

# Govt., Farmers Discuss Fuel Supply Problems

Representatives of 17 farm groups met in Washington recently with Under Secretary of Agriculture J. Phil Campbell and other officials in the first of a planned series of meetings to explore agriculture's energy requirements to meet the nation's food needs.

Campbell said he is confident that the Department and farm groups working together will solve the farm fuel supply problem but cautioned that there is no quick and easy solution and that the problem is one "with which we must live week by week

and month by month."

The Under Secretary announced that the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has been assigned Departmental responsibility for dealing with the energy crisis. Nicholas H. Smith, assistant deputy administrator of programs for ASCS, has been designated as coordinator of energy with USDA, he said. This function will continue until the energy crisis is resolved.

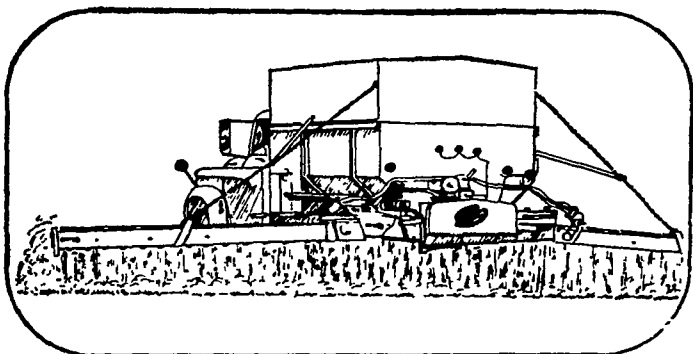
The farm groups pledged to support a fuel conservation effort but warned what consumers may



One of the largest contingents at the annual Pennsylvania Farmers Association convention last week in Camp Hill was the group from Lancaster County. At the convention were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hershey, Mr. and Mrs. Reid Wissler, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Balmer, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Yost, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Groff, Mr. and

Mrs. James Shertz, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Mentzer, Mr. and Mrs. James Kreider, Mr. and Mrs. John Myer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kauffman, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Newcomer, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Weaver, Mr. Mark Campbell, Mrs. Helen Wivell and Mr. James Hess.

## APPLY LIME ON FROZEN GROUND



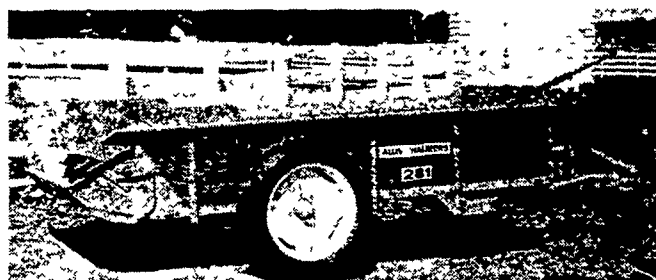
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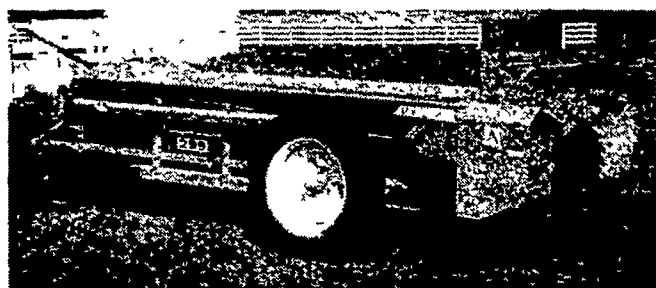
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expect if agriculture does not get sufficient fuel. They said that:  
-- Fewer acres would be planted.  
-- Acreage that does get planted might not be cultivated

and-or fertilized to the desired level, resulting in reduced food and fiber production.  
-- Harvesting might be delayed.

-- There could be insufficient

transportation to move harvested crops.

-- Commodities could suffer quality damage or even spoilage. Smith, who served as discussion chairman, reminded participants that the state and county offices of ASCS have been monitoring the farm fuel situation for months and assisting farmers by reporting their needs to the appropriate governmental units established to handle hardship cases. This service will continue, Smith said, and personnel of these offices will be available also to provide fuel supply information to farmers and to help them verify fuel needs and support their requests.

However, Smith stressed that "there are no fuel spigots at ASCS offices". Hardship requests for aid in obtaining farm diesel fuel should be made to state governments, he said. Other fuel needs should be directed to the Regional Office of Petroleum Allocation. The USDA will help the agricultural producer identify the offices or persons designated to provide this service, he added.

Agronomists and agricultural engineers and scientists will work with USDA in preparing a program of additional farm fuel conservation practices, Smith said. Representatives of the farm groups pledged their support in making this conservation data available to agricultural producers.

Smith noted that ASCS has cancelled its state conferences this year in order to conserve transportation fuel. Other Department travel will be curtailed or omitted wherever possible, he said.

Department officials will meet in Washington later this month with farm equipment manufacturers and others of the farm industry to seek additional fuel conservation measures, Smith said.

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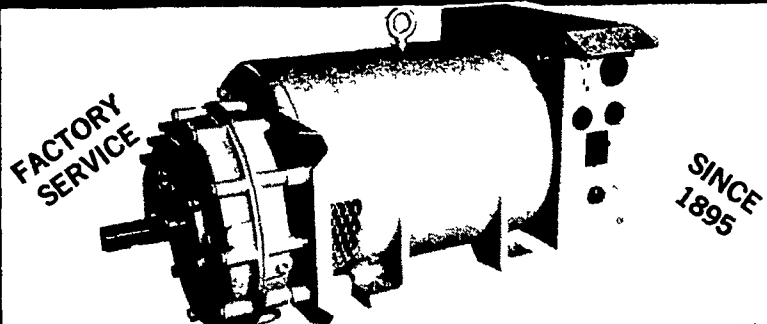
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