

# End Fertilizer Price Controls, PennAg Urges

Alarmed by member reports of fertilizer allocations and prospects of shortages, the directors of PennAg Industries Association have recommended that price controls on fertilizers be eliminated. In letters to the Cost of Living Council and the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation in Washington, PennAg cited two reasons for the recommendations: world demand for food has increased

farm acreage and uncontrolled foreign fertilizer prices are higher than domestic prices.

Farmers are taking their land out of subsidized reserves and putting it back into production. These lands, for the most part, are marginally productive and therefore will need more fertilizer per acre. The reason higher foreign prices have come about is because price controls through the various "phrase"

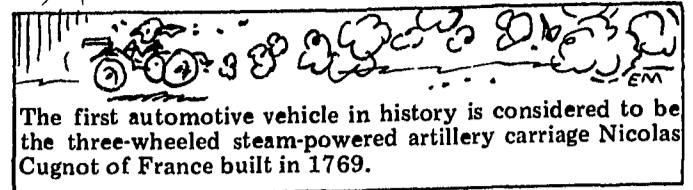
have kept domestic prices at an unrealistic low level, while foreign prices have risen with demand. Because of low prices, virtually no new plant facilities have been built for domestic production in recent years. Fertilizer manufacturers have naturally sold their excess production abroad.

PennAg's recommendation recognizes that prices will rise and there will probably be some short term market confusion. The Board felt, however, that lifting price controls now would be far more advantageous than later when major ingredient movements occur. Export controls, they felt, should only be a last-ditch effort to insure domestic supplies.

PennAg members, a cross section of Pennsylvania agribusinesses which sell to and buy from farmers were urged to encourage their farm customers to test their soil this fall to guard against over fertilization. Early farm delivery has also been urged.

#### Dented Cans

Should you buy dented cans of food? A small dent probably isn't important. If a can is dented severely enough to break the seal—don't buy it. Harold Neigh, Extension consumer marketing specialist at The Pennsylvania State University, says you probably won't find a can with a bulge on the end, but if you do, don't buy it. The food is spoiled. And if you should find one with a bulge in your home storage, don't open it. Just dispose of it rather than risk a mini-type explosion.



The first automotive vehicle in history is considered to be the three-wheeled steam-powered artillery carriage Nicolas Cugnot of France built in 1769.

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