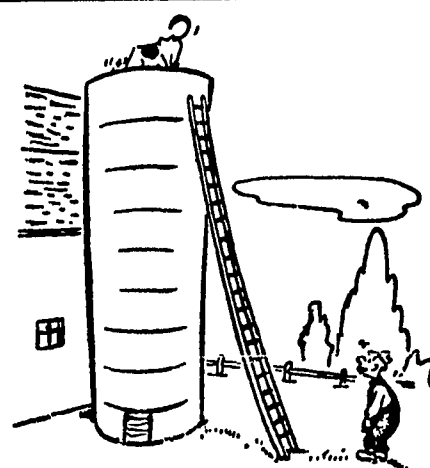
Department officials will visit multiple-use forest operations that safeguard timber resources while providing recreational and other public access. Officials will also meet with people in communities served by rural electric-rural telephone utilities, and will study the success of nutrition improvement programs.

In addition to California, the officials will visit Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

One of the greatest untapped energy sources in the world is the oil shale in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, containing 600 billion barrels of commercially recoverable oil, according to Federal Government estimates. This amount far exceeds all of the proven reserve in the oil-rich Middle East, some geologists say.

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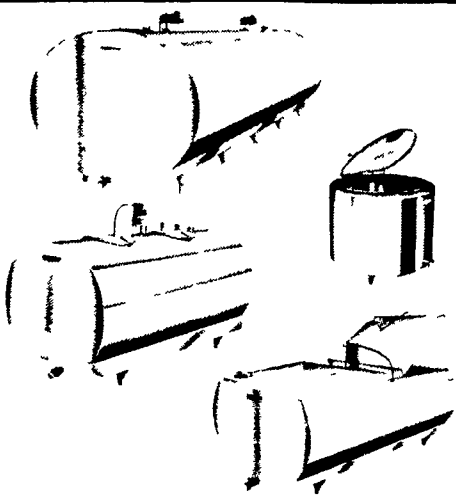
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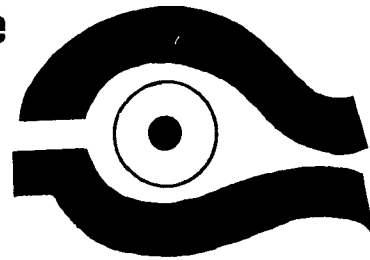


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